

# Performance Report

## EPBC Streamlining

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023



Presented to:

**The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water, and  
The Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources**

On 28 February 2014, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority's (NOPSEMA's) environmental management authorisation process was endorsed by the then Minister for the Environment as a Program that meets requirements of Part 10 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

This ministerial endorsement streamlined environmental approvals for offshore petroleum activities and made NOPSEMA the sole regulator for environmental management of petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters. Further information about the endorsed Program is available at [NOPSEMA's website](#).

This report provides a summary of NOPSEMA's performance under the streamlined arrangements for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Regulatory activity	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	
Submission type	Category	Number
<b>Offshore project proposal<sup>1</sup></b>	Accepted for public comment <sup>2</sup>	0
	Accepted <sup>3</sup>	1
	Assessments in progress – for public comment <sup>4</sup>	0
	Assessments in progress – for acceptance <sup>4</sup>	0
<b>Environment plan</b>	Accepted <sup>5</sup>	8
	Assessments in progress <sup>4</sup>	25
	Decisions - refuse to accept <sup>5</sup>	0
	Assessments stopped/cancelled <sup>5</sup>	9
	Acceptances that pose unacceptable impacts to matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act	0

<sup>1</sup> The offshore project proposal (OPP) process streamlines decision-making on the overall environmental acceptability of offshore projects in Commonwealth waters and is designed to deliver equivalent environmental outcomes to the environmental impact assessment process under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

<sup>2</sup> NOPSEMA publishes OPPs that are open for public comment following its determination that the OPP is suitable for publication. The public then have an opportunity to review and provide comment on the OPP. Based on year of acceptance for public comment (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023).

<sup>3</sup> The final accepted OPP. Based on year of completion (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023).

<sup>4</sup> Based on year of submission (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023).

<sup>5</sup> Based on year of completion (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023).

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During the reporting period, NOPSEMA continued to implement administrative arrangements for the Program that are in place between NOPSEMA and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), formerly the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE). This included sharing information with DCCEEW about NOPSEMA's regulatory activities such as environment plan assessments, inspections, investigations and enforcement actions.

NOPSEMA also regularly engages with DCCEEW on a range of matters, including to ensure clarity and consistency of approaches to application of the EPBC Act policies and instruments. Notable examples of engagement during the reporting period are that:

- NOPSEMA and Parks Australia have published a [revised guidance note](#) for titleholders about how to consult with Parks Australia and complete their impact and risk assessments for petroleum activities that are in and near to marine parks
- NOPSEMA has continued engaging with DCCEEW in relation to review of the [Conservation Management Plan for the Southern Right Whale \(2011 -2021\)](#)
- NOPSEMA has engaged with, and provided advice to, DCCEEW on the development of National Anthropogenic Underwater Noise Guidelines and an update to [Policy Statement 2.1 - Interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales: Industry guidelines](#)
- NOPSEMA has been working with the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator, DCCEEW and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources as part of a Commonwealth Government coordinating group to ensure regulatory messages are consistent, approvals pathways / sequencings are clear, and guidance for carbon capture and storage regulation in Commonwealth waters is effective
- NOPSEMA has been providing support / advice to the EPBC Reforms Taskforce on draft National Environmental Standards as relevant to the endorsed Program or any future streamlined arrangements.

Key areas of focus for NOPSEMA in regulatory assessments and compliance monitoring over the reporting period have been decommissioning of offshore petroleum infrastructure, marine seismic surveys, oil pollution risk management, industry management of greenhouse gas emissions, and compliance with statutory instruments for the protection and conservation of listed threatened marine species.