



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment**

**ANDREW METCALFE AO  
SECRETARY**

25 March 2020

Mr Stuart Smith  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority  
GPO Box 2568  
PERTH WA 6001

Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for your letter dated 28 February 2020 regarding the sharing of information between the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environment Management Authority (NOPSEMA) and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (the Department) to support environmental assessments.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to work collaboratively with NOPSEMA to provide certainty to industry and to ensure transparency and consistency in environmental assessments between our agencies.

In response to your request, we are supportive of the sharing of information between our agencies in relation to the assessment of the Browse to Northwest Shelf Project (Browse project) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This can be achieved in the first instance through the existing contractual arrangements between the Department and NOPSEMA related to the assessment of the Browse project.

The Department has reviewed the extract of the Scarborough Offshore Project Proposal (OPP) provided with your letter and considers that the content is broadly aligned with the scope of information requested for the Browse project.

The Scarborough OPP provides further information and justification of the acceptability of Scope 3 emissions than is currently provided in the Browse documentation. Based on what has been provided, the Department does not consider that the content is inconsistent with our current views on assessment requirements for the Browse project. However, it is noted that in general, the OPP chapter could benefit from further justification of proposed mitigation and management measures and the likely effectiveness of proposed interventions.

As noted by Woodside in the extract, there is inherent uncertainty in forecasting future energy mix scenarios and future global policy responses to climate change. This uncertainty will need to be further considered and adaptively managed through the environmental assessment and the environment plan processes.

Thank you for sharing information on the Scarborough OPP. I look forward to our agencies working closely together on this issue going forward.

Should you to discuss the Department’s consideration of the extract further, please contact [redacted], on [redacted] or at [redacted]

Best wishes

[redacted]

Andrew Metcalfe AO