

Community and Environment Reference Group

Introduction

NOPSEMA's vision is for a safe and environmentally responsible Australian offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage industry. NOPSEMA recognises that this vision can only be achieved when community expectations are understood and met.

Purpose

The Community and Environment Reference Group engage directly with NOPSEMA and provide varying community perspectives on specific matters of interest relevant to offshore petroleum environmental management and help guide NOPSEMA's approach to regulation of environmental management.

Membership

Group members will be broadly reflective of the community. A range of different perspectives will be captured including: commercial and recreational fishing, conservation advocacy, public policy and government functioning, small business and tourism, cultural heritage and indigenous communities; as well as regional perspectives from the North-west, South-east and Northern regions of Australia.

NOPSEMA will select group members based on their experience and knowledge. Appointments will be reviewed annually with the possibility of extension.

Members will not be acting in a representative capacity for any particular group or organisation.

Expectations

Members will:

- Provide robust, independent perspectives on specific matters referred by NOPSEMA
- Provide suggestions of other matters for discussion
- Engage in an objective-based and constructive dialogue in a respectful manner
- Share learning and insights with the community

NOPSEMA will:

- Value the group as a reliable source of informed, cohesive and balanced community views
- Demonstrate how learnings from the group has informed its decisions and direction
- Appoint members and provide executive, administrative and technical support
- Refer matters to the group for discussion, and provide feedback on suggestions and comments

Meetings

Meetings will be held at least twice per year or as otherwise requested by NOPSEMA. Meetings will require the participation of at least two thirds of members to ensure an adequate representation of perspectives is gained. Video and tele-conferencing will be available to facilitate attendance at minimal cost to members. Meeting outcomes will be published on NOPSEMA's website.

Governance

NOPSEMA will facilitate the Community and Environment Reference Group.

The group is an informal liaison body and will exchange perspectives in an objective and independent manner.

The group is not a formal advisory or decision-making body.

Review

NOPSEMA will review this Terms of Reference annually. Ongoing operation of the group will be at the discretion of NOPSEMA in consultation with group members.