



NOPSEMA

Australia's offshore
energy regulator

What to expect from your inspector

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Monadelphous HSR Forum

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nopsema.gov.au



Welcome!



- Thank you for volunteering
- The HSR role:
 - Challenging
 - Rewarding
 - Vital
- It requires:
 - Tenacity
 - Leadership
 - Relationships
- We value our relationship with HSRs

Who we are?



- Independent Commonwealth agency
 - 120 staff
 - Independent of Government parties and policy
 - Independent funding
- About me...
- Safety team:
 - 30 inspectors
 - Decades of often global experience
 - Mostly engineers and mariners from the offshore workforce

Offshore industry activity map

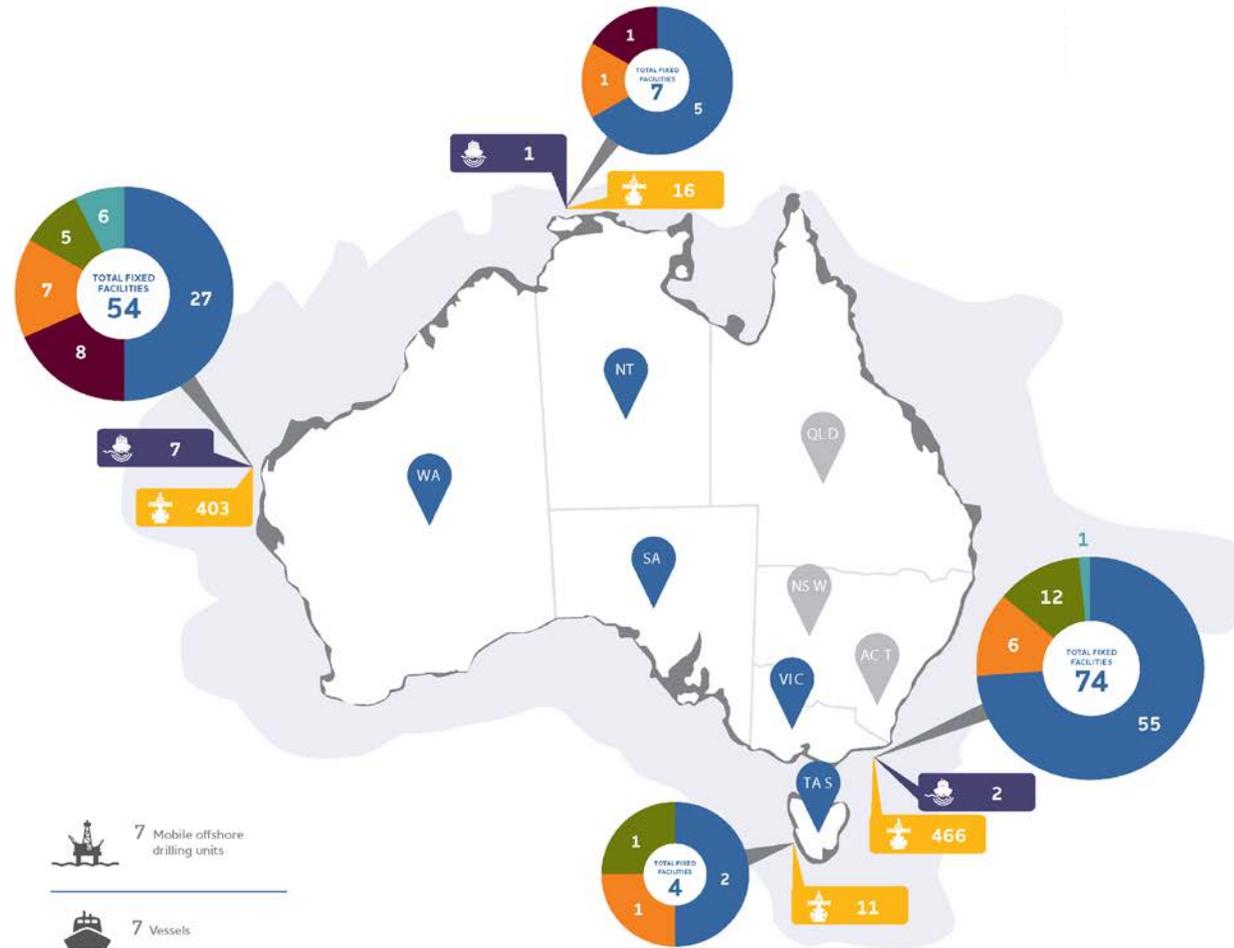
Facility types

Fixed facilities

-  Pipeline
-  FPSO (Floating facility)
-  Platform NNM (Not normally manned)
-  Platform NM (Normally manned)
-  Subsea Infrastructure



Note: There was no growth in seismic activity in NOPSEMA's jurisdiction in 2019.



 7 Mobile offshore drilling units

 7 Vessels

How does NOPSEMA work?

- Role of NOPSEMA
 - CEO authorises Inspectors
- Role of Inspector
 - Facility focal point (for OHS)
 - Conducts inspections
 - Issues notices
 - Provides advice and insight
 - Focused on prevention
- Three types of inspections:
 - OHS
 - Well Integrity
 - Environment



NOPSEMA introduces integrated inspections



Choosing the inspection scope

- Endeavour to cover all MAEs over five years
- Risk-based selection
- Annual focus inspection topics
- Considers past performance
 - Previous inspection findings and/or enforcement
 - Notifications of accidents and dangerous occurrences and/or complaints
- Based on the unique nature of each facility

Preparing the OHS inspection

- Document review
 - Safety case
 - Performance standards
 - Internal documents
 - Review previous recommendations
 - What are the operator's commitments?
- Onshore meeting
 - Asset Manager
 - Technical Authorities
 - Review of records

The offshore OHS inspection

- Commitments are tested through a sampling approach
- Is the control measure:
 - Implemented?
 - Functional?
 - Maintained?
 - Audited?
 - Managed by competent people?

HSRs during an OHS inspection

- Encouraged to attend entry and exit meetings
- Separate meeting with inspectors to:
 - Review effectiveness of workplace arrangements
 - Discuss issues and concerns, previous report findings
 - Where requested, meeting details remain confidential, however OHS issues raised may be pursued with the operator
- HSRs are encouraged to accompany inspectors
- “General OHS observations”

How NOPSEMA engages with HSRs

HOW NOPSEMA ENGAGES WITH HSRs



BEFORE AN INSPECTION



Prior to a planned inspection, NOPSEMA inspectors confirm the dates of the inspection with the facility operator, issue an inspection brief and hold an onshore meeting with the facility operator.



All HSRs have the power to request NOPSEMA to conduct an inspection at their workplace.

IN 2017, NOPSEMA INSPECTORS MET WITH HSRs 80 TIMES, IN 100% OF FACILITY-BASED OHS INSPECTIONS

DURING AN INSPECTION



During an inspection, NOPSEMA inspectors hold entry and exit meetings with the facility operator, meet privately with HSRs, and prepare an exit brief for the facility operator.

Inspection scope items include major accident event and OHS control measures, previous inspection recommendations and enforcement actions, reported incidents and dangerous occurrences, and requests and/or complaints.



Where necessary, NOPSEMA inspectors will initiate enforcement action.

Where available, HSRs are expected to attend the entry and exit meetings with NOPSEMA and the facility operator, and to meet privately with NOPSEMA inspectors.

HSRs have the power to accompany NOPSEMA inspectors during any inspection and to be present at interviews between NOPSEMA inspectors and work group members.



AFTER AN INSPECTION

After an inspection, NOPSEMA inspectors prepare a draft inspection report and hold an onshore feedback meeting with the facility operator. NOPSEMA must issue a copy of the final report to the facility operator and any other relevant parties.

The facility operator must provide a copy of the inspection report to the health and safety committee or, if there is no committee, to the HSR for a designated workgroup.



HSRs can contact the NOPSEMA focal point inspector for their facility to raise any concerns they may have, or for assistance/advice on understanding the legislation, using their powers and engaging with facility management.

IN 2017, NOPSEMA INSPECTORS MADE 11 RECOMMENDATIONS* RESULTING FROM THEIR MEETINGS WITH HSRs.

Three to address safety issues raised during the meeting **Three** to ensure all HSRs receive training **Four** to post/update a list of HSRs on the facility noticeboard **one** to implement workplace arrangements

*A recommendation requires the facility operator to implement corrective actions and report action progress to NOPSEMA.

Working with your offshore teams



Help us to help you



- Our meetings with HSRs work best when:
 - HSRs hold regular HSR meetings
 - Minutes of their meetings are recorded
 - OHS issues are identified and actions are tracked
- Minutes are an important way to communicate between swings and shifts
- Minutes are “evidence” of whether workplace arrangements are effective
 - Provide support for actions and recommendations

After the inspection

- Inspector writes the draft report
- Holds an onshore meeting with operator Management
- NOPSEMA issues the report
 - Findings
 - Recommendations/actions
 - (in addition to) enforcement, if appropriate
- Operator must provide a copy of the report to the HS Committee and HSRs, where relevant

Outside of inspections



HSRs can contact their focal point inspector for advice and guidance

- Talking through an issue
- Interpreting legislation or company documents
- Use of powers

Support of HSRs outside of a planned inspection

Support for Health and Safety Representatives outside of a planned inspection



In the last of *the Regulator* (Issue 1: 2018) NOPSEMA described how it engages all Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs), no matter their employer, during facility-based inspections. Further to this, NOPSEMA provides HSRs with ongoing support outside of planned inspections.



HSRs can contact the NOPSEMA focal point inspector for their facility to raise any concerns or to ask for assistance and advice. NOPSEMA focal point inspectors are more than happy to assist and advise HSRs in:

- finding resolutions to safety concerns
- working with facility management to resolve ongoing issues
- understanding and exercising their powers.



HSRs can call or email the NOPSEMA focal point inspector for their facility. If the inspector's contact details are not known, HSRs can contact NOPSEMA's office and ask to speak to their inspector.

Perth (08) 6188 8700 | Melbourne (03) 8866 5700 | e: information@nopsema.gov.au



If the focal point inspector is not available, HSRs can speak with another member of the inspection team who will be able to assist. All conversations between a HSR and NOPSEMA are confidential and are not reported to the facility operator unless the HSR requests the matter to be escalated.*

*Where requested, the inspector will endeavour to maintain the anonymity of the HSR in the same way as for any person making a complaint or providing information for NOPSEMA follow-up.



In the event that HSRs are not able to reach a resolution with facility management, HSRs can contact their focal point inspector or NOPSEMA to request an inspection.

Inspections conducted in response to HSR feedback have, in the past, resulted in enforcement actions including prohibition notices and improvement notices.



NOPSEMA maintains a dedicated HSR web page on our public website which can be accessed at nopsema.gov.au/safety/health-and-safety-representatives/

NOPSEMA has also developed and published a *HSR handbook* to assist HSRs in understanding and performing their role.

HSRs can subscribe to receive HSR-specific email updates as well as safety, well integrity and environmental management news at nopsema.gov.au/subscribe.



NOPSEMA strongly encourages all HSR to subscribe to *the Regulator* and, if interested, printed copies can be provided to offshore facilities by contacting communications@nopsema.gov.au.

Supporting the offshore workforce through COVID-19



Shining a light on offshore mental health



**IF YOU NEED SOMEONE
TO TALK TO, CALL:**

- Lifeline on 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800
- MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978
- Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467
- Beyond Blue on 1300 22 46 36
- Headspace on 1800 650 890
- QLife on 1800 184 527

Resources



- <https://www.nopsema.gov.au/>
- Safety page
 - HSRs
 - Resources
- Resources
 - Published Notices
 - *The Regulator* magazine

Q&A



NOPSEMA

Australia's offshore
energy regulator

**National Offshore Petroleum Safety and
Environmental Management Authority**

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