

# Performance Report

## EPBC Streamlining

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024



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 and made NOPSEMA the sole regulator for the environmental management of petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters. Further information is available at [nopsema.gov.au](http://nopsema.gov.au).

This report provides a summary of NOPSEMA's performance under the endorsed Program for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Regulatory activity	1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024	
Submission type	Category	Number
<b>Offshore project proposal</b> <sup>1</sup>	Accepted for public comment <sup>2</sup>	1
	Accepted <sup>3</sup>	0
	Assessments in progress – for public comment <sup>4</sup>	2
	Assessments in progress – for acceptance <sup>4</sup>	1
<b>Environment plan</b>	Accepted <sup>3</sup>	40
	Assessments in progress <sup>4</sup>	22
	Decisions - refuse to accept <sup>3</sup>	0
	Assessments stopped/cancelled <sup>3</sup>	7
	Acceptances that pose unacceptable impacts to matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act	0

<sup>1</sup> The offshore project proposal 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 EPBC Act.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the year of acceptance for public comment.

<sup>3</sup> Based on the year of completion.

<sup>4</sup> Based on the year of submission.

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

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

- NOPSEMA has engaged with DCCEEW in relation to legislative reform and policy initiatives including the Nature Positive reforms, preparation of a draft Sustainable Oceans Plan, development of draft national anthropogenic underwater noise guidelines and review of the 2008 EPBC Policy Statement 2.1 ('Interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales: Industry guidelines').
- NOPSEMA has continued 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 clear and coordinated approvals pathways/sequencings for carbon capture and storage regulation in Commonwealth waters.
- NOPSEMA has continued engaging with Parks Australia on petroleum activities that are within proximity to marine parks.

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