



Barossa Appraisal Drilling Campaign

This document provides notification of NOPSEMA’s decision made under regulation 10 of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 (Environment Regulations). In this instance, NOPSEMA is providing an opportunity to modify and resubmit the environment plan as it is not reasonably satisfied that the plans meets the acceptance criteria set out in the regulations.

Submission information

Titleholder¹:	ConocoPhillips Australia Exploration Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Barossa Appraisal Drilling Campaign
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	NT/RL5
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	10/08/2016
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling
Activity overview: <i>As described on the NOPSEMA website.</i>	<p>ConocoPhillips Australia Exploration Pty Ltd (ConocoPhillips), as the nominee titleholder, proposes to drill, evaluate, test and abandon hydrocarbon appraisal wells in petroleum retention lease area NT/RL5 (NT/RL5), to further define the hydrocarbon resources within the Barossa gas field. A total of up to three appraisal wells may be drilled. NT/RL5 is located in the Bonaparte Basin, solely in Commonwealth waters, approximately 300 kilometres (km) offshore of Darwin, Northern Territory (NT), and covers an area of approximately 847 Sq Kms. The size of the actual activity footprint associated with drilling the wells will be significantly smaller, i.e. < 1% of the total size of the NT/RL5. Water depths at the proposed wells range between approximately 120 m - 350 m.</p> <p>The key activities of the drilling campaign are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling of the upper well sections • Installation of blowout preventer (BOP) and marine riser • Drilling of the lower well sections • Well testing and evaluation (may comprise vertical seismic profiling) • Well abandonment <p>An operational area will be in place around the mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) during drilling activities. The operational area is defined based on a circle with a 1,500 m radius around the MODU when located at the well centre.</p>

The operational area encompasses both the 500 m petroleum safety zone (PSZ) around the MODU and accommodates the installation of the anchor moorings and support vessel movements in the immediate vicinity of the MODU.

The drilling campaign could commence as early as 1 December 2016. It is anticipated that the drilling campaign would be completed within approximately 18 months, noting that the exact timing for completion is subject to weather conditions and operational efficiencies.

Drilling will be conducted by either a moored or dynamically positioned (DP) semi-submersible MODU, supported by at least three support vessels consisting of a combination of anchor-handling support vessels (moored MODU only) and platform support vessels.

Decision:	Not reasonably satisfied
Decision date:	08/09/2016
Resubmission due date³:	10 October 2016
Decision made by:	Representative of NOPSEMA: Environment Manager - Drilling & Developments

Basis of decision

NOPSEMA has assessed the environment plan in accordance with its assessment policies and procedures. On completion of assessment, NOPSEMA has decided that it is not reasonably satisfied that the environment plan meets the criteria below as set out in regulation 10A of the Environment Regulations:

- (a) is appropriate for the nature and scale of the activity
- (b) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable
- (c) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be of an acceptable level
- (d) provides for appropriate environmental performance outcomes, environmental performance standards and measurement criteria
- (g) demonstrates that:
 - (i) the titleholder has carried out the consultations required by Division 2.2A
 - (ii) the measures (if any) that the titleholder has adopted, or proposes to adopt, because of the consultations are appropriate.

Titleholder requirements

In accordance with regulation 10, the titleholder is required to modify and resubmit the environment plan. Upon resubmission of the plan, NOPSEMA will continue to assess the submission in accordance with its assessment policies and make a decision under regulation 10. After a titleholder has been provided with reasonable opportunity to modify and resubmit an environment plan, NOPSEMA will make a final decision on whether to accept or refuse to accept the environment plan.

How to get further information

If you have any further questions regarding the activity it is suggested you contact the titleholder's nominated liaison person for the activity.

If you would like to access any further information regarding this decision, or would like to contact NOPSEMA please email environment@nopsema.gov.au.

¹ A titleholder includes an applicant for a petroleum access authority, petroleum special prospecting authority, pipeline licence, greenhouse gas search authority or greenhouse gas special authority under sub-regulation 9(2).

² Activity type as listed in the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004

³ NOPSEMA sets the proposed timeframe for resubmission; after which NOPSEMA may determine a reasonable opportunity has been given and NOPSEMA may refuse to accept the plan. Titleholders can request an extended timeframe.