

Acceptance decision

Wellhead Removal Environment Plan

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) to accept an environment plan.

Submission information

Titleholder¹:	Shell Australia Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Wellhead Removal Environment Plan, Rev 2, HSE_GEN_010427
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	WA-44-L, WA-371-P, AC/RL9, WA-85-AA
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	26/11/2016
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</i>	Shell Australia proposes to remove seven wellheads located in Commonwealth waters of the Browse Basin; 200km offshore northwest Australia. The seven wellheads will be removed by a light well intervention vessel. The wells have not produced hydrocarbons and have been safely abandoned in accordance with regulatory requirements. Removal of the wellheads will remove the visual and structural evidence of the wells from the seabed, and eliminate presence or future hazards to the environment or other users of the area. In the case where wellheads or associated guide bases cannot be retrieved despite best endeavors in the campaign (as defined in the EP), they will be left in-situ on the seabed. The wellhead removal activity is scheduled to commence in Q1-Q3 2017, and is planned to take ~3 weeks to complete.
Decision:	Accepted
Decision date:	21/03/2017
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. Having regard to all information provided by, and referred to in the environment plan, NOPSEMA is reasonably satisfied that the environment plan meets the criteria set out in regulation 10A of the Environment Regulations.

Next steps for the petroleum activity

An environment plan summary must be provided to NOPSEMA within 10 days of this acceptance. regulation 11(4) requires that this document provide material from the accepted environment plan.

Once the summary document has been prepared to NOPSEMA satisfaction it will be published on NOPSEMA's website. NOPSEMA aims to have all environment plan summary documents published within 20 days of acceptance. This timeframe may vary should the document require amendment by the titleholder.

The titleholder is required to notify NOPSEMA 10 days prior to the commencement of the activity. This notification will be published on NOPSEMA's website.

Titleholder environmental performance requirements

A titleholder is required to undertake a petroleum activity in accordance with the accepted environment plan. It is an offence under the Environment Regulations to act in a manner contrary to the accepted environment plan. A titleholder must submit a revision to the environment plan in response to a new or increased environmental impact or risk, or a significant modification or stage of the activity not provided for in the accepted 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