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| Decision notification |
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Acceptance decision

# Cygnus Southwest Marine Seismic Survey

This document provides notificationof 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

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| Titleholder[[1]](#endnote-1): | Spectrum Geo Pty Ltd |
| Environment plan: | Cygnus Southwest Marine Seismic Survey environment plan (Document No. P560040-S00-PLAN, Revision 2, dated April 2017) |
| Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s): | Application CD64FO |
| Date first submitted to NOPSEMA: | 24/01/2017 |
| **Activities type(s)[[2]](#endnote-2):** | * Seismic survey |
| **Activity overview:**  *As described in the accepted environment plan.* | Spectrum proposes to conduct a 2D and 3D seismic survey in the Browse Basin. No unique or unusual equipment or operations are proposed. The survey will be conducted using a purpose-built seismic survey vessel. The maximum survey area extent is approximately 6,331km2 over the 3D survey area, and includes a total of 191 km over the nine identified 2D sail lines and is located entirely within Commonwealth waters. The survey vessel will not enter State waters or Commonwealth Marine Reserves at any point during the activity. Water depths in the survey area are in the range of 3 to 430 m with the shallowest water depths located around Heywood shoal, however the survey vessel will not fire the seismic source in water depths of less than 50 m adjacent to Heywood shoal.  The survey area, as shown in the map provided, indicates the area within which 3D seismic will occur. In addition, the 2D lines shown will be acquired. The seismic source will be discharged at full power within the survey area and along the 2D lines only. The operational area is used for conducting operations ancillary to achieving full-fold coverage within the survey area. Activities conducted in the Operational Area include: acoustic emissions below full power for the purpose of ‘soft start’ or ‘fauna alert’ procedures; miscellaneous maintenance operations; and, vessel turns at the end of each sail line, necessary for the vessel to change to a new sail line.  To allow for contingency in event of prolonged shut down periods, weather or equipment/vessel issues, a conservative time of 90 days (3 months) is assessed for in this EP. If surveys are conducted separately, there may be a period of time between the activities being undertaken, the total duration of the separate surveys will however take no more than 3 months. If surveys are conducted separately, this will trigger new commencement notifications to stakeholders. |
| Decision: | Accepted |
| Decision date: | 04/05/2017 |
| Decision made by: | Representative of NOPSEMA: Environment Manager - Seismic & Production Operations |

# 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](file:///C:\Users\vaneco\Caches\Objects\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). [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Activity type as listed in the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)