# Pelican 3D Marine Seismic Survey

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Titleholder[1]:** | The Crown in right of Victoria |
| **Environment plan:** | Pelican 3D Seismic Survey Environment Plan, document no TRIM 17/411035, dated 17 August 2017. |
| **Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):** | Greenhouse gas assessment permit; VIC - GIP - 002. |
| **Date submitted to NOPSEMA:** | 18/08/2017 |
| **Activities type(s)[2]:** | • Seismic Survey |
| **Activity overview:**<br>*As described on the NOPSEMA website.* | The Crown in right of Victoria is proposing to conduct the Pelican three-dimensional marine seismic survey ('Pelican 3DMSS') in the Gippsland Basin off eastern Victoria in Greenhouse Gas Assessment Permits VIC-GIP-002 (Commonwealth waters) and GGAP006386(V) (Victorian state waters). These permits are managed by the CarbonNet project (CarbonNet) within the Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR).<br>CarbonNet is investigating the potential for establishing a commercial scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) network in Gippsland. CarbonNet's preferred contingent storage formation, Pelican, is located in the VIC-GIP-002 GHG and GGAP006386(V) assessment permits.<br>The purpose of the Pelican 3DMSS is to gain deeper knowledge of the subsurface geology of the area. This will help inform the potential for carbon dioxide (CO2) storage in the survey area.<br>The proposed MSS area is located between 1 and 13 km from the shoreline off the township of Golden Beach, midway along the Ninety Mile Beach between Loch Sport and Seaspray in south Gippsland. The proposed MSS area will cover approximately 166 km2, in water depths ranging from 15 m to 40 m. The survey will be conducted 24 hours a day except when sea states exceed operational parameters.<br>The Pelican 3DMSS acquisition is expected to take place over approximately 13 to 16 days (but up to 27 days depending on vessel selection), commencing between the start of November 2017 and the end of March 2018. The exact timing of the project is contingent on the receipt of environmental approvals, the contract of a suitable survey vessel and fair sea state conditions suitable for |

| | |
|---|---|
| | seismic survey acquisition. CarbonNet believes this survey 'window of opportunity' balances operational requirements with environmental and socio-economic constraints.<br>Based on feedback from stakeholder consultation, CarbonNet has committed to not undertaking the survey between the Christmas holiday period (24th December 2017 to the Australia Day long weekend, ending 28th January 2018) – due to the popularity of the coastline with holiday makers and a fishing competition over the Australia Day weekend. It will also endeavour to avoid survey acquisition during the Easter long weekend (30th March to 2nd April 2018) – due to the Golden Beach Surf Fishing Competition taking place between Seaspray and Loch Sport.<br>The Pelican 3DMSS will be similar to most surveys conducted in Australian waters (in terms of technical methods and procedures). No unique or unusual equipment or operations are proposed. The survey vessel will acquire the seismic data by towing two acoustic source arrays operating alternatively. The source volume will be a maximum of 2,800 cubic inches (cui) with an operating pressure of 2,000 pounds per square inch (psi). There will be between four and 10 hydrophone 'streamer' cables towed behind the vessel. |
| **Decision:** | Not reasonably satisfied |
| **Decision date:** | 11/09/2017 |
| **Resubmission due date[3]:** | 11/10/2017 |
| **Decision made by:** | Representative of NOPSEMA: Chief Executive Officer |

## 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

## 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.