



Blackback Plugging & Abandonment 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). 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:	Eso Australia Resources Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Blackback Plugging & Abandonment EP, Rev 0
Petroleum title:	VIC/L20
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	27/08/2018
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling
Activity overview: <i>As described on the NOPSEMA website.</i>	<p>The Blackback P&A Environment Plan covers the permanent plugging and abandonment (P&A) of the Blackback A-1A, Blackback A-2 and Blackback A-3 wells. The Blackback subsea facility is located approximately 90 km from shore at approximately 400m water depth in Production Area VIC/L20. The Blackback P&A campaign will utilise the Ocean Monarch MODU, which is already in Bass Strait, to P&A the three Blackback subsea wells. The three wells will be permanently abandoned by installation of cement plugs as barriers, followed by the retrieval of wellheads from the seafloor. This campaign will eliminate loss of containment risks associated with live hydrocarbon wells and will remove obstructions and snag points for commercial fishermen. The campaign is an ALARP action in its own right and should be considered in this context. P&A activities in the Blackback operational area are scheduled over an estimated 71 day period commencing in Q4 2018.</p>
Decision:	Not reasonably satisfied
Decision date:	25/09/2018
Resubmission due date³:	25/10/2018
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.