

Acceptance decision

Polarcus Cygnus 3D Marine Seismic Survey, Phase 3, South 2019 - 2020

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:	Polarcus Seismic Limited
Environment plan:	Polarcus Cygnus 3D Marine Seismic Survey Phase 3 South 2019-2020 Environment Plan, Rev 0
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	Application Numbers – SPABZWZ87 and AA 4S5L7Z
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	21/03/2019
Activities type(s) ² :	Seismic Survey
Activity overview: As described in the	The Cygnus 3D Marine Seismic Survey (MSS) is a three-dimensional multi-client marine seismic survey being undertaken by Polarcus Seismic Limited (Polarcus)

As described in the accepted environment plan.

marine seismic survey being undertaken by Polarcus Seismic Limited (Polarcus) in Commonwealth waters of the Vulcan Sub-basin (in the Western Bonaparte Basin). The Cygnus 3D MSS is a typical 3D survey using methods and procedures similar to others conducted in Australian waters. No unique or unusual equipment or operations are proposed.

The Cygnus 3D MSS has been acquired by Polarcus in phases since 2015 under a number of revisions of the EP. The scope of this Environment Plan (EP) includes seismic acquisition of 'Phase 3 South' of the Cygnus 3D MSS.

The Acquisition Area comprises the area within which 3D seismic acquisition will be undertaken and covers approximately 1,767 km². The Acquisition Area is surrounded by a larger Operational Area, for the purpose of line run-ins, runouts, source testing, soft starts and turns etc. The Operational Area covers approximately 7,408 km² and, at its closest, is approximately 160 km north of the Kimberley coast and 170 km south of the Indonesian Archipelago and Timor-Leste. The survey will be undertaken in water depths of up to approximately 205m.

Phase 3 South may commence as early as June 2019 and will be completed before 31 December 2020. The survey will take a planned maximum of 36 days to acquire with 7 days deployment/retrieval and 1 day local transit to and from Port.

Decision: Accepted



Decision date:	05/06/2019
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.

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority

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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