

Acceptance decision

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) to accept an environment plan.

Submission information

Titleholder¹:	Eso Australia Resources Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Blackback Plugging and Abandonment EP, Rev 1
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	VIC/L20
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	27/08/2018
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</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 1H 2019.</p>
Decision:	Accepted
Decision date:	20/11/2018
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. 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