

Acceptance decision

Gippsland Basin Geophysical and Geotechnical Investigations

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:	Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Gippsland Basin Geophysical and Geotechnical Investigations, 05EF0292-B413-499B-A3E5-7808FF6EF09B
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	VIC/L1, VIC/L2, VIC/L3, VIC/L5, VIC/L18, VIC/L25, VIC/RL1
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	21/12/2018
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other survey
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</i>	<p>Esso proposes to undertake a series of geophysical and geotechnical surveys within eight existing production licence areas in the Gippsland Basin of eastern Bass Strait. The survey program is required to inform a number of prospective future developments in the Gippsland basin. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the West Barracouta (BTW) gas field (VIC/L1) which is part of the existing Barracouta gas field and located approximately 6 km southwest of the existing Barracouta platform (in VIC/L2) • Potential plug and abandonment activities at a number of existing wells located in VIC/L1, VIC/L2, VIC/L3, VIC/L5, VIC/L18 and VIC/RL1 • Potential drilling activities inside VIC/L9 • Future developments around the existing Kipper facilities (VIC/L25). <p>The survey program is planned to commence initially in the first quarter of 2018 at the BTW location and will continue intermittently over a maximum six month period. Survey activities are likely to occur over a 2 to 15 day period at each of the locations within each of the licence areas. Water depths within the licence areas vary from 36 to 89 m.</p> <p>Geophysical methods proposed are based on conventional techniques and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single beam echo sounder (SBES). • Multi beam echo sounder (MBES). • Side scan sonar (SSS). • Sub bottom profiler (SBP) including Ultra high resolution (UHR). • Magnetometer. <p>Geotechnical sampling potentially includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotary core sampling to 80m below the seabed. • In situ penetration testing to 80m below the seabed. • Piston coring or vibracoring between 3 to 6m below the seabed.

The proposed survey program will be completed in two stages using two different vessels. Stage 1 involves the geophysical survey, commencing at BTW and then progressing to the additional licence areas. Stage 2 involves the geotechnical survey also commencing at BTW and then also progressing to the additional licence areas.

Decision:	Accepted
Decision date:	18/02/2019
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