

Acceptance decision

Baldfish Drilling 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:	Esso Deepwater Gippsland Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Baldfish Drilling Environment Plan, Rev 2
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	VIC/P70
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	28/02/2016
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</i>	<p>The Baldfish operational area is located approximately 90 km from shore in Exploration Permit Area VIC/P70. Water depth within VIC/P70 ranges from 200 m to over 3 km, with the two drill locations, Hairtail-1 and Baldfish-1, at ~359m and ~665m respectively.</p> <p>Block VIC/P70, in the deepwater Gippsland basin, was acquired by Esso Deepwater Gippsland Pty Ltd ("Esso Deepwater"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation, in Q2, 2017. It is the first new exploration acreage acquired by ExxonMobil in Australia since 2010, and the first in the Gippsland Basin since 1996.</p> <p>Vic/P70 incorporates the area previously the subject of blocks VIC/P45 and VIC/P59, previously explored by Apache Energy. Since acquiring the field, Esso Deepwater has accelerated exploration drilling plans in response to concerns about domestic gas shortages.</p> <p>The scope of the EP encompasses all activities relating to the Baldfish exploration drilling activities within the operational area of the Baldfish wells as outlined in this EP, including the 500m radius exclusion zone around each well within Exploration Block VIC/P70, in Commonwealth waters.</p> <p>This EP demonstrates that Esso Deepwater has a sound understanding of how its operations interact with the environment and demonstrates the implementation of controls to reduce environmental risks to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) and acceptable levels. It also sets appropriate environmental performance outcomes, standards, and measurement criteria for these controls.</p>
Decision:	Accepted



Decision date:	04/07/2018
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