

Browse Commonwealth Wellhead Decommissioning

1. Purpose of this report

NOPSEMA has accepted the Browse Commonwealth Wellhead Decommissioning Environment Plan (Document Number B3110UH1401776183, Revision 0, 24/6/2022) (the EP) submitted by Woodside Browse Pty Ltd (the titleholder) for a decommissioning activity in titles WA-32-R and WA-28-R in the Browse Basin.

This report explains how NOPSEMA took into account matters that may be of interest to the public and accompanies the accepted EP, submitted by Woodside, which is available on the NOPSEMA website and should be referred for further information.

1.1. Information relevant to NOPSEMA's decision:

In making the decision to accept this EP, NOPSEMA took into account:

- the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGGS Act)
- the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulation 2009 (Environment Regulations)
- NOPSEMA Assessment Policy (PL0050), Environment Plan Assessment Policy (PL1347) and Environment Plan Decision Making Guidelines (GL1721)
- the Department of Industry, Science and Resources' Offshore Petroleum Decommissioning Guideline, March 2022
- NOPSEMA Section 572 regulatory Policy (PL1903) and Section 270 regulatory Policy (PL1959)
- The Browse Commonwealth Wellhead Decommissioning Environment Plan
- the information raised by relevant persons, government departments and agencies that is relevant to making a decision
- available technical information and scientific literature relevant to making a decision
- relevant plans of management and threatened species recovery plans developed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and relevant guidance published by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

2. Next steps

Responsibility for the ongoing environmental performance of the activity remains, at all times, with Woodside.

NOPSEMA has legislated responsibilities to inspect and investigate offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage activities, and to enforce compliance with environmental law. These functions will be applied to this activity in accordance with NOPSEMA's policies.

3. Sensitive Information

Sensitive information received during the public comment period, such as the names and contact details of commenters and specific information identified by the commenter or relevant person as 'sensitive', is not published in this report. Sensitive information is contained in a sensitive information part of the EP which has been considered by NOPSEMA during its assessment process.

4. Further information

If you would like further information about the activity, please contact the titleholder's nominated liaison person specified in the EP and on NOPSEMA's webpage for the Browse Commonwealth Wellhead Decommissioning.

If you would like to be notified of regulatory information on the activity, such as start and end dates and enforcement actions (if any), please subscribe to updates from the [Approved projects and activities](#) on NOPSEMA's website.

How NOPSEMA has taken into account key matters raised during the assessment and decision making process for Browse Commonwealth Wellhead Decommissioning

#	Matter	Titleholder response	NOPSEMA's assessment and decision
1	Leaving the wellhead in situ may not be acceptable and result in short- and long-term impacts and risks to the environment.	<p>The EP describes the permanent abandonment in situ of the Brecknock-4, Calliance-1, Calliance-2 and Calliance-3 wellheads, following the drilling, plugging and abandonment of these exploration wells between 2005 and 2009. The wellheads occur in water depths between 501m and 677m.</p> <p>Woodside have provided an assessment of the technical feasibility of wellhead removal and compared the environmental impacts and risks of removal versus those arising from leaving the wellheads in situ as the basis for the petroleum activity described in the EP.</p> <p>In preparing the EP, Woodside engaged with relevant persons to seek their feedback on the proposal. This included Commonwealth and State government agencies, fishing industry bodies and relevant fishing licence holders. Woodside responded to all objection and claims made, presenting this information in the EP.</p> <p>Woodside undertook an environmental impact and risk assessment for the wellhead proposed to be left in situ, taking into account the limited environmental sensitivities present. This included evaluating impacts from the degradation of the wellhead materials over time and immediate and future snagging risks to fishers from leaving the wellhead in place. Woodside concluded that with controls measures in place, impacts and risks are</p>	<p>NOPSEMA recognises the importance of ensuring petroleum titleholders meet their decommissioning obligations as required under section 572 of the OPGGS Act.</p> <p>Woodside is seeking to deviate from the requirement to remove all property, which may be considered when the titleholder demonstrates in the EP that the proposed deviation delivers equal or better environmental outcomes compared to complete property removal, while impacts and risks are reduced to ALARP and will be of an acceptable level.</p> <p>During the course of the assessment, NOPSEMA required Woodside to provide additional information clarifying the implementation of control measures to demonstrate the final status and location of the property was suitably recorded and communicated to relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>NOPSEMA noted that Woodside had incorporated additional information and feedback from NOPSEMA's recent assessment of similar activities into this EP, ensuring that relevant information and studies were included.</p> <p>After taking into consideration Woodside's response and the information provided in the EP, NOPSEMA has concluded that the proposed deviation delivers equal or better environmental outcomes compared to</p>

		<p>reduced to ALARP and will be of an acceptable level. The controls measures identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with the <i>Environmental Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981</i>. • Ensuring the structure continues to be suitably marked on Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) navigational charts. • Ensuring that final abandonment status and location has been communicated to relevant stakeholders, who will also implement standard fishing safety navigational controls. 	<p>complete property removal and the impacts and risks have been reduced to ALARP and will be of an acceptable level. A suitable case has therefore been made for leaving the wellhead in situ.</p> <p>In making a decision, NOPSEMA also took into account the relevant available technical information and scientific literature, views expressed by relevant persons, section 572 and 270 of the OPGGS Act, and NOPSEMA's Decision Making Guidelines (GL1721).</p>
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