



Australian Government  
National Offshore Petroleum  
Titles Administrator

# NOPTA INDUSTRY INFORMATION SESSION

RYDGES HOTEL, PERTH

Presented by Graeme Waters  
November 2011

[www.nopta.gov.au](http://www.nopta.gov.au)

# Outline of Presentation

- About NOPTA
- Legislation
- NOPTA Establishment
- Transitional Arrangements
- Impact on Industry
- Key Contacts



# About NOPTA

- NOPTA - established as a branch of Resources Division, RET
- NOPTA a statutory position (not an independent agency)
- NOPTA's key functions in Commonwealth waters:
  - provide technical advice to the Joint Authority
  - administer titles
  - data and resource management
- States/NT will maintain a titles administrator role in State/NT waters
- NOPTA's head office will be in Perth and a regional office in Melbourne

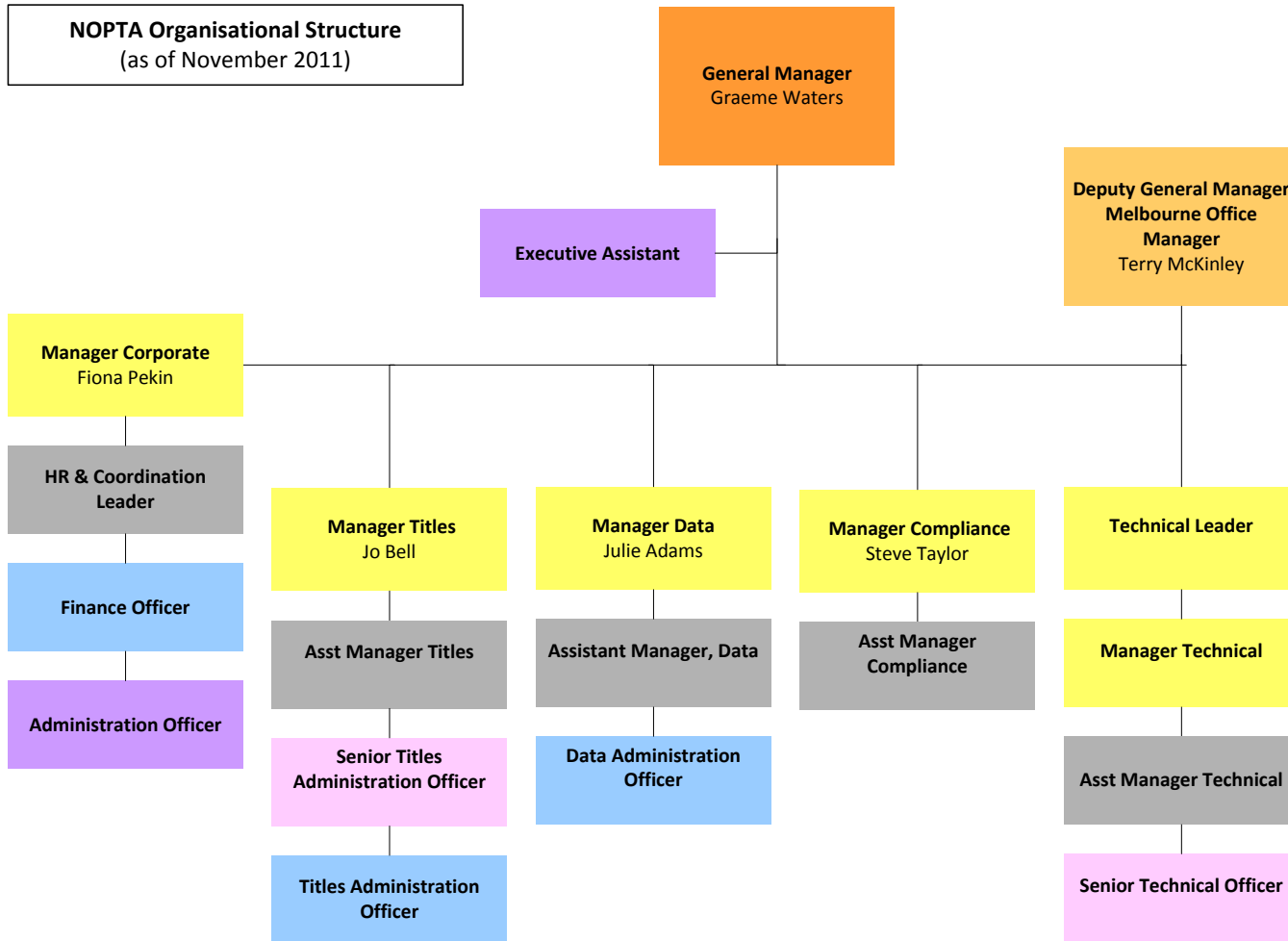


# NOPTA Offices

- NOPTA Melbourne Office:
  - Level 1, 451 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
  - Staff moving in from early December 2011
  - Interim arrangements: some staff working in VIC DPI offices.
- NOPTA Perth Office:
  - Level 8, Alluvion House, 58 Mounts Bay Road, Perth WA 6000
  - Staff moving in from mid-late January 2012 (level 8)
  - Interim arrangements: staff located on Level 11 with NOPSA
- Interaction between Offices: NOPTA General Manager located in Perth, teams will work together across both the Melbourne and Perth offices



# NOPTA Organisational Chart



# Legislation and Regulations

- 25 May 2011, Bills into Parliament – referred to House & Senate Committees
- Passed House: 6 July, Passed Senate: 14 September with amendment, returned to House and passed 15 September 2011
- Royal Assent 14 October 2011
- Amendment to regulations
  - machinery i.e. replace Designated Authority with NOPSEMA or NOPTA
  - transitional provisions
  - Environment Management Plan Levy / Annual Titles Administration Levy
  - consultation mechanism in Environment Regulations
  - Commencement of NOPSEMA and NOPTA **1 January 2012**



# *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (National Regulator) Act 2011*

- Abolishes the Designated Authorities and allocates their functions to either NOPTA or NOPSEMA
- While retaining the Joint Authorities (the Commonwealth and relevant State/Territory Ministers) to exercise the resources policy function
  - JAs will continue their existing role of granting titles, imposing title conditions, cancellations and infringements
  - JAs will continue to make resource management decisions (e.g. declaring locations, approving field development plans)
  - Most JA decisions made by delegates (e.g. senior officers in RET and WA DMP)
- No changes to the regulatory obligations on industry – only changes who the regulators are.



# *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (National Regulator) Act 2011*

- Divides the Designated Authorities' functions between the Titles Administrator and NOPSEMA
  - Establishes Titles Administrator (NOPTA) to take over the Designated Authorities' advisory, titles administration and data management functions
  - Expands NOPSA to NOPSEMA and confers on it the Designated Authorities' environmental management function and day-to-day petroleum operations
    - In addition to NOPSA's existing OHS and structural integrity of wells functions
    - Enables integrated regulation of petroleum operations





# NOPSEMA – NOPTA

## The difference an “A” can make....

- NOPSEMA – National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management **AUTHORITY**
- NOPTA – National Offshore Petroleum Titles **ADMINISTRATOR**

NOPSEMA is an independent, Statutory Authority, while NOPTA is a Branch within the Resources Division of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism.

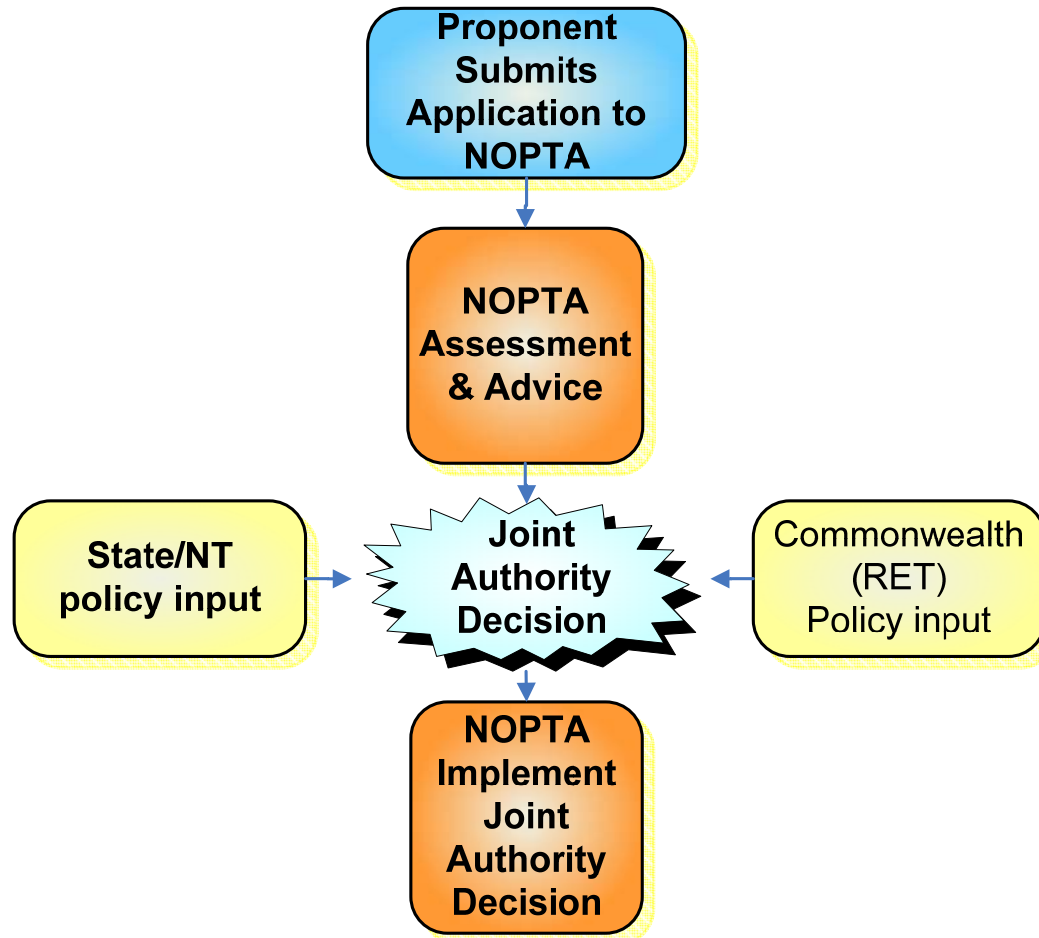


# NOPTA – Functions (as of 1 January)

- NOPTA is the first point of contact for all title applications
  - **Same as Designated Authorities at present**
  - **NOPSEMA is the point of contact for safety cases, environment plans and WOMPS**
- All (formal) communications to or by the Joint Authority to be made through NOPTA
  - **Same as Designated Authorities at present**
- Titles Administrator will grant titles and issue notices on behalf of the JA in accordance with decisions of the JA
  - **NOPTA is not a member of the Joint Authority**
  - **NOPTA must keep records of decisions of JA and the record must be signed by a member of the JA that made the decision**
  - **NOPTA holds the Titles Register for Commonwealth Titles**
  - **As far as validity of Commonwealth titles and notices is concerned, NOPTA will function exactly as Designated Authority does now**



# Joint Authority – Application Assessment



# NOPTA Establishment – Cost Recovery

- Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) on NOPTA's operating costs has been prepared
- A CRIS is undertaken to improve the consistency, transparency and accountability of Commonwealth cost recovery arrangements and to promote the efficient allocation of resources
- Draft CRIS released for consultation on 28 October 2011. Submissions closed 5pm (AEDT) Wednesday 9 November 2011.
- The CRIS has been certified by RET Secretary and submitted for acceptance by the Minister
- The draft CRIS is still available for viewing on the RET website at [www.ret.gov.au](http://www.ret.gov.au)
- Final CRIS should be published on RET website within next two weeks



# NOPTA Establishment – Recruitment

- NOPTA recruitment is almost finalised, with interviews held in September and appointments nearly completed
- Staff have commenced taking up roles with NOPTA from 1 November and will continue through November, December and January
- Commencement of individual staff – reflective of operational needs



# NOPTA Establishment – NEATS

- A National Electronic Approvals Tracking System (NEATS) is being developed by RET
- NEATS will be a public portal (similar to Western Australia's PGR system)
- NEATS will provide portal access to industry for the lodgement and tracking of applications
- The system will go live at the end of January 2012
- New guidelines will be developed to incorporate the electronic lodgement of applications
- Specific NEATS Information Sessions are being planned for December 2011 with further details to be released as they become available



# Transitional Arrangements – Timeline

Milestone	Date
Transfer of Records from the DAs to NOPTA	Oct – Dec 2011
CRIS released for consultation	Oct 2011
NOPTA Industry Information Sessions	16 & 21 Nov 2011
NEATS Information Sessions	Dec 2011
NOPTA Staff commencing	Nov-Dec 2011
Transfer of digital and physical data from the DAs to NOPTA/GA	Nov – Dec 2011



# Transition – MoU with WA

- Both Commonwealth Minister Ferguson and Western Australian Minister Moore have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperative arrangements between the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments
  - formalise the agreement between Ministers Ferguson and Moore on the principles to guide the cooperative working arrangements
  - co-location of NOPSEMA, NOPTA and elements of the Western Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP)
  - intended to improve petroleum administration and regulation in Commonwealth and Western Australian waters
  - progress the establishment of NOPTA and the transition of NOPSA to NOPSEMA





# Transition – Records Transfer

- Transfer of existing records held by the Designated Authorities is occurring ahead of the commencement of NOPTA
- Agreement has been reached with Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and the Northern Territory on the process and timing for transfer of data, titles records and titles registers
- Discussions have commenced with the other states to reach similar agreements
- Key objective to allow operations to commence on 1 January 2012



# Transition – Titles & Applications

- DAs to accept all applications and fees up until 31 December
- NOPTA will receive all new applications and accompanying fee from 1 January
- NOPTA Titles Team in Perth will cover mainly WA and the NT
- NOPTA's Titles staff will be allocated desks in DMP's offices commencing in the week of 28 November to work together on transition arrangements (similar arrangements are in place with VIC DPI)
- NOPTA and DMP will take a case by case approach to transition of titles applications currently in progress
- All applicants will be contacted in December to arrange transition arrangements – no need to resubmit applications to NOPTA
- NOPTA staff are also working with the NT Government on transition of applications in November and December



# Transition – Data Management

- NOPTA will receive all data submissions from 1 January 2012
- Changes will be required to the way in which physical and digital data are managed
- Management of hard copy and digital data will be transitioned to a central source managed by Geoscience Australia
- Working to ensure all data is retained and that services to industry are maintained during this process
- GA is undertaking a scoping study on the current data holdings of each of the Das
- Digital and hard copy records will be transferred from the DAs to GA during the first half of 2012



# Transition – Data Management

## Physical data

- In order to facilitate industry access to physical core and samples, it is proposed to maintain storage facilities in Western Australia and Victoria to provide services to all jurisdictions
- Discussions are underway to enable existing core store facilities in WA and Vic to be continued

## Digital and Hard copy

- WA WAPIM's system will continue to operate throughout transition period
- Aim to maintain all current sources of online access to data
- GA will provide access to other data through existing delivery arrangements

# Impact on Industry

- Liaison with one central administrator in Commonwealth waters: NOPTA
- Reduced timelines – imposition of statutory timeframes and removal of duplication
- Key NOPTA contacts:
  - Graeme Waters (overall NOPTA issues)
  - Jo Bell (Titles)
  - Steve Taylor (Compliance)
  - Julie Adams (Data)
  - Fiona Pekin (Corporate)



# Impact on Industry - Applications

- Active applications: NOPTA and the DAs will determine who completes applications in progress and advise applicants accordingly
- Approved applications: NOPTA will hold all records and will be the contact
- Submission of new applications to NOPTA:
  - Initially paper/email based via the NOPTA website: [www.nopta.gov.au](http://www.nopta.gov.au) / email: [titles@nopta.gov.au](mailto:titles@nopta.gov.au) / postal: address to be advised
  - Application forms will be available on [www.nopta.gov.au](http://www.nopta.gov.au)
  - From end Jan 2012 – electronic submission of applications via the NEATS portal on the NOPTA website: [www.nopta.gov.au](http://www.nopta.gov.au)
- New guidelines will be available from [www.nopta.gov.au](http://www.nopta.gov.au) in December 2011



# Impact on Industry – Fees

- Offshore Petroleum Fees due up to end December 2011: to the DAs
- Annual Title Fees due in December 2011 are payable to the DAs in January 2012
- From 1 January 2012 Annual Title Fees abolished and replaced by new annual title administration (ATA) levy
- NOPTA will invoice for ATA levy and fees due from 1 January 2012
- Payment of fees to NOPTA:
  - Initially electronic payment of fees with NOPTA bank details to be advised on [www.nopta.gov.au](http://www.nopta.gov.au) / Email: [corporate@nopta.gov.au](mailto:corporate@nopta.gov.au)
  - From end Jan 2012 – electronic payment of fees via the NEATS portal on the NOPTA website: [www.nopta.gov.au](http://www.nopta.gov.au)



# Next Steps

- One-on-one meetings: To arrange one-on-one meetings with Graeme Waters: Email: [graeme.waters@nopta.gov.au](mailto:graeme.waters@nopta.gov.au)
- NOPTA Newsletter: Issue One circulated November 2011/ Issue Two expected in early 2012 / Email: [info@nopta.gov.au](mailto:info@nopta.gov.au) to get on the distribution list
- Fee payment processes - discuss with Fiona Pekin [corporate@nopta.gov.au](mailto:corporate@nopta.gov.au)
- Questions and Answers?
- NEATS Information Sessions: December 2012





# Thank You

## NOPTA Establishment Team

- Email: [info@nopta.gov.au](mailto:info@nopta.gov.au)
- Web: <http://www.nopta.gov.au>

