

National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The purpose of this statement is to set out my intentions - as the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (Titles Administrator) - regarding how I will meet the expectations of the responsible Commonwealth Minister under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGS Act), as set out in the Ministerial Statement of Expectations of 30 May 2018.

Organisational Structure

In executing the functions and powers conferred on, or delegated to, the Titles Administrator under the OPGGS Act, associated regulations, and other relevant legislation, I am assisted by staff employed in the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator branch (NOPTA) which sits within the Resources Division of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

It is my intention that NOPTA will operate in accordance with the framework established by this statement.

Guiding Principles

Recognising the Title Administrator's position as the national administrator for offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage titles in Commonwealth waters, advisor to the Joint Authorities, and with responsibility for regulating parts 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 of the *Resource Management and Administration Regulations 2011* (RMA Regulations), I will maintain this role as an independent regulator through a process of continuous improvement based on:

- productive engagement and dialogue with the offshore industry, and other stakeholders
- administering the regulatory regime (OPGGS Act and associated regulations) in a manner that does not unnecessarily impede the efficient operations of the offshore industry
- leading best practice on the management of regulatory risk
- ensuring internal procedures and processes accord with regulatory and government performance requirements
- implementing a compliance framework for the management of offshore titles in accordance with the OPGGS Act.

Providing efficient and effective administration and regulation

The efficient and effective administration of the offshore regulatory regime is central to all activities undertaken by the Titles Administrator and NOPTA. To ensure our regulatory, administrative and compliance processes reflect leading practice, I will ensure:

- advice to the Joint Authorities is consistent and complies with prevailing legislation and guidelines
- early engagement with the offshore industry on administrative and compliance issues
- resources are developed at the earliest commercially viable opportunity, in line with the principles of good oil field practice and optimum petroleum recovery
- industry collaboration and the efficient use of existing and future infrastructure
- the National Electronic Approvals Tracking System (NEATS) continues to provide the public and industry with ready access to up-to-date titles information
- the public register of offshore titles is maintained and available
- annual review of NOPTA's corporate plan to align with the expectations of government and industry

- reporting obligations are met through publication of the annual report of activities and input into the Department's Annual Report
- through its goal setting and annual work programs, NOPTA's performance is measured against the Government's Regulator Performance Framework
- periodic reviews of policies and procedures to maintain currency with the social, technological and commercial context in which NOPTA operates.

In addition, I will maintain NOPTA's leadership role with the International Upstream Forum and attendance at the International Regulators' Forum to ensure Australia remains at the forefront of international regulatory leading practices.

Domestically, the Titles Administrator and NOPTA will continue to engage with partner agencies, including the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority, Geoscience Australia, and responsible state and territory departments and agencies to ensure regulatory streamlining opportunities are maximised.

Reducing regulatory burden

I acknowledge the value of reducing regulatory burden on industry, where possible, without adverse impact on outcomes. In recognition of this, the key performance indicators (KPIs) in NOPTA's Corporate Plan are aligned with the KPIs of the Government's Regulator Performance Framework. This will enable clear and consistent reporting on NOPTA's performance as a regulator and to demonstrate its accountability to stakeholders each year.

NOPTA's performance against the Regulator Performance Framework is externally assessed and validated annually by the Growth Centres Advisory Committee of the Ministerial Advisory Committee. I will continue to engage in this annual review process to ensure we are minimising regulatory burden while delivering an effective regulatory regime.

Operational matters

The Titles Administrator's independence as a regulator enables the provision of impartial advice to the Joint Authority and their delegates in accordance with the OPGGS Act, associated regulations and relevant guidelines.

To ensure the regulatory regime continues to be administered in an efficient and effective manner, I will continue to:

- maintain a competent and technically proficient capacity within NOPTA through the recruitment and retention of skilled professionals
- undertake an annual review of NOPTA's risk management framework to ensure an effective, risk-based monitoring and compliance framework is maintained
- monitor, and where necessary, update NOPTA's Cost Recovery Implementation Statement to ensure that cost recovery arrangements are adequate in order to effectively discharge NOPTA's administrative and regulatory functions
- maintain secure, reliable and responsible information technology systems to support NOPTA's functions.