



CONSULTATION

Non-Producing Environment Plan

Bass Strait operations

Esso is committed to engaging with the communities where we operate and helping our stakeholders understand our business. This information bulletin has been developed as part of Esso’s commitment to keep relevant persons and other stakeholders informed of planned activities in Bass Strait and to provide them with sufficient information about the nature and scale of the activity, as well as its potential risks and impacts, so that stakeholders can make an informed decision as to whether their functions, interests or activities are affected.

Overview

Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso) is a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd. Esso is the operator of the assets in Bass Strait that are part of the Gippsland Basin Joint Venture between Esso and Woodside Energy (Bass Strait) Pty Ltd (Woodside Energy) and the Kipper Unit Joint Venture (Esso, Woodside Energy, and Mitsui E&P Australia Pty Ltd). These assets comprise of 19 platforms with approximately 425 wells, six subsea facilities and more than 800 kilometres of subsea pipelines.

Esso conducts its Bass Strait activities in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, and accepted Environment Plans (EPs). EPs are developed in accordance with the requirements of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (Cth) (OPGGGS Act) and require acceptance by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).

An EP is a comprehensive document that describes the existing environment, including relevant persons, and how Esso will undertake activities to avoid, minimise or manage potential environmental impacts to As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and meet regulatory acceptability criteria. Demonstrating ALARP requires a titleholder to implement all available control measures where the cost is not grossly disproportionate to the environmental benefit gained from implementing the control measure.

While preparing an EP, Esso must consult with relevant authorities, persons and organisations whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by the proposed activities (i.e. a relevant person) and provide the opportunity for any feedback.

The currently accepted Bass Strait Environment Plan (BSEP) will be superseded by two EPs known as the **Bass Strait Producing EP** and the **Bass Strait Non-Producing EP**, valid for five years. The purpose of this information bulletin is to assist with stakeholder consultation by outlining the scope and activities within the **Non-Producing EP**.

The current BSEP is publicly available at: info.nopsema.gov.au/environment_plans/470/show_public.

Scope

Esso’s Bass Strait facilities are operated in accordance with defined Stages of Petroleum Activity as shown in Figure 1.

In accordance with the OPPGS Act, Esso is developing the Non-Producing EP to manage the environmental impacts and risks associated with non-producing infrastructure in the ‘Cessation of Production’ or ‘Stasis Mode’ stages. This includes 13 offshore platforms, four subsea facilities and associated pipelines. The facilities are:

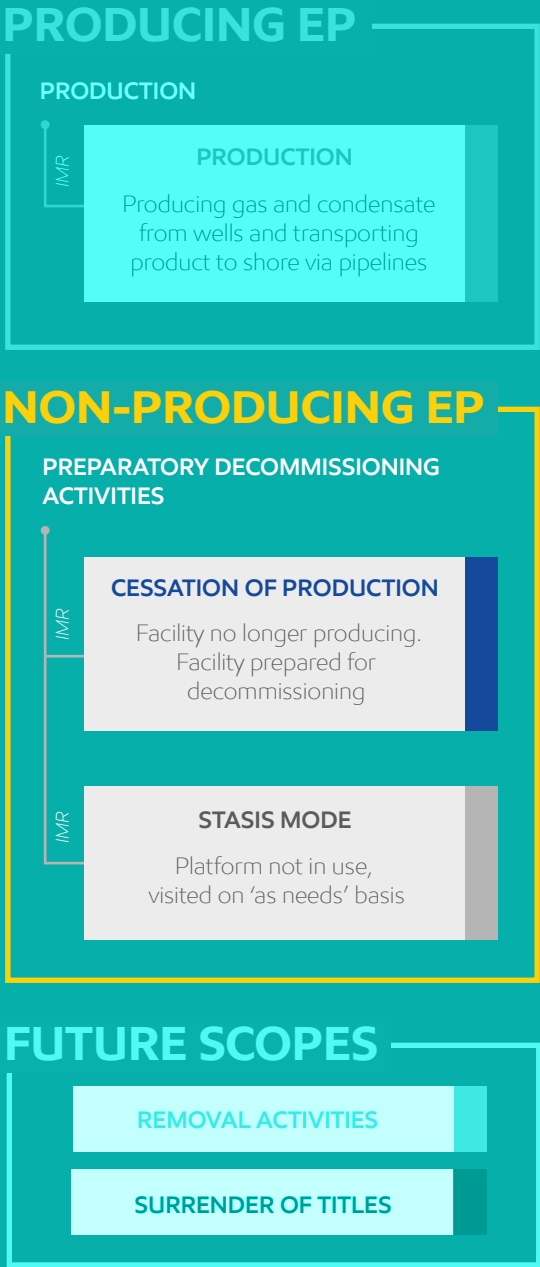
- Whiting platform
- Bream A platform
- Bream B platform
- Halibut platform
- Fortescue platform
- Cobia platform
- Mackerel platform
- Kingfish A platform
- Kingfish B platform
- West Kingfish platform
- Flounder platform
- Perch monotower
- Dolphin monotower
- Tarwhine subsea facility
- Seahorse subsea facility
- Blackback subsea facility
- Cobia 2 subsea facility.

Three producing offshore platforms (Barracouta, Tuna and Snapper), one subsea facility (West Barracouta) and associated pipelines that will be transitioning to the Cessation of Production and/or Stasis Mode stages during the valid period of the Non-Producing EP will also be included.

All other producing infrastructure will be covered in the Producing EP.

The Non-Producing EP will also include the management of deep foundation piles in place, beneath the seafloor, for relevant platforms.

STAGES OF PETROLEUM ACTIVITY



↑ Cover: The Kingfish platforms - West Kingfish, Kingfish A and Kingfish B
↗ Figure 1: Stages of Petroleum Activity

Location

Esso's Bass Strait non-producing assets are located off Victoria's Gippsland coast in Australia. Esso's facilities are in water depths that range from 38 metres (Dolphin) to 402 metres (Blackback). Their distance from the coast ranges from 12 kilometres (Seahorse) to 87 kilometres (Blackback). Figure 2 shows the location of the Bass Strait facilities in the scope of the Non-Producing EP.

An Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) excludes unauthorised vessels more than 200 tonnes or 24 metres in length from entering the area around the Bass Strait platforms. The ATBA is defined in Schedule 2 of the OPGGS Act and is administered by NOPSEMA. A traffic separation scheme operates south of the ATBA to control coastal shipping. All Esso Bass Strait non-producing facilities are located within the ATBA, except for Perch, Dolphin and Blackback, and their associated pipelines.

Facilities description

Bass Strait non-producing facilities contain staffed and unstaffed platforms and subsea facilities that have interconnecting pipelines and umbilicals.

Activity description

The Non-Producing EP will include all activities required when a facility moves to Cessation of Production or Stasis Mode. The Cessation of Production stage occurs when a facility no longer produces hydrocarbons or pipelines no longer transport hydrocarbons to shore or supply other facilities with resources. In the Stasis Mode stage, facilities and pipelines are ready for decommissioning. Activities in these stages include:

- well plug and secure using a wireline rig to preserve wellbore integrity prior to plug and abandonment activities
- care and preservation involving the shut-in of wells before plug and abandonment activities, except in certain circumstances, such as for the supply of fuel gas for power generation
- well plug and abandonment that involves the permanent closure of a well
- well conductor pull, where well conductors are removed either post-plug and abandonment or as part of decommissioning activities

- facility preparation activities to prepare topsides and jackets for lifting; bulk removal of hydrocarbons; cleaning import and export pipelines; and other activities required to prepare for decommissioning
- pipelines being filled with inhibited water
- removal of wellheads and smaller items of subsea property
- inspection, maintenance and repair (IMR) activities throughout Cessation of Production and Stasis Mode, including IMR of partially remaining steel pile jacket structures above the seafloor, after decommissioning and removal of any upper jacket sections
- support operations, including vessels, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and helicopters
- future decommissioning planning for facilities.

The Non-Producing EP also includes permanently leaving deep foundation piles in place for relevant platforms. Deep foundation piles fasten steel piled jacket platforms to the seafloor. These piles extend from about 1 metre below the seafloor to the full depth of the pile (up to 156 metres with up to 40 piles per platform). The deep foundation piles will be left in place as there is no feasible means of removal.

Petroleum Safety Zones and Notice to Mariners

Each non-producing platform and subsea facility has a 500-metre Petroleum Safety Zone (PSZ), established by NOPSEMA, in accordance with Section 616 of the OPGGS Act. There is also a 200-metre operational zone around primary and secondary pipelines more than 3 nautical miles from shore (Commonwealth waters). These PSZs and operational zones are in effect under the current BSEP and will not change in the Non-Producing EP. As such, the existing Notice to Mariners issued by the Australian Hydrographic Service and AUSCOAST warnings issued by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority will continue to apply.

Interaction with commercial fishing

Activities are located within existing Commonwealth fisheries that may be used by commercial fishers. The impacts to commercial fishing will be minimal as fishers are already required to avoid the established PSZs. Ongoing quarterly consultation will continue with the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association and Seafood Industry Victoria.

Oil Pollution Emergency Plan

In accordance with the OPGGS Act, Esso must demonstrate and document oil spill response arrangements. The Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) forms part of the Non-Producing EP submission and demonstrates Esso's capability to respond in the unlikely event of an oil spill.

Esso is a member of the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre, a co-operative national oil spill response organisation, which provides access to additional oil spill response resources if required. Esso's OPEP interfaces with national, state and industry response plans prepared and implemented by the Australian Government via the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (NatPlan), the Victorian Government (Maritime Emergencies (non-search and rescue) Plan), the Tasmanian Government (TasPlan), the NSW Government (NSW Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan) and the Australian Oil industry's Australian Marine Oil Spill Plan (AMOSPlan) administered by the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre.

The OPEP defines spill response options which may be applied to a spill event. The selected spill response option(s) would depend upon the size and type of spill; environmental sensitivities within the spill path; prevailing weather conditions; access restrictions and available resources. In all instances, a Net Environmental Benefit Analysis is conducted, in consultation with relevant government agencies, to determine the most appropriate spill response option.

Potential impacts, consequences and control measures

Esso's aim is to minimise environmental and social impacts associated with the activities outlined in the Non-Producing EP. As such, Esso has undertaken an initial assessment to identify potential impacts and consequences to the environment and relevant persons resulting from the activities. For each potential impact, Esso has outlined control measures to assist relevant persons in making an informed assessment of possible impacts to their functions, interests or activities.

There are negligible impacts associated with leaving deep foundation piles in place as they are made predominantly of steel and concrete and will degrade beneath the seafloor, over time.

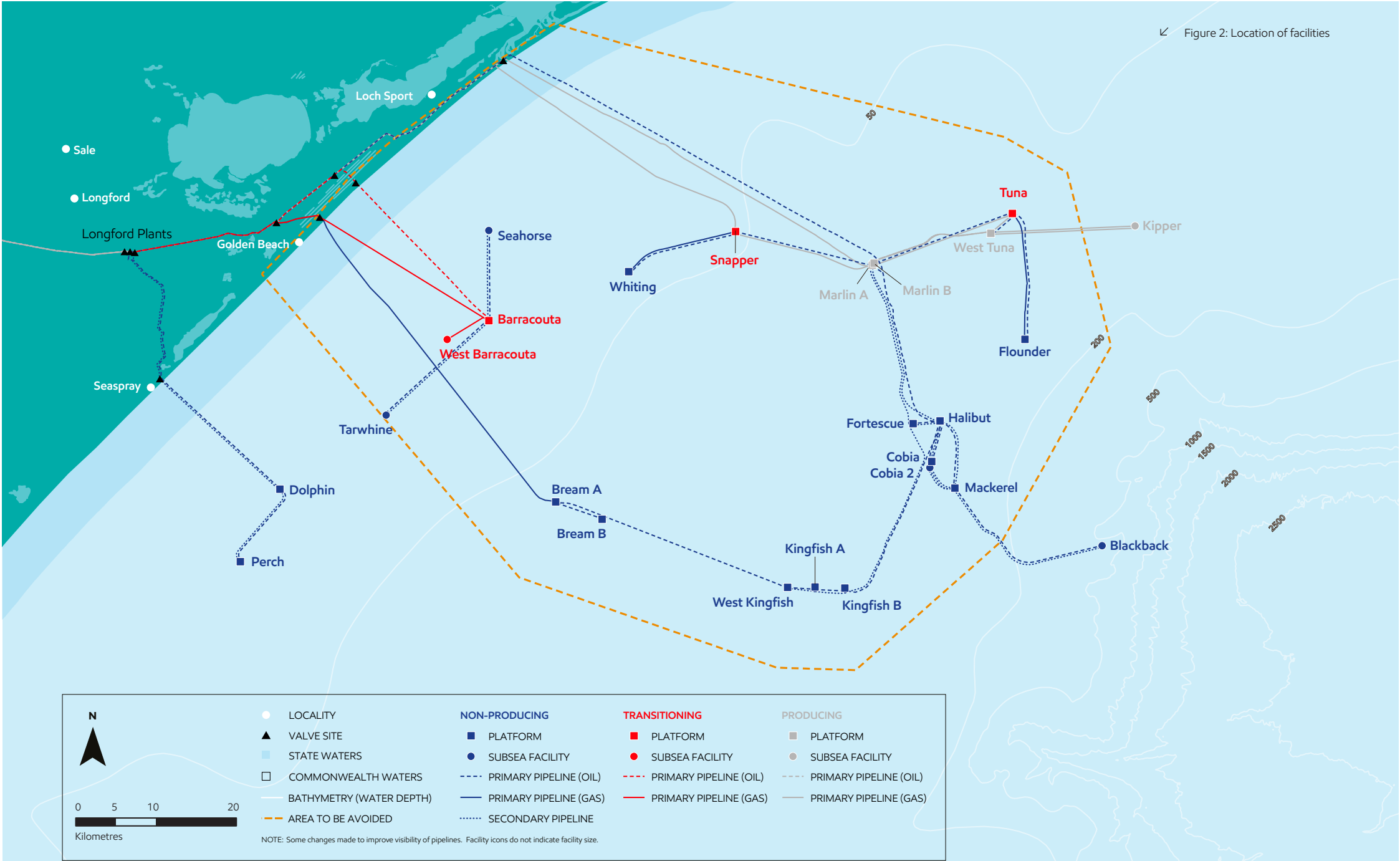


Table 1: Potential key environmental impacts and control measures - Wellwork, IMR, support operations and facility preparation for decommissioning activities

POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES	POTENTIAL CONTROL MEASURES
Physical presence - Seabed disturbance	Localised and temporary increase in turbidity; smothering/alteration of benthic habitats near the seafloor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ROVs will inspect the seafloor post wellwork and IMR activities to confirm that no unplanned equipment has inadvertently been left on the seafloor and is removed, where practicable.
Physical interaction - Other marine users	Changes to the function, interests or activities of other users through disruption to activities: commercial fishing, recreational fishing and other marine users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSZs are established in accordance with OPGGS Act. Relevant persons, whose activities are within activity locations outside of PSZs, will be informed in advance of the commencement of activities. Collaboration with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in providing adequate warnings and Notices to Mariners.
Planned discharges to the marine environment ¹	Temporary and localised reduction in water quality; temporary change to predator/prey dynamics; injury/mortality to fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine discharges and vessel waste treatment systems are maintained to international standards. Food scraps will be macerated prior to discharge. Discharged bilge water will have less than 15 parts per million oil in water content. Chemicals planned for discharge will be evaluated to confirm suitability for discharge prior to use. Open and closed drains will remain fit-for-purpose.
Noise emissions	Temporary displacement of sound sensitive fauna around active vessels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support vessels and helicopters will comply with Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (Cth) Part 8 Division 8.1 interacting with cetaceans. Noise adaptive management procedures will continue to be implemented, where required.
Light emissions	Temporary and localised changes in ambient light; attraction of light sensitive species; change in fauna behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting will be kept to a minimum while still meeting navigational and workplace safety requirements. Lighting will be used in accordance with the <i>National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife</i>.
Air emission, flaring and venting	Temporary and localised reduction in air quality; contributing to the global greenhouse gas effect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions. Ongoing maintenance of all emissions generating equipment onboard platforms and vessels. Implementation of emission reduction strategies. Efficient flare combustion.
Waste management	Contribution to onshore landfill; air, water and land pollution if waste is not managed appropriately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management procedures continue to be implemented and incorporate consideration of the waste hierarchy and ensure waste is handled, monitored and tracked in accordance with applicable legislation and transportation and Environment Protection Agency licencing requirements.
Unplanned introduction of invasive marine species	Displacement of native marine species and habitat domination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All vessels will implement a ballast water management plan. All vessels will comply with Australian biosecurity and ballast water management requirements and guidance.

¹ Including treated sewage and food waste; treated bilge and deck wash; cement; cooling water and brine; produced formation water and operational fluids.

Table 1: Potential key environmental impacts and control measures - Wellwork, IMR, support operations and facility preparation for decommissioning activities continued

POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES	POTENTIAL CONTROL MEASURES
Naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM)	Temporary exposure of marine fauna to radioactive material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If production tubing is removed from a well, it will be tested for NORM. Any NORM found will be treated as prescribed waste and transported to shore in accordance with the waste management procedures and handled onshore in accordance with waste management protocols at Barry Beach Marine Terminal.
Unplanned interaction with marine fauna	Impacts to marine fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support vessels and helicopters will comply with Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (Cth) Part 8 Division 8.1 interacting with cetaceans. Injury/mortality of <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) - listed fauna will be reported to appropriate regulatory departments.
Accidental or unplanned release of materials, chemicals, hydraulic fluids, drain systems and/or waste/dropped objects	Temporary and localised change in water quality and marine ecosystems; physical harm to marine fauna resulting from ingestion, inhalation or skin contact with hydrocarbons; potential toxicity impacts; injury/mortality to fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil and chemical stores are bunded and located within a deck bund. Chemicals not approved for discharge are stored away from drains/piles. All personnel are made aware of spill cleanup requirements and spill kit locations during induction process. All equipment including level indicators and pumps undergo regular IMR per existing programs. Waste handling, storage and disposal procedures are in place. Lifting equipment will be certified and routinely maintained per IMR program. Lifting plans and procedures are in place. Subsea materials register in place to track unplanned dropped objects that cannot be immediately retrieved. Bulk transfer equipment and procedures will meet the international <i>Guidelines for Offshore Marine Operations</i> requirements and equipment will be routinely maintained.
Vessel collision resulting in unplanned release of hydrocarbons (marine gas oil)	Impacts to water quality and marine ecosystems; temporary closure of areas (fishing grounds, beaches); visual amenity; physical harm to marine fauna resulting from ingestion, inhalation or skin contact with hydrocarbons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSZs are established in accordance with the OPGGS Act. Navigational aids and communication systems are in place. Compliance with legislative requirements for the prevention of vessel collisions and safety and emergency arrangements. Emergency response preparedness plans are in place.
Loss of containment from a pipeline	Temporary and localised change in water quality; injury/mortality to fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pipeline IMR program is implemented and includes corrosion and leak detection monitoring and annual integrity reporting. An OPEP is in place and will be implemented as required.
Loss of well control	Potential toxicity; oiling of fauna; reduction in visual aesthetic; socioeconomic impacts to the fishing and tourism industries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A NOPSEMA accepted Well Operations Management Plan is in place which provides well integrity assurance. Esso wellwork execution manual/surface well control equipment manual requirements including details of well workover plans will be implemented. NOPSEMA accepted Safety Case including planned maintenance of pressure well control equipment, testing of well control equipment and validation of activity specific safety critical equipment will be in place prior to commencement of activities. Emergency Preparedness and Response Manual is in place and includes: OPEP; Operational and Scientific Monitoring Plan and Source Control Plan.

Environment That May Be Affected

The Environment That May Be Affected (EMBA) is the largest spatial extent where the activities could potentially have an environmental consequence (direct or indirect impact). For this activity, the broadest extent of the EMBA takes into consideration planned and unplanned activities and is determined by a highly unlikely release and exposure to hydrocarbon, including trace concentrations of oil in the water column, as a result of any spill from this activity.

This area takes into account the merged area of many possible paths a hydrocarbon release could travel depending on the weather and ocean conditions at the time of the release. This means in the highly unlikely event a hydrocarbon release does occur, an individual spill would affect a significantly smaller area.

For this activity, Esso has defined the EMBA, as shown in Figure 3, on the furthest feasible extent (lowest exposure zone) from the release location of all modelled scenarios where hydrocarbon thresholds, including surface, entrained and dissolved aromatic hydrocarbons could be exceeded.

Consultation

Esso is committed to ongoing engagement with the communities where we operate. Your functions, interests and activities may mean you, your business or your organisation are a relevant person for these activities. Your participation will help Esso to better understand the impacts and risks that may arise from the Non-Producing EP activities. As such, we're seeking your feedback as we develop the Non-Producing EP. Please note that your feedback and our response will be included in the Non-Producing EP, which will be submitted to NOPSEMA for acceptance in accordance with the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023 (Cth).

Please let us know if your feedback is sensitive and we will make this known to NOPSEMA upon submission of the EP in order for this information to remain confidential to NOPSEMA. Esso will communicate any material changes to the proposed activity to relevant persons as they arise.

If you would like to comment or would like additional information, please contact us.





How to contact us

For more information, visit our Consultation Hub using the QR Code below, or contact our Consultation team at:

T: +61 3 9261 0000

E: consultation@exxonmobil.com

W: corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/australia



Scan to access the
Consultation Hub and
Esso Consultation Questionnaire

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Acknowledgement of traditional owners



Esso acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country, and the land and sea upon which our operations are located. We recognise the Traditional Custodians continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.