

Our ref: ID: 886825

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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Parliament House
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Dear Committee Secretary,

Thank you for your letter of 28 October 2022 inviting us to make a submission into the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Legislation Amendment Bill 2022* (the Bill).

Please accept this correspondence as an official submission from the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).

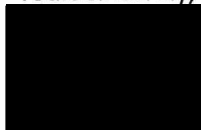
On 2 June 2022 NOPSEMA acquired the functions of the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator when the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (OEI Act) entered into force. Under the OEI Act the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator has responsibility for overseeing work health and safety, environmental management, and infrastructure integrity for offshore infrastructure activities.

The agency has been providing technical and regulatory advice to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on the development of the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure framework including the Bill.

Relevant to the functions of the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator, the Bill contains provisions enabling the publication of certain information to facilitate transparency of management plans which provide operational details of activities to be carried out under OEI Act licences. This will allow greater public scrutiny of offshore infrastructure activities in the Commonwealth offshore area. Furthermore, we support administrative amendments that will enable staff from the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator to assist the Registrar in delivering their functions. This amendment will provide for existing skills, processes, systems and expertise relevant to licence administration to be leveraged resulting in cost and time savings for government and industry.

NOPSEMA considers that these changes will provide greater clarity to stakeholders on licensing and customs requirements and the roles and responsibilities of relevant decision makers under the framework and is supportive of the Bill as drafted.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Smith

Chief Executive Officer

1 November 2022

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