

2022 » 23

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES



Australian Government
National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator



Australian Government
Offshore Infrastructure Registrar

National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

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INTRODUCTION TO NOPTA

WELCOME

I am pleased to present the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator's (NOPTA's) Annual Report of Activities for the financial year 2022-23, which for the first time includes activities related to my role as Offshore Infrastructure Registrar under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021*.

Unquestionably, the 2022-23 financial year saw the most profound changes to NOPTA since its creation through the regulatory reforms of 2012. In December 2022, I was appointed as the Offshore Infrastructure Registrar and am aptly assisted by assigned staff from within the NOPTA Branch. This change represents a significant paradigm shift for the offshore sector and represents a key step towards a more diversified energy mix.

Organisationally, the department went through significant machinery of government changes bringing a new structure and leadership team, with fresh ideas and approaches. Additionally, there have been new appointments and confirmation in key roles across the regime, which hold great promise to ensure that it remains effective and efficient in its remit.

The Government is committed to the establishment of an offshore electricity infrastructure (OEI) industry and the NOPTA Branch will play an important part in this through

its role as the Offshore Infrastructure Registrar. Over several years, NOPTA has worked closely with the relevant responsible departments on the development of legislation and regulation, and more recently guidance material, to support this with significant contributions across NOPTA.

Industry activity in relation to greenhouse gas (GHG) storage continues to gather pace. This is both an exciting and challenging period for the regime, as previously untested regulatory frameworks are now engaged. As industry moves rapidly towards a first injection within Commonwealth waters, NOPTA has worked closely with its stakeholders to ensure regulatory readiness for these projects, and I expect this to intensify over the coming year.

Matters relating to offshore petroleum continue to form the core of NOPTA's activities and responsibilities and we maintain our focus on providing efficient and comprehensive support to both the industry and the members of the Joint Authorities in ensuring a predictable and reliable regulatory environment. As industry activity in relation to GHG and OEI continue to grow, we remain committed to providing the same level of regulation to these new industries as we have for offshore petroleum.

In recognition of NOPTA's broadening functions, we recently implemented important changes to our operations and structure. These changes are described in this report and are reflected in our organisational structure on page 14. Fundamental to this has been the introduction of 3 streams which better integrates the functions and facilitates appropriate oversight from our senior leadership group. As part of this, we have created 4 new teams and added to our existing capacity in our technical and commercial areas to enable competent assessment of OEI acreage applications and ensure operational risks continue to be managed. Importantly, this approach also ensures that there is no cross-subsidisation between the 2 streams of cost-recovery that we now operate.

As a cost recovered entity, it is no secret that how we perform can have a major impact on industry productivity and its ability to manage risk. In recognition of this, NOPTA is committed to improving the way we operate to drive continuous improvement across matters of people, process, and technology. A key measure for NOPTA relates to the efficiency of its application processing timeframes. Indeed, NOPTA is subject to very close scrutiny on its performance in this area, and rightly so. As you will see in this report, NOPTA continues to stretch well beyond its performance benchmark in this regard, meeting its

published processing timeframes 97% for 2022-23. Of course, whilst we always strive to improve, I remain immensely proud of my staff in their dedication and professionalism in achieving exceptional outcomes in a very complex and evolving landscape.

The importance we place on our staff and on creating a workplace where each of us is valued and respected for our contribution must never be underestimated, and ultimately this comes down to NOPTA's unique culture. During the year, we had many things to celebrate from the small wins to big milestones. One poignant moment was the departure of Ms Rachel Fry, who was the manager of the then Legislative Compliance Team and had been with the agency since establishment. Rachel is highly respected and liked within NOPTA and was at the forefront of many of the changes of which I have mentioned. Her dedication, tenacity, and good humour is missed but the excellent work she accomplished and the team she built endures. We all wish her success and happiness in her endeavours.

On a more sombre note, it was with great sadness that in May of this year, we received news of the passing of our dear colleague and friend, Alan Dunn, after a long battle with cancer. Alan was a member of NOPTA's Data Management team and despite his illness, remained determined to be generous, supportive of colleagues and make a positive and valuable contribution to our work. Alan made NOPTA a better place and our thoughts remain with his family and friends.



ABOUT US

ESTABLISHED	<p>1 January 2012, the General Manager of the NOPTA branch was appointed the Titles Administrator under the <i>Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006</i> (OPGGs Act) and is part of the Department of Industry, Science, and Resources (the department).</p> <p>16 December 2022, the General Manager of the NOPTA Branch was appointed as the Registrar under the <i>Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021</i> (OEI Act) by the Secretary of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). The Registrar is assisted by staff within NOPTA Branch.</p>		
INDUSTRIES ADMINISTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Petroleum ➤ Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Storage ➤ Offshore Electricity 		
OUR CULTURE	<p>At NOPTA we are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ innovative, enthusiastic and endeavour to improve the way we work ➤ flexible, responsive and embrace change 	<p>NOPTA people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ act with honesty and integrity ➤ are inclusive and respect the views of others 	<p>NOPTA is seen as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ impartial, consistent and transparent ➤ approachable, helpful and trustworthy
OUR PURPOSE	<p>The Titles Administrator administers titles and data management for petroleum and GHG titles in Australian Commonwealth waters. The Titles Administrator supports the management of the offshore petroleum and GHG storage titles by providing expert advice, administration, compliance monitoring and data management in accordance with the OPGGS Act.</p> <p>The Registrar administers the offshore electricity infrastructure licensing scheme, including managing licence assessment processes, providing expert advice and recommendations to the Minister for Climate Change and Energy on applications, and overseeing compliance and administration in accordance with the OEI Act.</p>		

OUR FUNCTIONS

- Providing information, assessments, analysis, reports, advice and recommendations to the relevant decision makers under the OPGGS Act and OEI Act.
- Facilitating life of title/licence administration, including compliance monitoring.
- Engaging with titleholders/licence holders on their performance in meeting regulatory obligations and expectations.
- Manage the submission and release of data.
- The Titles Administrator is the decision maker for the approval and registration of a change in control of a company, transfers and dealings, and for granting of short-term petroleum and GHG titles.
- The Offshore Infrastructure Registrar is the decision maker in relation to a change in control of a company with an OEI licence.
- Maintain the public registers of offshore petroleum, greenhouse gas titles and offshore electricity licences.
- Cooperate with the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) and the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator on matters relating to the administration and enforcement of the OPGGS Act, OEI Act and associated regulations.
- Ensuring petroleum resource management is undertaken in accordance with the principles of good oilfield practice.
- Implementing effective field performance monitoring strategies in order to secure optimum long term petroleum recovery.
- Collecting levies and fees in accordance with government policy and Titles Administrator and Registrar's approved Cost Recovery Implementation Statements. Maintaining special accounts consistent with the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

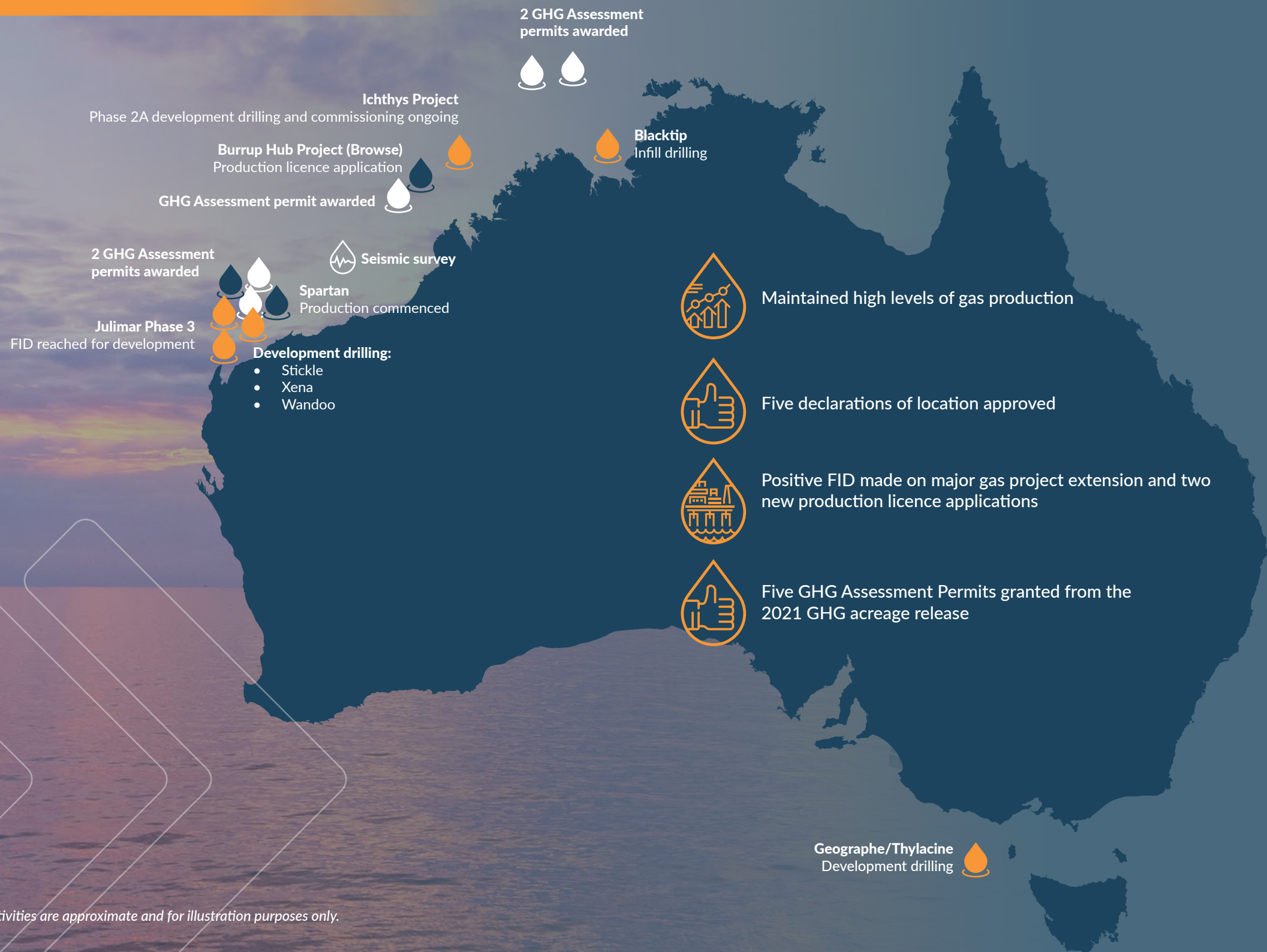
PRINCIPLES OF REGULATOR BEST PRACTICE

- Continuous improvement and building trust
- Risk based and data driven
- Collaboration and engagement



2022-23

PETROLEUM & GHG ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



Note: The location of the activities are approximate and for illustration purposes only.

2022-23

PETROLEUM & GHG ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



Maintained high levels of petroleum production



5 new GHG storage titles awarded

19 petroleum titles surrendered

INDUSTRY ACTIVITY



Low levels of on water exploration activity (no exploration wells drilled, 1 seismic survey)



18 petroleum development wells drilled

5 petroleum locations approved



19 days on average, taken to complete Titles Administrator assessments



Met target application assessment timeframes

97% of the time for petroleum and GHG storage applications.



340 applications received



373 petroleum application decisions made

371

regulatory data submission items received



99

open file data releases authorised

370

Stakeholder meetings



35

meetings on average per month

2022-23

OFFSHORE ELECTRICITY ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

The commencement of the OEI Act on 2 June 2022 was a pivotal milestone for offshore renewable energy in Australia. This legislative progress coupled with the appointment of NOPTA's General Manager as the Offshore Infrastructure Registrar in December 2022, enabled NOPTA to make significant progress towards establishing the arrangements and systems required to deliver the Registrar's functions. The year culminated in a highly competitive first Invitation to Apply for Feasibility Licences, and growing momentum for future rounds of applications.

Perth and Bunbury
consultation planned



Southern Ocean
Proposed Area



Northern Tasmania
consultation planned



Gippsland
Declared Area



Illawarra
Proposed Area



Hunter
Proposed Area



Note: The location of the activities are approximate and for illustration purposes only.

2022-23

KEY OFFSHORE ELECTRICITY MILESTONES

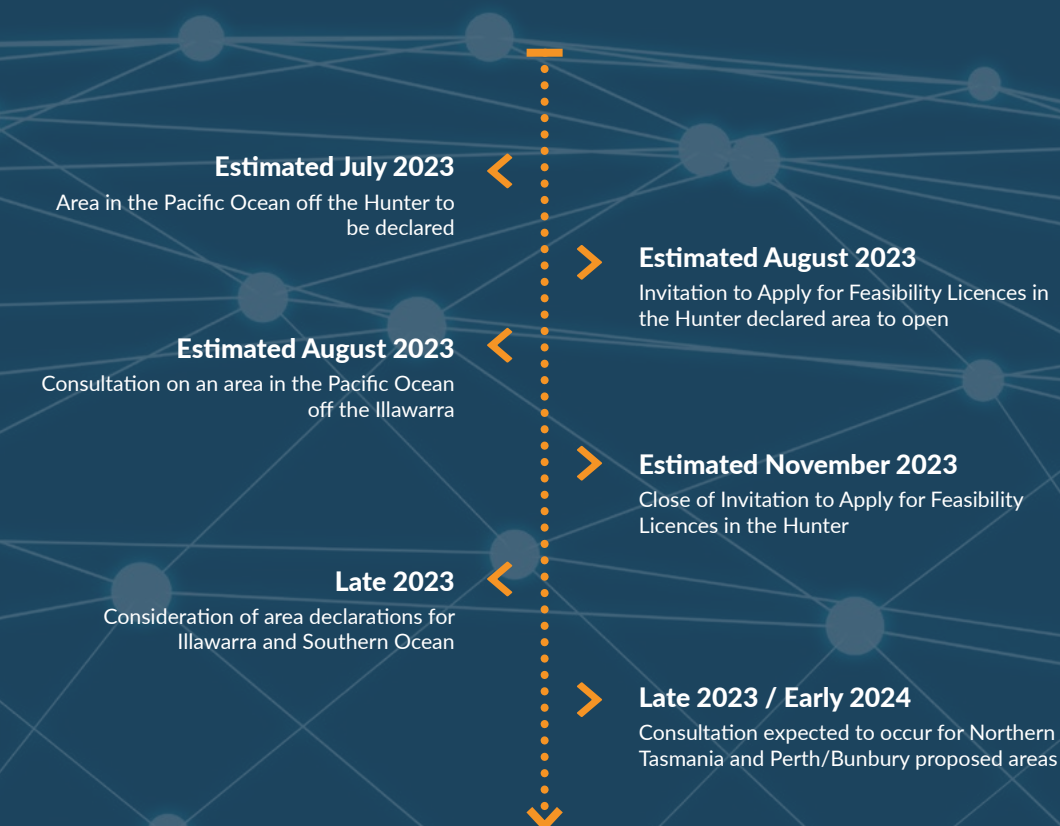


Key Achievements

- Assisted DCCEEW in the drafting of the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations 2022*
- Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) implemented
- Recruited staff and established a dedicated Offshore Electricity Infrastructure team
- Launched a new dedicated website for the Registrar – www.offshoreregistrar.gov.au
- Expanded functionality of NEATS to include licences under the OEI Act and to allow for the electronic submission and tracking of feasibility licence applications
- Developed regulatory guidance material, forms and factsheets to assist eligible persons, and other stakeholders, to enable feasibility licence applications
- Participated in more than 65 meetings with industry and government stakeholders
- Held information sessions on the 'Feasibility Licence Guideline and Application Content' and 'How to complete the Application Form and Submit an Application' attended by over 300 stakeholders
- Received 37 feasibility licence applications for the Gippsland declared area and commenced assessments

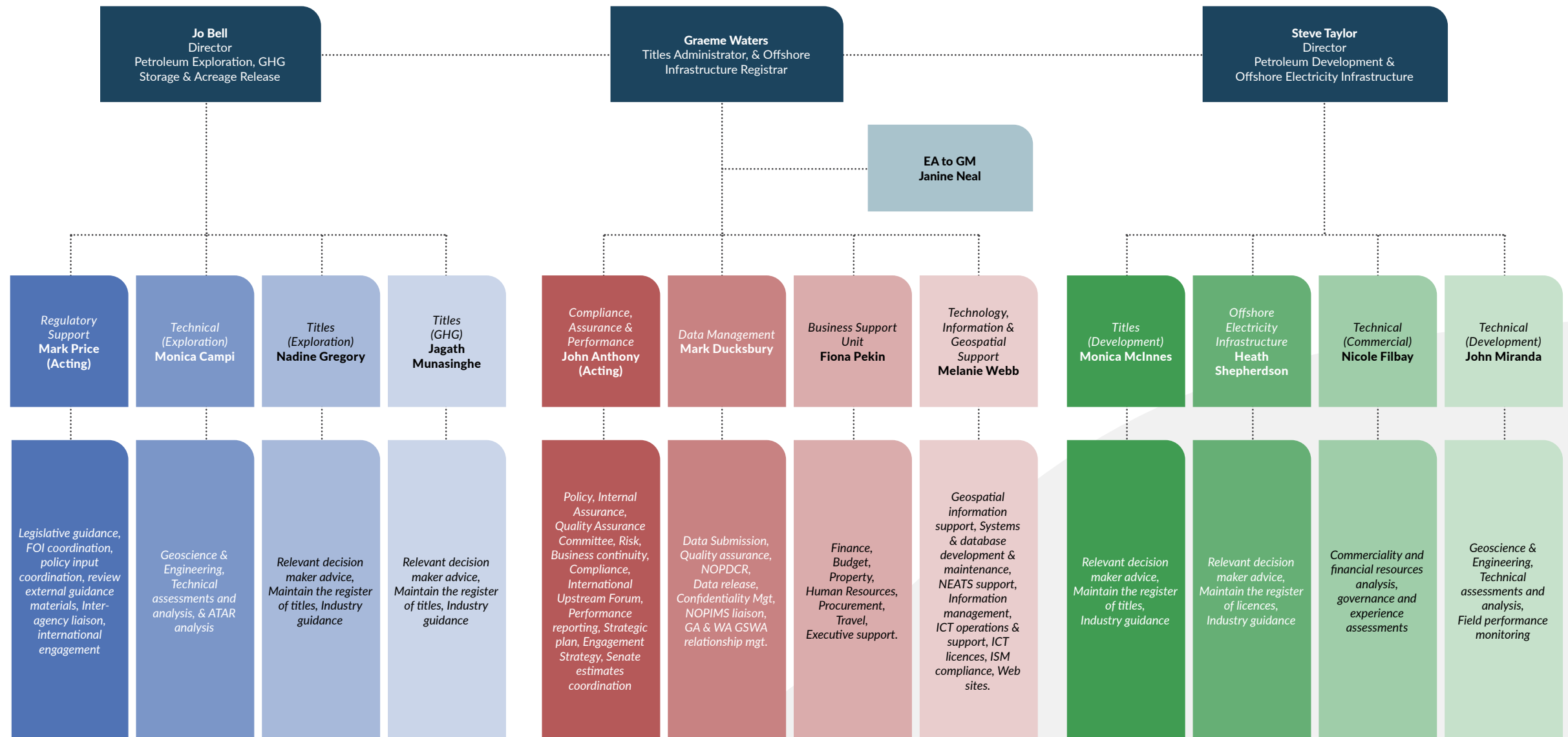
LOOKING AHEAD

➤ Rolling Feasibility Licence Assessment Rounds



Note - further information regarding the area declaration process can be found at DCCEEW's [website](http://www.offshoreregistrar.gov.au).

NOPTA ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



HR OVERVIEW

Total Staff
(incl. contractors):

86
headcount,
83.71
FTE



88%
STAFF

12%
CONTRACTORS



Gender balance
in team
leadership roles:

**6 Female,
6 Male**

Gender balance
in senior
leadership roles:

**2 Male,
1 Female**

As at 30 June 2023, NOPTA had 75 staff (73.74 full time equivalent) and 11 contractors (9.97 full time equivalent) across our Perth and Melbourne offices, as well as remote workers in Adelaide, Brisbane, regional Victoria, regional New South Wales, and London.

Remuneration and employment conditions for non-Senior Executive Service employees are determined under the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science Enterprise Agreement 2019/2022 (EA). No salary increases were scheduled for 2022 under the EA, although an additional 3% salary increase for non-SES employees took effect on 18 November 2022 in accordance with the Public Service (Section 24(1)—Department of Industry, Science and Resources Non-SES Employees) Determination 2022/1.

A range of non-salary benefits are available to employees, including 4 weeks' annual leave per year plus Christmas shutdown, 18 days paid personal leave per year, vacation care subsidy, \$200 healthy lifestyle subsidy, flexible working arrangements, 15.4% employer superannuation contribution, access to study assistance, access to staff counselling services and annual influenza immunisation.

DEVELOPING OUR CAPABILITIES

NOPTA continues to invest in building its capabilities to ensure that we have the right skills to meet our operational and strategic priorities. We build capability through our 3 levels of training – APS general training, NOPTA training, and professional technical training. Highlights from the past year include:

- The successful continuation of our internal 'lunch and learn' sessions to inform staff of specific operational matters and promote open and collegiate relationships between teams.
- In collaboration with the University of Western Australia (UWA) and the Australian Institute of Management (AIM) WA, NOPTA has continued a successful virtual leadership series on a range of professional development topics.
- NOPTA's 'Learn as you Go' (LAG) program continued to provide development opportunities for staff, offering the ability to shadow various team activities and discussions.
- Workshops by the Black Dog Institute on Managing Team Wellbeing, with a focus on recognising and supporting mental health issues in the workforce and building staff resilience.
- Team introductory sessions were held each quarter to aid the development of new staff.
- Participation in the Australian Government's joint booth at the APPEA Conference and Exhibition.
- NOPTA's Annual All-Staff Event was held in November 2022. Topics included technology, people, process and governance, strategic priorities and challenges.

Safety and Wellbeing

NOPTA strives to provide and maintain safe and healthy workplaces. In 2022-23:

- NOPTA has continued to embrace a hybrid working model both pre and post COVID-19 restrictions and has an open and flexible approach to virtual communications.
- The Health, Safety, Wellness and Environment (HSWE) Plan provides a structured model for activities organised by staff for staff and includes training, wellness, social and environmental activities.
- NOPTA provides office-based workstation assessments to all new starters and existing staff (as required). The assessments are facilitated by external providers.
- Staff with flexible and remote work arrangements are offered virtual workstation assessments.
- Regular, internally managed office workplace safety inspections are conducted for both the Perth and Melbourne NOPTA offices.
- 51 staff members claimed the Healthy Lifestyle Subsidy for gym memberships, fitness gear, footwear, fitness equipment, sports registration fees and other wellness activities and items.
- Free influenza vaccinations were offered to all staff, with on-site vaccinations administered at the Perth and Melbourne offices.

Employee Engagement

NOPTA promotes an inclusive culture and recognises that a diverse workforce creates greater innovation and creativity and enhances capacity to achieve our goals. During the reporting period:

- NOPTA's Senior Leadership Group conducted regular workforce planning exercises to ensure that required staffing levels were adequately maintained.
- Recruitment processes were undertaken with a focus on increasing workplace diversity (e.g., cultural, age, disability, gender, skill, neurodiversity).
- NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week were acknowledged, and staff were encouraged to attend local activities.
- Employment opportunities and promotions are advertised on the department's 'Work with us' site, on LinkedIn and in the Public Service Gazette. Our promotions and appointments are merit-based and subject to competitive selection.
- NOPTA supports the department's Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) and has engaged 10 contractors through First Grade Recruitment over the past financial year.
- NOPTA offers a range of flexible working arrangements. We continue to support a hybrid work environment where staff may opt to work from home a number of days per week. Other arrangements include part-time hours, 9-day fortnight, flex time and remote working from locations where NOPTA does not have a presence.
- NOPTA constantly monitors and improves its working environment and seeks regular feedback from staff through the local and divisional Staff Consultative Committees, the APS Employee Census, along with regular in-house pulse surveys.

2023 NOPTA STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

As part of NOPTA's ongoing performance reporting obligations, NOPTA undertakes regular stakeholder surveys to assess client satisfaction with its performance in key areas. In May 2023 NOPTA engaged KPMG to undertake its 2023 Stakeholder Survey. The survey was focused on the Titles Administrator function only. This was NOPTA's sixth comprehensive survey of stakeholder views. Stakeholder feedback has provided us with important insights in the areas of accessibility of information, regulatory effort, resource management, communication, cost recovery and risk.

The outcomes of the survey represent an excellent result for NOPTA. Some of these key highlights were:



- NOPTA's role is very well understood, with **76%** of stakeholders understanding NOPTA's role to a great extent



- All stakeholders thought that NOPTA makes a valuable contribution to the process of managing Australia's resources to a great extent or some extent (**100%**)



- The majority of respondents were either very or somewhat satisfied with the technical expertise of NOPTA staff (**100%**)



- Respondents largely viewed NOPTA's current fees and levies as very reasonable or reasonable (**88%**)

We also obtained feedback regarding areas where stakeholders consider NOPTA's performance could be improved. These include matters relevant to collaboration with stakeholders, timeliness of decisions, regulatory effort, and providing additional support with new legislative requirements.

NOPTA is actively pursuing a range of priorities to optimise our performance and enhance the processes through which we collaborate and engage with our stakeholders. Our online portals and systems are under constant improvement and have had recent upgrades to facilitate online submissions, as well as ongoing work to streamline our internal assessment processes to improve timeframe efficiencies and better track and report on application processing performance. NOPTA will continue to improve its communications and engagement with stakeholders and will refine its communication strategy accordingly.

Image: Courtesy of ENI Australia B.V.



PETROLEUM AND GHG STORAGE

ACTIVITY AND INSIGHTS

OFFSHORE PETROLEUM AND GHG TITLES ADMINISTRATION

As of 30 June 2023, there were 344 offshore petroleum titles and seven GHG assessment permits (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Total number of offshore petroleum and GHG titles (as at 30 June 2023)

Offshore Area	Exploration Permits	Retention Leases	Production Licences	Infrastructure Licences	Pipeline Licences	Access Authority	GHG Permits	Total
QLD	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NSW	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
VIC	12	7	28	0	40	0	0	87
TAS	2	3	4	0	3	1	0	13
SA	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
WA	44	63	59	3	33	0	0	202
NT	4	6	1	0	5	0	0	16
AC	13	3	4	0	1	0	0	21
BU	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cth	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
Total	79	82	96	3	83	1	7	351

Under the OPGGS Act, the Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority (Joint Authority) for each state and the Northern Territory comprises the responsible Commonwealth Minister¹ and the relevant state or Northern Territory minister. The Joint Authority for the Eastern Greater Sunrise offshore area, the offshore area of each external territory (i.e. the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the Bayu Undan pipeline international offshore area and for the Tasmanian offshore area) is the responsible Commonwealth Minister only.

The Joint Authorities may delegate any or all of their functions and powers to Commonwealth and State/NT department officials.

Figure 1 shows the decision maker for offshore petroleum applications and petroleum application related requests under the OPGGS Act is either the relevant Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority or the Titles Administrator.

¹ Currently the Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia

Joint Authority Title Application Decisions	NOPTA Title Application Decisions
Grant and Renewal (exploration permits, retention leases and production licences)	Extension of time to lodge a renewal application
Declaration of a location (including variation or revocation)	Extension to an application period (location)
Grant of a pipeline and infrastructure licences (including variation & consent to cease a pipeline)	Change of company name and devolution (all titles)
Variation, suspension, extension or exemption of title	Credits (work program)
Field Development Plan (including variation), rate of recovery, equipment and procedures	Dealings, Transfers and Change in Control (all titles)
Surrender and cancellation (including good standing)	Access Authorities (short term title)
Scientific Investigation Consent	Special Prospecting Authorities (short term title)

Figure 1: Decision makers for offshore petroleum applications

For Joint Authority decisions, NOPTA submits its technical assessment reports to the Joint Authority, or its delegates, through the relevant Commonwealth and State/NT departments. Where the Joint Authority comprises only the responsible Commonwealth Minister, NOPTA will submit its report to the Joint Authority or its delegate via the Commonwealth department.

The Commonwealth Minister or delegate will then provide the written decision to NOPTA for purposes of communicating to the relevant party (**Figure 2**).

Delegates may advise their Ministers on whether the advice is comprehensive and reasonable, insert local policy concerns and support or oppose NOPTA's recommendations.

The Joint Authority is not compelled to accept NOPTA's advice or recommendations and may seek additional information and/or clarification from or through NOPTA where necessary.

Sample Application Assessment Process

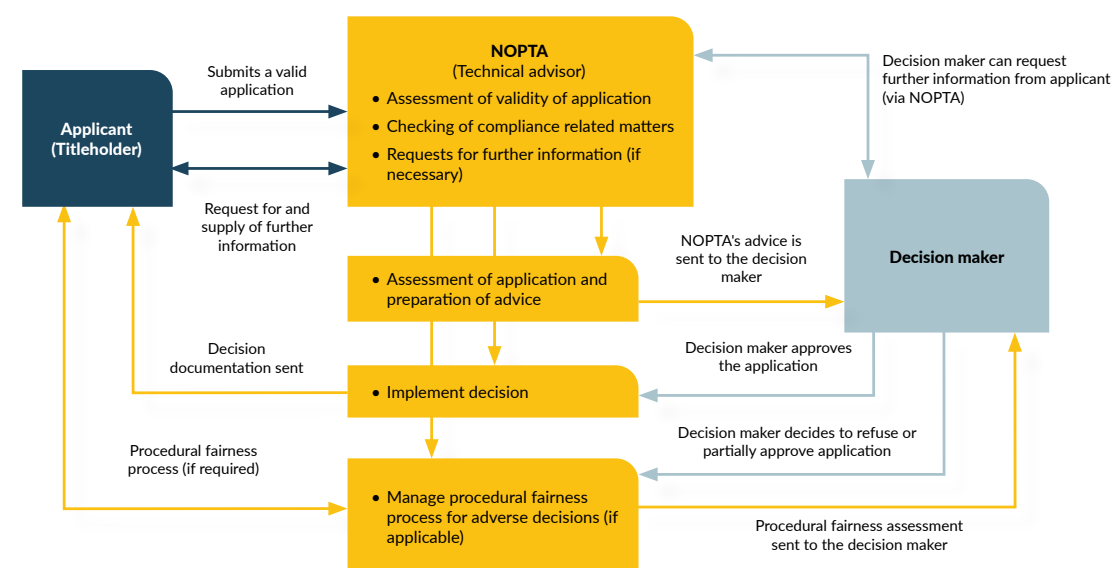


Figure 2: Sample application process under the OPGGS Act

Figure 3 shows the decision maker for offshore GHG title related applications made under the OPGGS Act is either the responsible Commonwealth Minister, the Titles Administrator, the relevant Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority, or the relevant Cross-boundary Authority.

In the case of some applications such as a Special Authority and Search Authority, the Responsible Commonwealth Minister has delegated the decisions to the Titles Administrator.

Further information on the relevant Cross boundary Authority can be found in the *Offshore Greenhouse Gas Guideline for Consolidated bid and Cross-boundary Greenhouse Gas Assessment Permits*².

Responsible Commonwealth Minister Decisions	Titles Administrator Decisions
Grant and Renewal (assessment permit, holding lease and injection license) & key operations	Transfers and Change in Control (all titles)
Declaration of an identified storage formation (including variation or revocation)	Dealings (all titles)
Variation, suspension, extension or exemption of a condition of title	Change of company name & devolution of title (all titles)
Site Closing Certificate	Credits (work program)
Surrender and cancellation	Search Authority (short term title) - <i>delegated</i>
Research content	Special Authority (short term title) - <i>delegated</i>
Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority Decisions	Cross-boundary Authority Decisions
Grant of a pipeline and infrastructure licenses	Grant of cross-boundary GHG assessment permits (Including renewals, suspensions, extensions, variations and exemptions of title conditions)

Figure 3: Decision Makers for Offshore GHG Title Applications

Titles Applications

In 2022-23, NOPTA received 340 offshore petroleum and GHG titles related applications (**Figure 4 and Table 2**) compared to 455 in 2021-22 (**Figure 5**). As per previous financial years, change in company name and dealings made up the majority of the submitted applications (**Figures 6, 7 and 8**).

Figure 8 provides a breakdown of the Change in Control and Change in Company Name applications received in 2022-23.

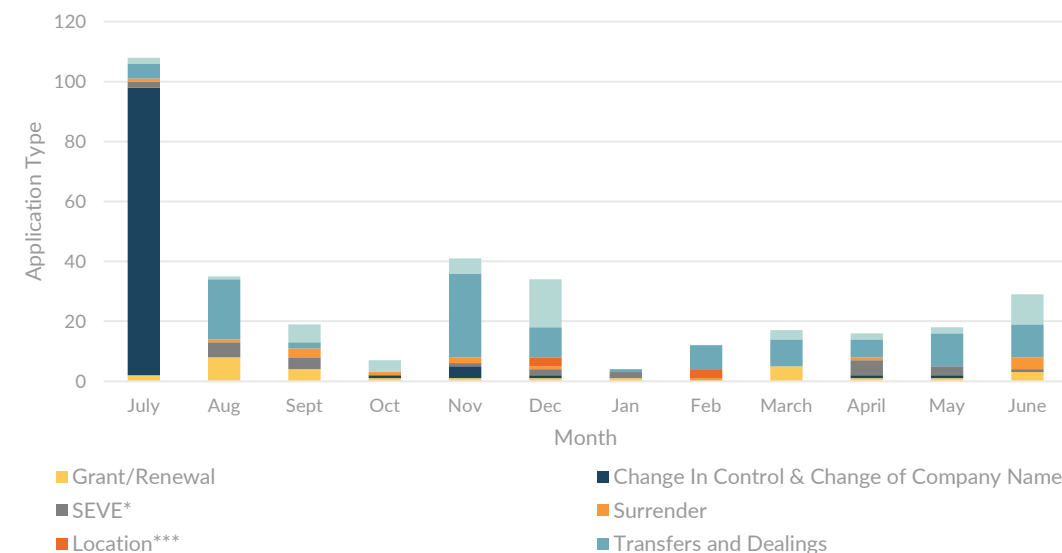


Figure 4: Applications submitted in 2022-23

* includes suspensions, extensions, variations and exemptions
 ** includes cease title, declaration of identified storage formation, expiration, extension of time to lodge a renewal, field development plan, field development plan variations, GHG variation, key GHG operation, pipeline licence variations, rate of recovery, special authority and equipment and procedures.
 *** Location: includes Declaration of Location and Location Extension.

Table 2: Applications submitted 2022-23

Decision Maker	WA	SA	NT	VIC	AC	NSW	QLD	TAS	BU	Cth	Total
Joint Authority	56	0	3	5	12	0	1	11	0	0	88
Titles Administrator	119	0	11	71	27	0	2	3	4	7	244
Responsible Commonwealth Minister	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
Total	175	0	14	76	39	0	3	14	4	15	340

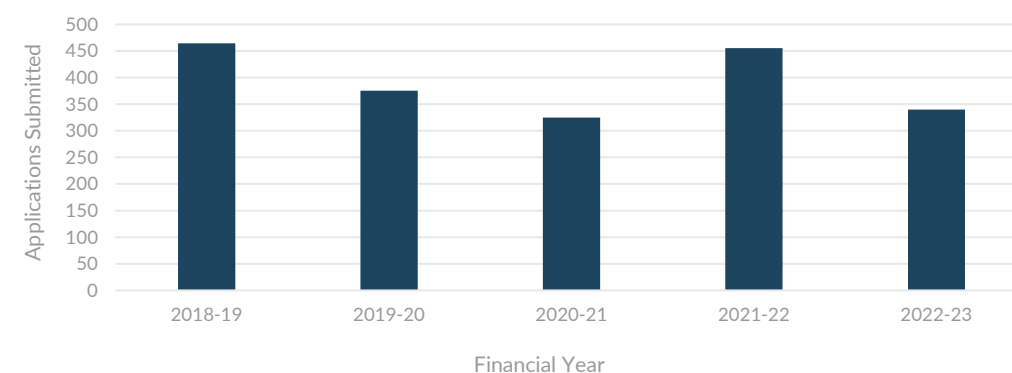
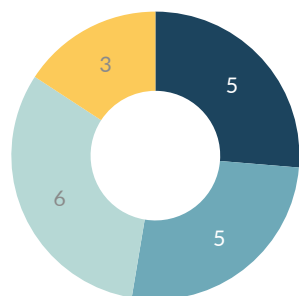


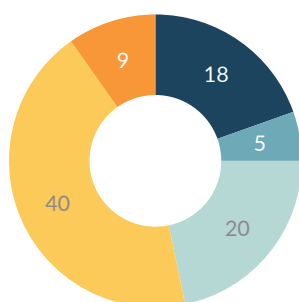
Figure 5: Applications submitted per financial year

² See: https://www.nopta.gov.au/_documents/guidelines/GHG-Offshore-GHG-Guideline-for-Unified-GHG-Assesment-Permits-122020.pdf



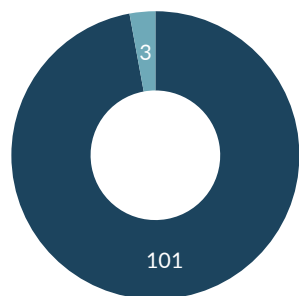
■ Exploration Permit ■ Pipeline Licence ■ Production Licence ■ Retention Lease

Figure 6: Transfers received in 2022-23 by title type



■ Exploration Permit ■ Greenhouse Gas Assessment Permit
■ Pipeline Licence ■ Production Licence
■ Retention Lease

Figure 7: Dealings received in 2022-23 by title type



■ Change in Company Name ■ Change in Control

Figure 8: Change in Company Name and Change in Control applications received in 2022-23

In 2022-23, there were 374 decisions made in relation to applications for offshore petroleum titles. NOPTA provided advice to the Joint Authorities in relation to 78 of those decisions. The remaining 296 were Titles Administrator decisions. In addition to this, eight decisions were also made by the Responsible Commonwealth Minister in relation to GHG titles.

The *Operating Protocols for Offshore Petroleum Joint Authorities and Supporting Institutions (2015)*³ outlines the indicative timeframes for the provision of advice by NOPTA and decisions by the relevant Joint Authority.

All of NOPTA's indicative application assessment timeframes are available on NOPTA's website⁴.

In 2022-23, NOPTA met the indicative target timeframes for assessing both Joint Authority and Titles Administrator applications 97% of the time (**Figure 9**). This is the highest result NOPTA has achieved since it commenced in 2012.

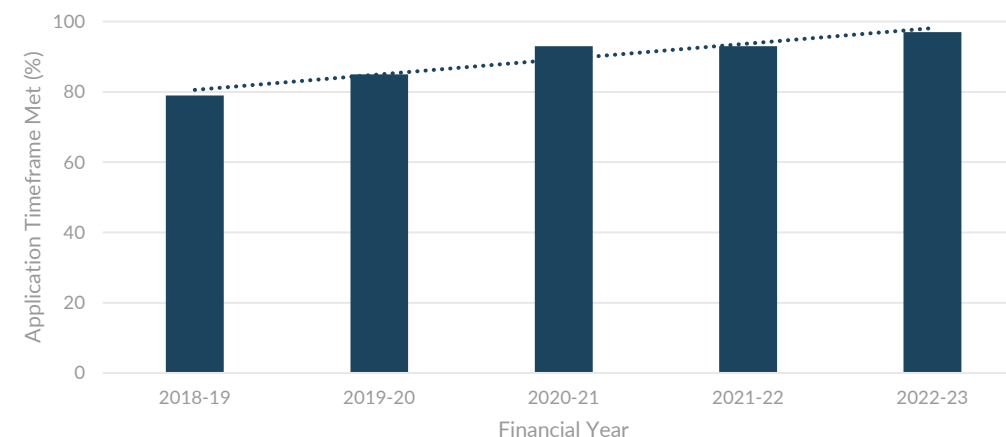


Figure 9: Percentage of applications that met the target assessment timeframes per financial year

Figure 10 shows application processing performance in 2022-23 based on the major processing points for each Joint Authority related application. In the graph, Screening relates to the time NOPTA spent reviewing an application to determine if further information is required. Request for further information (RFI) relates to the time the applicant spends responding to questions from NOPTA. RFI Received relates to the time taken for NOPTA to review responses to the questions asked and to determine if any further information is required. Assessment relates to the total time NOPTA spends assessing an application. Delegate and Minister relates to the amount of time taken by the decision makers to decide on an application.

³ See www.nopta.gov.au/_documents/JA-operating-protocols-july2015.pdf

⁴ See www.nopta.gov.au/legislation-and-compliance/legislative-overview/application-assessment-timeframes.html

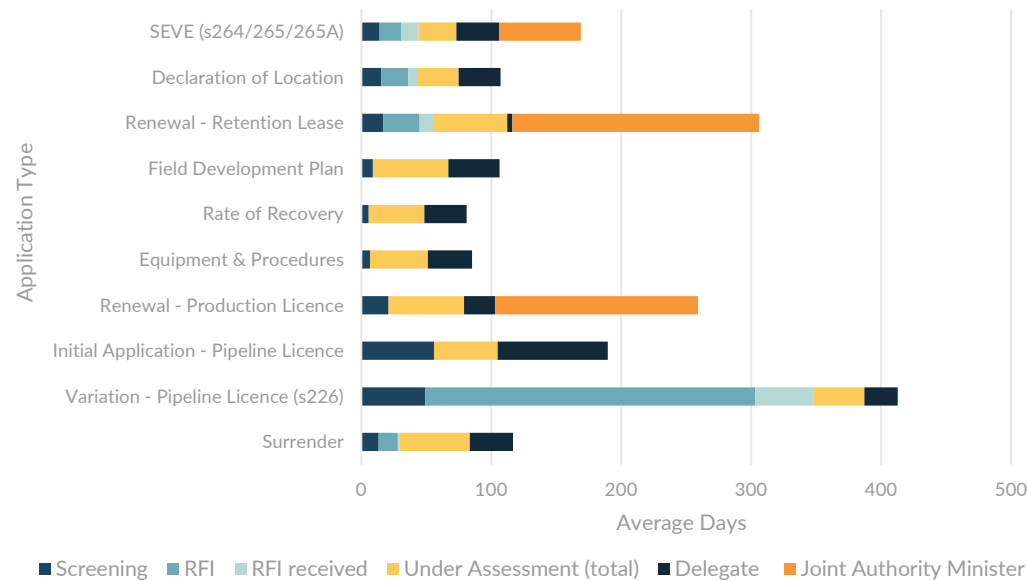


Figure 10: Completed Joint Authority Applications (2022-23) – Average days at each major stage of application processing per Joint Authority application type

In 2022-23, the average days that a Joint Authority related application was with the applicant for further information was 45 days (down from 49 days in 2021-22). NOPTA took on average 41 days (down from 61 days in 2021-22) to assess an application, and the average days for the Joint Authority to reach a decision on an application was just over 69 days (Figure 11). This encompasses both Delegate and Minister decisions, which took on average 34 days and 162 days respectively.

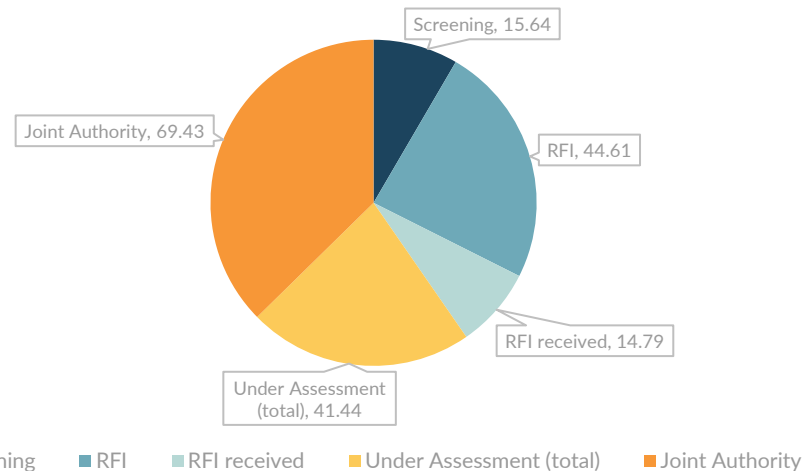


Figure 11: Completed Joint Authority Applications (2022-23) – average days at each major stage of application processing per application type

In relation to Titles Administrator decisions, Figure 12 shows application processing performance in 2022-23 based on the major processing points for each application. NOPTA took on average 15 days (down from 19 days in 2021-22) to assess a Titles Administrator related application and decisions were made on average within 1 day (consistent with all previous years).

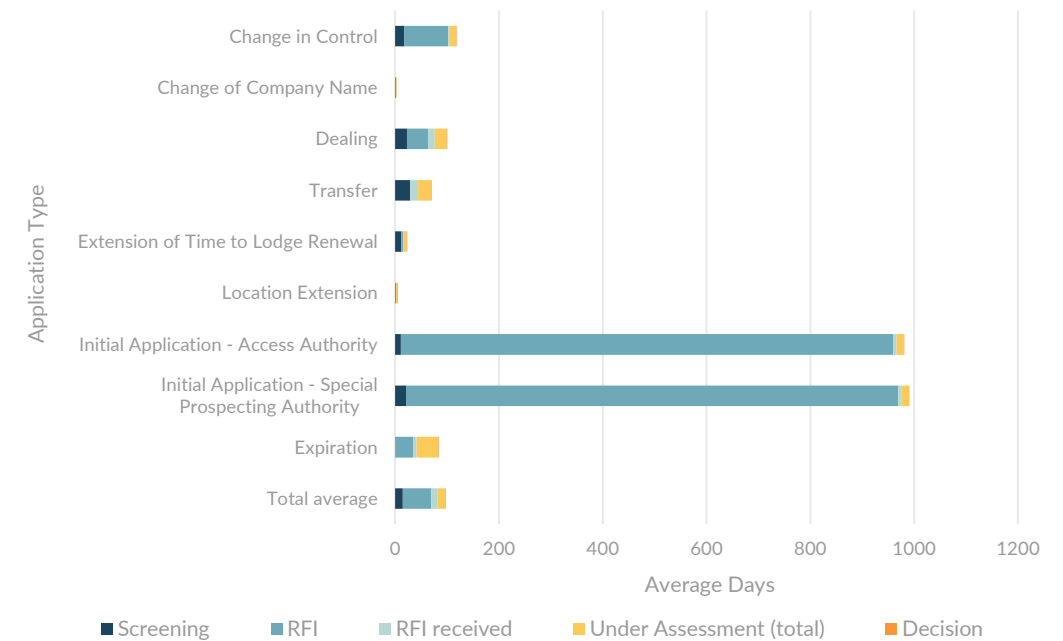


Figure 12: Completed Titles Administrator Applications (2022-23) – Average days at each major stage of application processing per Titles Administrator application type.

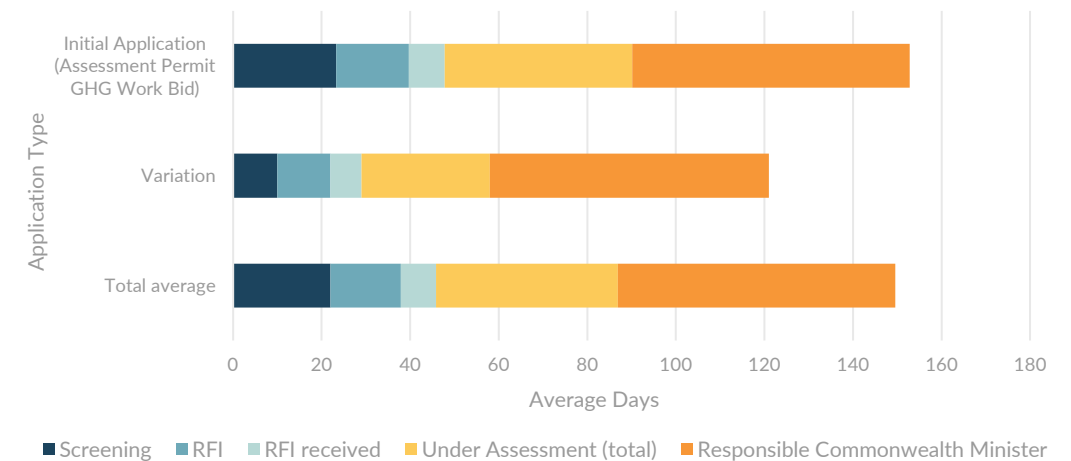


Figure 13: Completed responsible Commonwealth Minister Applications for GHG (2022-23) - Average days at each major stage of application processing per application type.

In relation to GHG applications where the responsible Commonwealth Minister (RCM) is the decision maker, on average NOPTA took 41 days to complete its assessments. On average application, the applicant took 8 days to provide further information relating to these applications. The RCM decision took 63 days on average after receipt of NOPTA's advice (Figure 13).

EXPLORATION

Acreage Release Outcomes - Petroleum

The 2022 Petroleum Acreage Release Round included 10 areas in Commonwealth waters offshore of Western Australia, Victoria, the Northern Territory and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands. All areas were available for a single round of work program bidding. Bidding closed on 2 March 2023. A total of 3 bids were received for three of the release areas (**Figure 14**). This was lowest number of release areas that received bids in recent releases (**Figure 14**). At the time of reporting NOPTA had provided its assessment of the bids received to the relevant Joint Authorities for decision on the award of exploration permits.

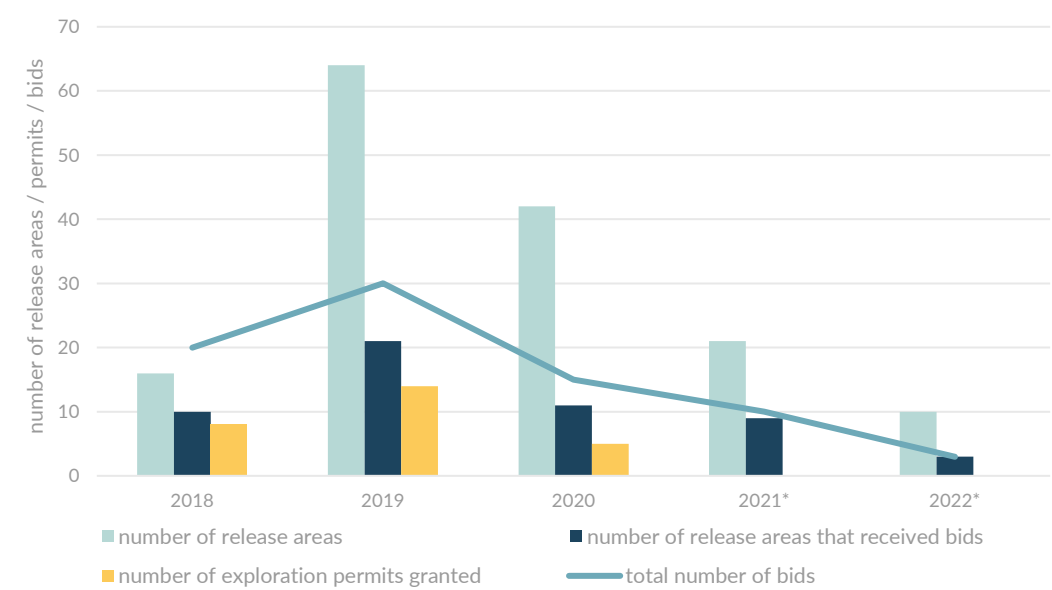


Figure 14: Acreage release outcomes – bidding trends for the 2018-2022 Acreage Release rounds, the year refers to the year the acreage was released.

NOTE: * the 2021 and 2022 rounds are with the Joint Authority for decision.

NOPTA is also yet to receive the decision of the relevant Joint Authorities regarding the grant of exploration permits from the 2021 Petroleum Acreage Release Round.

SURVEYS UNDERTAKEN

One large non-exclusive 3D marine seismic survey was acquired (**Figures 15 and 16**) in 2022-23. A service organisation, TGS-NOPEC Geophysical Company Pty Ltd, acquired the Capreolus 2 MC3D survey over the Beagle Sub Basin. A significant portion of the survey was over acreage with no previous 3D coverage.

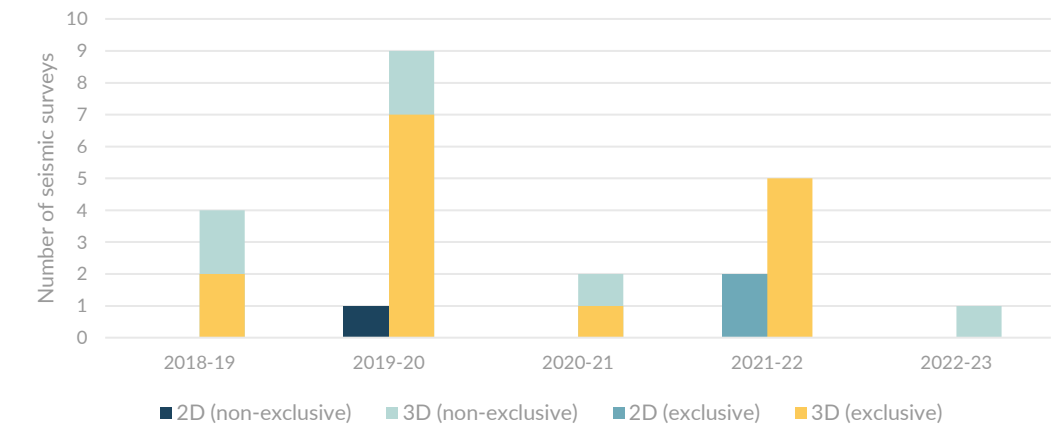


Figure 15: Number of seismic surveys

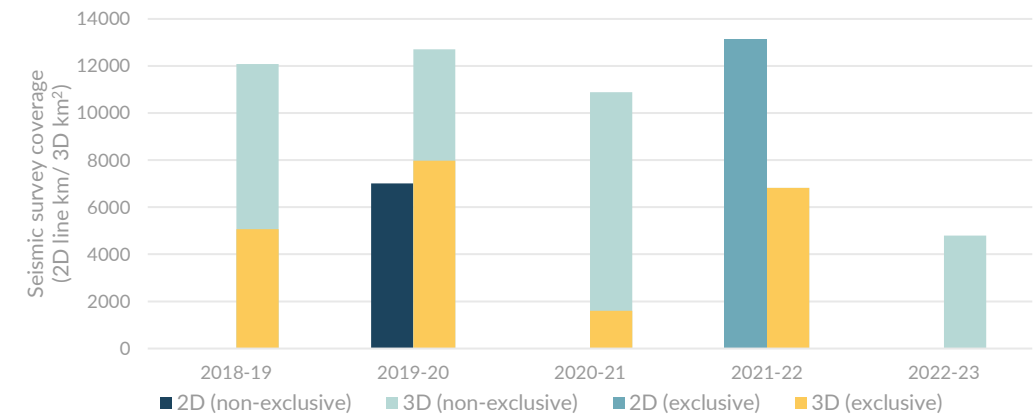


Figure 16: Amount of 2D and 3D seismic data acquired each financial year

Exploration Drilling Activity

No exploration wells were drilled during 2022-23 (**Figure 17**). This is the first year since Australian offshore petroleum drilling began in 1964 without any exploration or appraisal wells in Commonwealth waters. Drilling rigs were in Australian waters during 2022-23 executing development wells.

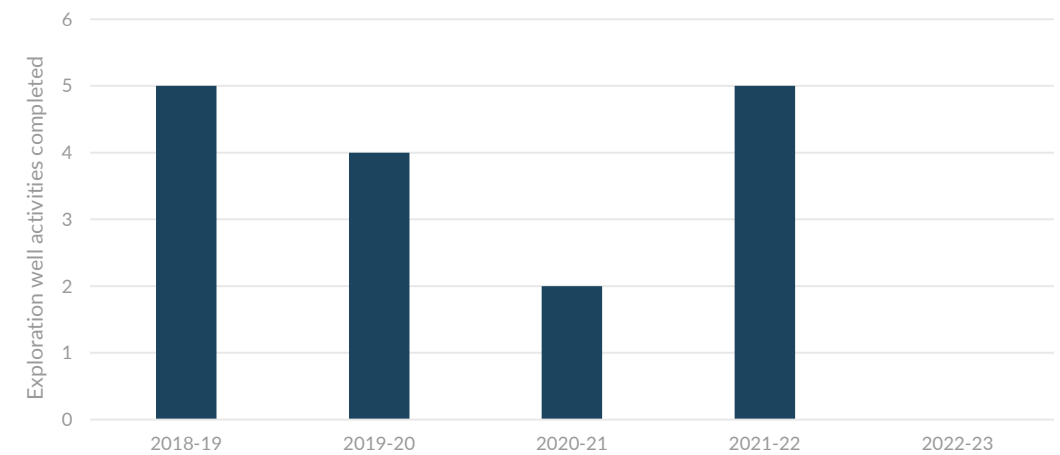


Figure 17: Exploration well activities completed

Petroleum Discoveries, Locations and Retention Lease Grants

No petroleum discoveries were made in 2022-23 (**Figure 18**).

A declaration of location provides the mechanism to apply for a petroleum retention lease or petroleum production licence. The application period is valid for two years from approval of the declaration of location, with an option to extend by an additional two years. There were 5 declarations of location approved in 2022-23:

- **La Bella**, covering two graticular blocks within Petroleum Exploration Permit VIC/P73 (cash bid title) in the Otway Basin;
- **Gwydion**, covering a single graticular block within Petroleum Exploration Permit WA-424-P in the Browse Basin;
- **Bratwurst**, covering a single graticular block within Petroleum Exploration Permit AC/P64 in the Bonaparte Basin;
- **Roc**, covering four graticular blocks within Petroleum Exploration Permit WA-437-P in the Roebuck Basin; and
- **Pavo**, covering a single graticular block within Petroleum Exploration Permit WA-438-P in the Roebuck Basin.

There were no new retention leases granted over the 2022-23 period, however 2 applications were received with one under assessment (over the Martell location in Petroleum Exploration Permit WA-404-P) and the other awaiting Joint Authority decision (over the Snapshot location in Petroleum Exploration Permit WA 474 P) at the end of the reporting period.

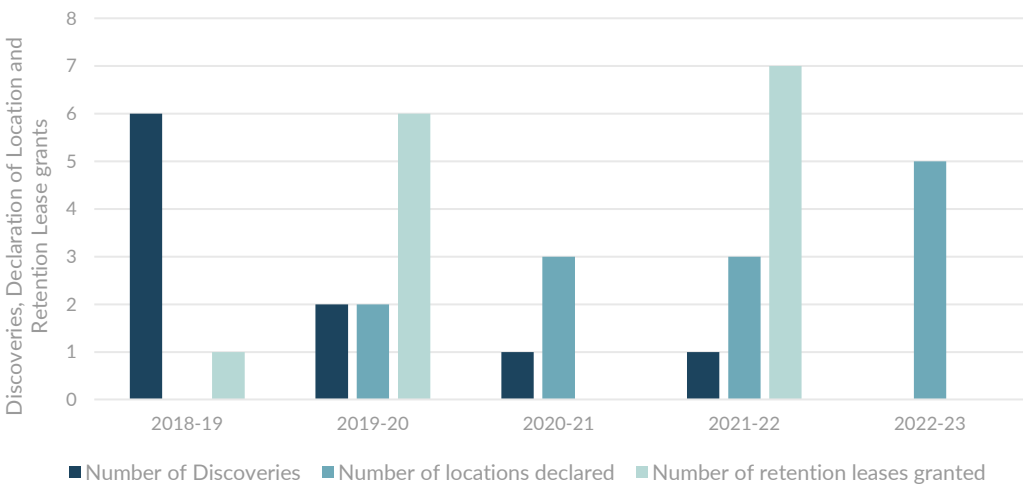


Figure 18: Discoveries*, Declaration of Location and Retention Lease grants

*the number of discoveries only reflects those that have been acknowledged through public announcements, and some discoveries have been a result of appraisal drilling.



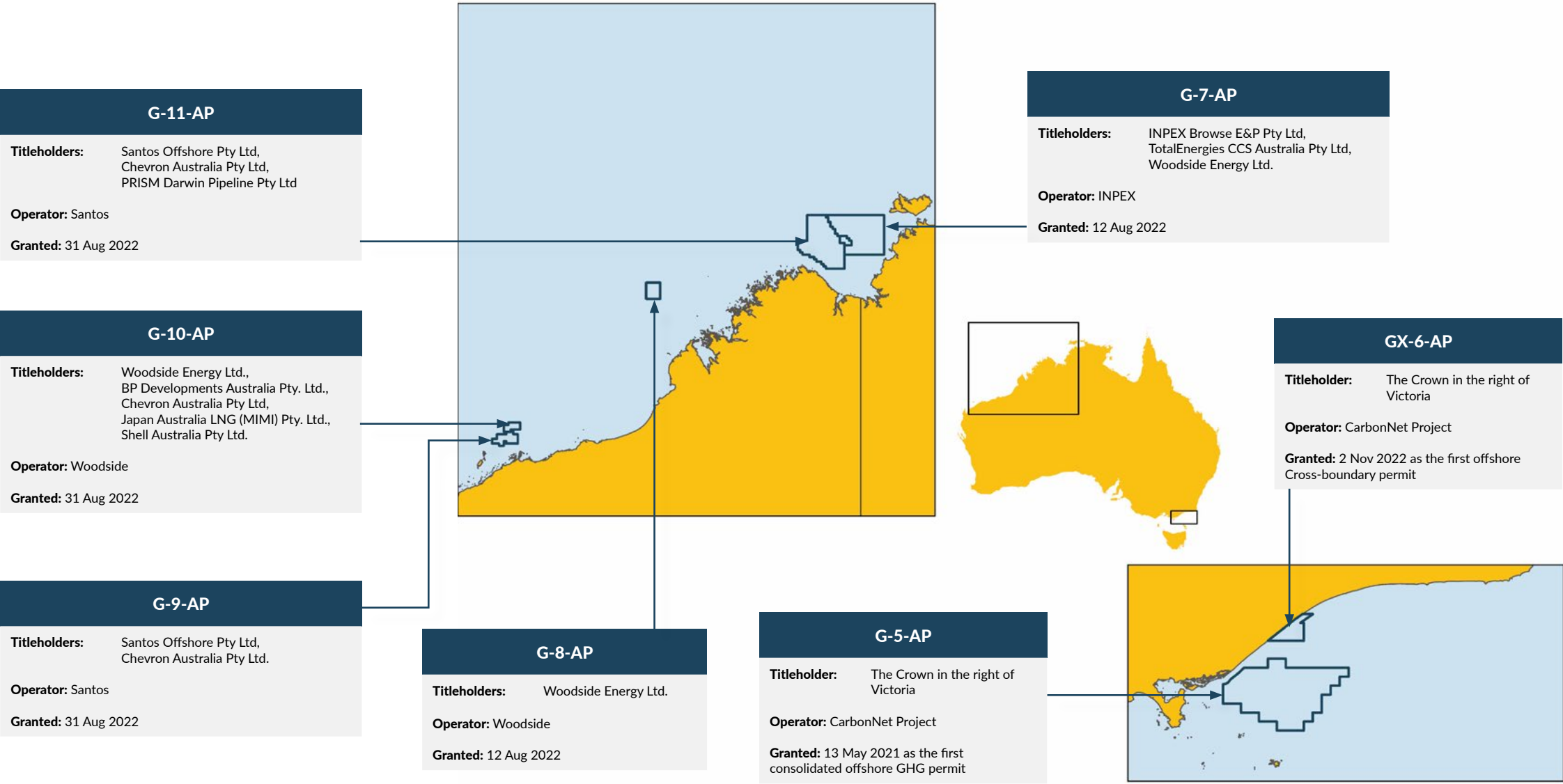
Image: Courtesy of ENI Australia B.V.

GHG Acreage Release

The 2021 Offshore Greenhouse Gas Storage Acreage Release concluded in August 2022 when the responsible Commonwealth Minister granted 5 GHG assessment permits, bringing the number of GHG assessment permits to 7. Bids for this round were received in March 2022, with 9 applications received for the five areas in Commonwealth waters offshore of the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

On 29 August 2023, the responsible Commonwealth Minister announced the 2023 Offshore Greenhouse Gas Storage Acreage Release, which includes 10 areas across seven basins to explore for carbon capture and storage sites in Commonwealth waters.

CURRENT GHG PROJECTS



NEW DEVELOPMENTS 2022-23

AUSTRALIAN OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Barossa



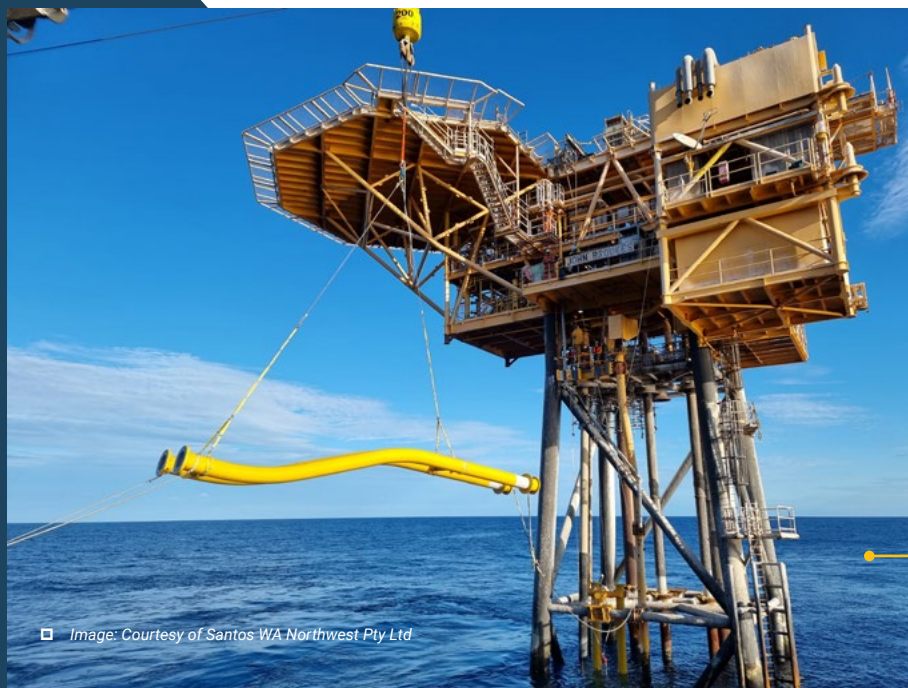
"Focus on ongoing and new development drilling in existing projects to support production."

PROJECT MATURATION STAGES



 Project Maturation Status (refer colours above) and location
 Denotes transition between Project Maturation Stages during last financial year

Note: The location of the activities are approximate and for illustration purposes only.



Developments – Committed and In Progress

Offshore development over the 2022-23 period has primarily focused on infill drilling at, or in areas proximal to, established gas and oil production hubs. This includes existing projects across the Otway, Browse, Bonaparte and Northern Carnarvon basins.

In the Otway Basin, new production from the Geographe and Thylacine fields has contributed important volumes into the south-east Australian domestic gas market. This success reflects a more mature understanding of the remaining production potential within the basin, and highlights how additional domestic gas production, from both discovered and undiscovered resources, may be realised by leveraging existing onshore processing infrastructure.

In northern Australia, significant drilling operations have continued at the Ichthys Project in support of current production and to further optimise recovery from the field. The Barossa Project in the Bonaparte Basin continues to progress, with construction of the Floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) and subsea infrastructure underway, in preparation for potential first gas in 2025. Drilling of a new production well was also completed to support production from the Blacktip Field and provide additional domestic gas into the Northern Territory.

In the Northern Carnarvon Basin, several projects have completed development drilling and are now focusing on operations associated with both new oil and gas production. New production from the Spartan Field is providing additional volumes into Varanus Island and the Western Australia domestic gas market, with additional infill opportunities being assessed to fill available ullage.

As part of the North West Shelf Project (NWS), new production commenced from Lambert Deep in Q3 2022 and is supported by existing infrastructure at the now-depleted Angel Field. A number of near-field opportunities continue to be screened to make use of increasing ullage available at NWS.

Additional production from reservoirs in the Xena Field was also brought online in Q4 2022 to support the Pluto Project. Following a positive FID in Q2 2023, the Julimar Phase 3 development will target undeveloped gas reservoirs within the Julimar Field, while further work continues to assess remaining nearby infill opportunities.

The Scarborough Project also continues to progress with fabrication of key offshore infrastructure and continues to target first LNG production for 2026.

Infill activity to maintain oil production, and maximise recovery, at both the Pyrenees Project and the Wandoo Field was also successfully completed during the period.

SPARTAN

Production Licence WA-63-L

Area: Offshore Western Australia, Northern Carnarvon Basin

Product: Gas

Field: Spartan

Titleholders: Santos WA Southwest Pty Limited and Santos (BOL) Pty Ltd

Title granted: 23 July 2021

Production commenced: late June 2023

Development: single well tied back to the existing John Brookes wellhead platform in WA-29-L

New and Emerging Developments

Whilst no new production licences have been granted during 2022-23, NOPTA received two applications for grants of new production licences during this time. As of 30 June, one application is pending Joint Authority decision, and another is with titleholders pending acceptance of an offer to grant.

Production

Australia’s total offshore hydrocarbon production during 2022 was the highest ever reported to NOPTA (Figures 19 and 20). This was underpinned by relatively stable plateau production over the period from major LNG projects, including localised system improvements to maintain production at close to maximum levels. Production licence holders are focused on assessing how resources in close proximity to existing infrastructure may be matured and brought into production to offset the natural ongoing decline from fields. Despite these efforts, some mature fields have ceased production during the period, creating ullage within both export- and domestic-focused facilities.

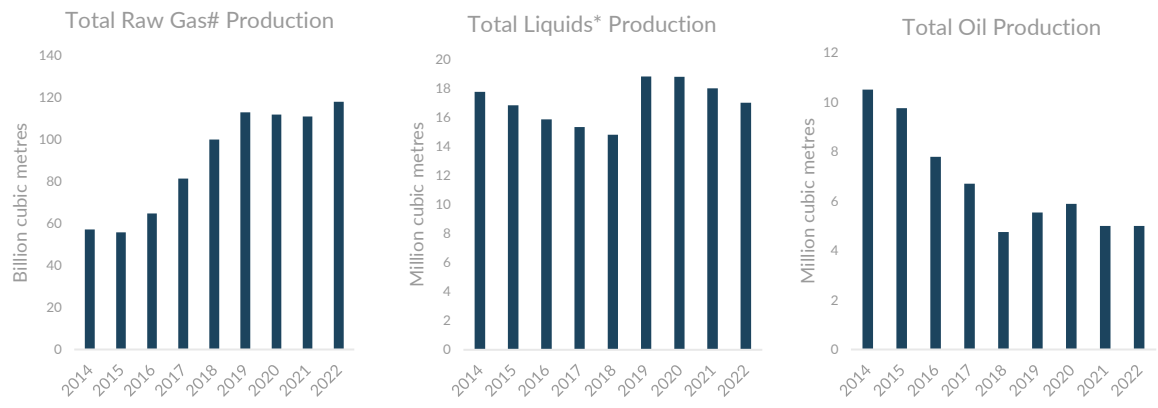


Figure 19. Production trends in offshore Australia, across different hydrocarbon types, since 2014.

#"Raw Gas" represents gas produced offshore from the full well-stream, minus water and condensate recovered via offshore facilities.
**"Liquids" include condensate, natural gas liquids (NGLs) and crude oil.

Total raw gas production continues to plateau at near-maximum system levels, with 2022 volumes representing the highest ever reported to NOPTA (after 2 years of slight declines). The Carnarvon and Browse basins dominate total raw gas production (Figure 20). Total liquids production (crude oil, condensate and natural gas liquids) remained relatively steady, underpinned by condensate volumes associated (primarily) with LNG projects, although a marginal reduction from the most recent peak recorded in 2019 continues. Total oil production was similar to the previous year and below the last recent reduced peak in 2020.

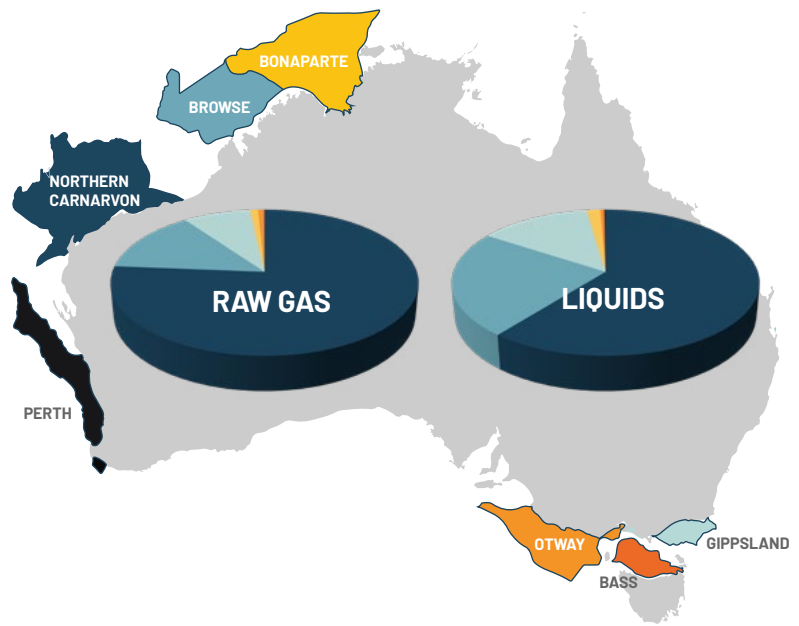


Figure 20. Location map of Australia’s producing offshore basins and their relative contribution to total raw gas and liquids (condensate, natural gas liquids and crude oil) production in 2022.

Offshore Production by Basin

The Northern Carnarvon Basin remains the largest source of raw gas and liquids production, accounting for 76% and 61% (respectively) of the total across offshore Australia. The Browse Basin is now well established as the next largest contributor, accounting for 14% of total raw gas and 23% of total liquids production. The remaining basins combined contribute approximately 10% of total raw gas and 15% of total liquids production respectively, with improved raw gas production from the Otway Basin noted over the period.

Data Management

The Titles Administrator has responsibility for the submission and release of documentary information and petroleum mining samples (petroleum data), in accordance with Part 7 and Part 8 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2011 (RMA Regulations)*.

NOPDCR

- NOPTA maintains the National Offshore Petroleum Data and Core Repository (NOPDCR) in partnership with Geoscience Australia and DMIRS and continues to work with these partners to improve data quality, integration, and access to petroleum and greenhouse gas data.
- NOPTA has continued to work closely with the NOPDCR partners to ensure that stakeholders continue to have reliable and effective access to the vast amounts of data available.

NOPIMS

- The National Offshore Petroleum Information Management System (NOPIMS) provides access to downloadable, publicly released well and survey data.
- NOPIMS is a web-based data and discovery and delivery system funded and administered collaboratively by the NOPDCR; and is subject to a development and support agreement.
- During 2022-23, NOPTA has made significant progress on a modernisation project, with the ultimate goals of streamlining data submission and compliance; and integrating with NOPTA’s other cloud-based systems.

Data Transactions

Activity reporting continued to grow in-line with increased well-based activity, reaching 4,369 reports in 2022-23 (up from 4,193 in 2021-22). These reports include daily drilling reports (including workover reports), monthly production reports and weekly survey reports. Although no exploration or appraisal wells were drilled in 2022-23, development drilling activity slightly increased. As only one seismic survey was undertaken in 2022-23, survey activity reporting showed a steep decline, with only 14 reports submitted compared to 55 in the previous financial year. Over 1100 production reports were received, verified and processed (Figure 21).

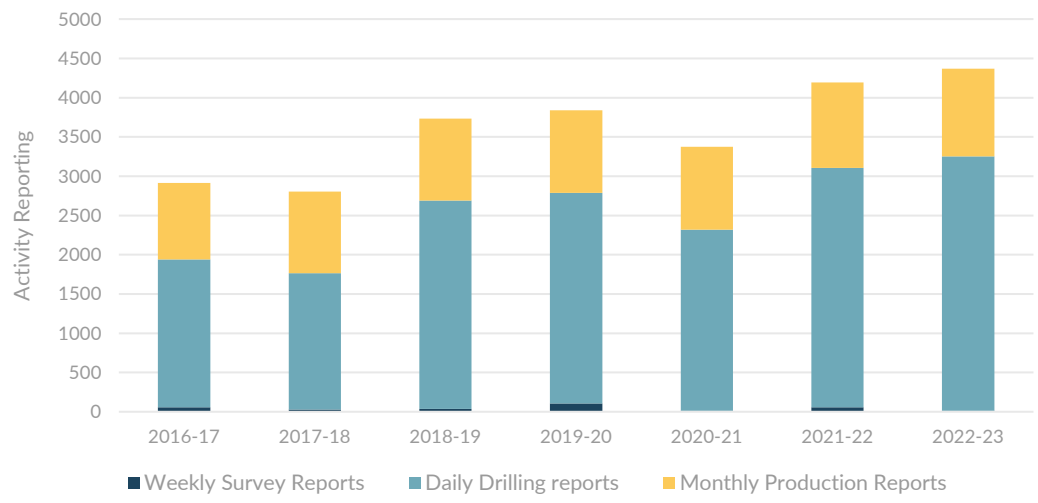


Figure 21: Activity Reporting 2016-17 to 2022-23

Submission and Release

Regulatory submissions under parts 7 and 9 slightly declined in 2022-23, led mainly by a 14% decrease in survey and reprocessing submissions. Well data submissions remained relatively stable compared to 2021-22 with 371 submissions received in 2022-23 (Figure 22).

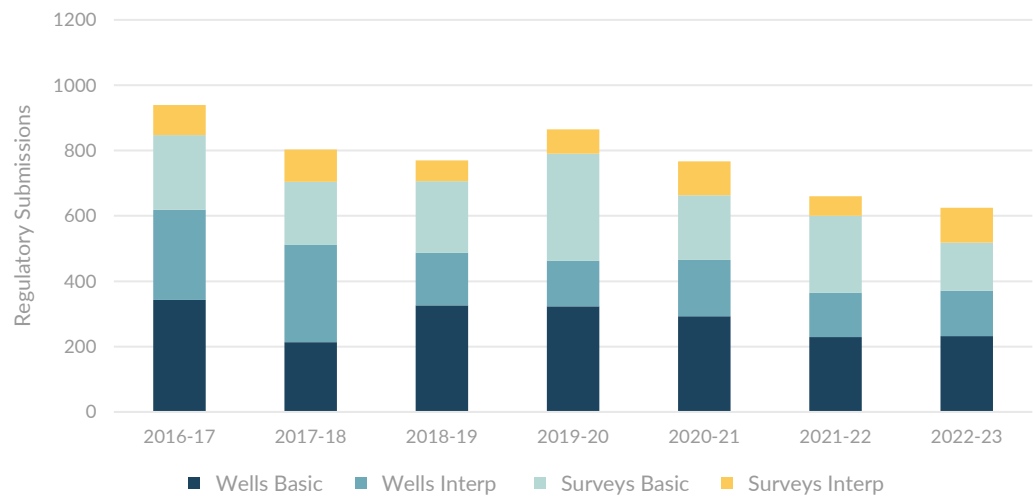


Figure 22: Regulatory Submissions Reporting 2016-17 to 2022-23

The number of open file data release authorisations in 2022-23 remained stable with 99 activities authorised for release (Figure 23), with more than 5,600 GB of additional petroleum data being made available during the last Financial Year (Table 3).

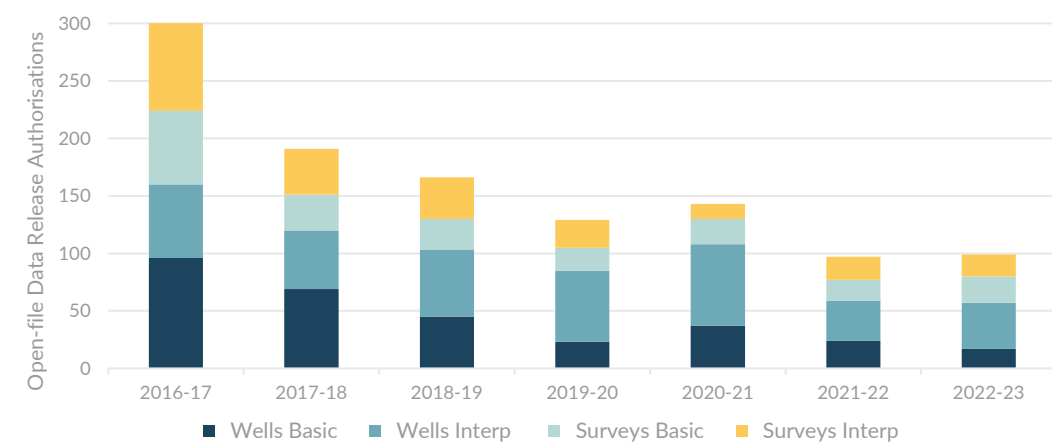


Figure 23: Open-File Data Release Authorisations 2016-17 to 2022-23

Table 3: Open-File Data Release Authorisations 2022-23

Open-file Data Release Authorisations 2022-23	Authorisations	Number of data items (GA "Attachments" catalogued)	File Size of data released (GB)	Number of regulatory data monitoring items released
Boreholes	57	342	117.35	306
Basic	17	179	51	187
Interpretative	40	163	66.35	119
Acquisitions	18	774	3947.8	127
Basic	12	768	3880.28	117
Interpretative	6	6	67	10
Repro Projects	24	14	1565.06	114
Basic	11	10	1501.06	92
Interpretative	13	14	64	22
Totals	99	1130	5630.21	547





5

PETROLEUM AND GHG STORAGE

**SUPPORTING
INDUSTRY**





ANALYSE

Integrating Data & Technology

NOPTA is continuing to develop the NEATS secure portal, with 6 types of applications and legislative forms (2-7) available to be submitted via Online forms through the NEATS Secure Portal. All other types of applications can be uploaded securely via the portal. NOPTA has had seen an increase in the number of companies using the secure portal with additional functionality being added regularly.

NOPTA is also focusing on the integration of NEATS and NOPIMS to reduce duplication of data and processes. NOPIMS is currently being rebuilt to closely align and integrate with NEATS, with the aim to streamline processes for titleholders with their regulatory submission requirements and provide a central location for visibility of their requirements under the OPGGS Act and associated regulations.

NOPTA is working closely with NOPSEMA with the digital transformation project, with the goal of streamlining processes and reducing duplication of submissions across the two agencies.

Resource Management

Resource management at NOPTA encompasses the full life cycle of petroleum activity. NOPTA undertakes a range of activities to ensure that the actions of titleholders are in line with the policy objectives of Government. This includes encouraging the efficient and timely development of resources, monitoring the performance of titleholders and identifying and managing emerging issues, such as late life title management and stewardship of project to facilitate the energy transition.

Key activities in 2022-23 include:

Annual Performance Update Meetings

- Annual field performance review meetings were held with titleholders responsible for offshore production. The engagements in 2022-23 were characterised by the welcome return of face-to-face technical workshops (complemented by online engagements), and provided valuable insights into well, field and project performance.
- NOPTA uses this information to assess various aspects of reservoir, field and facilities performance, and provide strategic advice to Government. This broad perspective informs our advice on optimum long-term recovery across all of Australia's offshore basins.

Analysis of Production Trends

- NOPTA monitors trends in offshore production through time, including reserves replacement and contingent resource availability for potential future production.
- Total annual hydrocarbon production reached the highest level ever reported to NOPTA during 2022, while reserves replacement recorded its first positive increase (i.e., greater than 100% replacement) since 2015, at almost 300% (Figure 24). This reversal in the previous declining trend (2015 to 2020) reflects the most recent transition of significant volumes of contingent resources into reserves. This occurred when positive investment decisions were made to develop the Scarborough Field in the Carnarvon Basin and the Barossa Field in the Bonaparte Basin.



Figure 24. Annual trends in offshore production and reserves replacement.

- The latest estimates of how long reported reserves would enable current production rates to be maintained—using a simple calculation of reserves/production ratio (R/P)—indicates this has now improved to ~17 years (on an MMboe basis, Figure 24). This is the first positive change since 2015 and reflects the addition of significant reserve volumes. While the ratio captures oil pricing assumptions used in economic limit tests (which form the basis for annual reserves reporting), it is limited by uncertainties associated with future production decline, and potential economic or technological factors that could facilitate resource maturation.
- NOPTA remains focused on maintaining a proactive dialogue with Titleholders to understand how they are maturing existing resources and using these insights to support the department's Offshore Strategy Branch (OSB) and Offshore Resources Branch (ORB) with policy considerations. NOPTA is also making progress towards systematically capturing the estimated volumes of identified prospective resources available in Australia's offshore, including their probability of geo-technical success.

Benchmarking

NOPTA continued with efforts towards comparative assessment and analysis of industry performance for internal performance monitoring purposes. Benchmarking enables a more strategic approach that facilitates dialogue with industry and provides a broader context in the assessment of applications and advice to the Joint Authorities. This ultimately improves overall outcomes within the regulatory regime.

- NOPTA uses the information provided by titleholders through regular reporting under the OPGGS Act, applications and ongoing engagement to gain a better understanding of titleholder performance and emerging trends and issues across the offshore petroleum industry.
- A broad range of benchmarking metrics have been developed via dedicated databases and are measured on an ongoing basis.
- Ongoing benchmarking efforts for 2023 included comparisons with benchmarked data from previous years, overviews of application processing times, efficiency of Annual Titles Assessment Report submissions, and summaries of compliance issues (including special conditions).
- During the period, NOPTA shared insights from this work with key industry stakeholders to inform, seek feedback and encourage engagement on identify improvement actions.
- NOPTA will continue to refine its benchmarking program of work over the next financial year, which will ultimately assist with industry efforts to improve production, cost efficiency and regulatory compliance.

Late Life Resources

Maintained engagement with titleholders responsible for mature late-life projects, with significant declining production, focusing on:

- understanding the current commercial and economic conditions of the project;
- determining potential economic cut-off limits and timing;
- ensuring all remaining opportunities available to extend production and mature available resources are being considered;
- confirming decommissioning plans in place for existing infrastructure; and
- provided advice to the Commonwealth Minister on the financial capacity of titleholders to meet future decommissioning obligations.

INFLUENCE

Collaboration and Engagement

NOPTA values collaborative and open consultation with stakeholders to build a shared understanding of regulatory obligations and to provide opportunities to raise and clarify issues as they occur.

In 2022-23, NOPTA:

- Assisted the department in the review and remake of the RMA Regulations 2011, including publication of a consultation paper on proposed amendments to the data management provisions in May 2023.
- Worked closely with the department, NOPSEMA and DCCEE in relation to the review and remake of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Greenhouse Gas Injection and Storage) Regulations 2011, including the development and update of relevant guidance material.
- Hosted 3 meetings of the Offshore Petroleum Forum (OPF) consisting of Joint Authority delegates (and its respective departments), NOPSEMA and Geoscience Australia representatives. The OPF discussed a range of topics relating to Commonwealth and state policy and legislative reform matters.
- Conducted a comprehensive survey of NOPTA's key petroleum and greenhouse gas storage stakeholders to assess satisfaction with NOPTA's performance in key areas relating to transparency, accountability and trust.
- Continued ongoing interactions with overseas regulators, including initiating arrangements for the next International Upstream Forum and International Regulators Forum to be held in Perth in later 2023.
- Engaged with NOPSEMA on the shared digital transformation projects occurring between the two agencies.
- Held workshops with potential title and licence holders on the NEATS secure portal.

NOPSEMA

During 2022-23, NOPTA regularly engaged with NOPSEMA to support compliance monitoring and enforcement of titleholder obligations in relation to offshore oil and gas activities, including matters relating to seismic surveys, pipelines, decommissioning, financial assurance and data access.

NOPTA's technical expertise—including analytical insights regarding current offshore field production performance, resource management, petroleum production potential and future greenhouse gas storage potential—is available to support NOPSEMA's regulatory functions and provides opportunities for close collaboration.

NOPTA and NOPSEMA have begun to work closely in the assessment of an increasing number of applications relating to greenhouse gas storage opportunities that are being investigated across offshore Australia.

Engagement

In 2022-23, NOPTA continued to meet with a range of industry and government stakeholders to build and maintain confidence in NOPTA's role, support regulatory reform processes, and ensure efficient and transparent decision-making processes under the OPGGS Act (**Figure 25**).

NOPTA held 370 meetings in 2022-23 (421 in 2021-22). These meetings were conducted via a combination of face-to-face, video and tele-conference mediums.

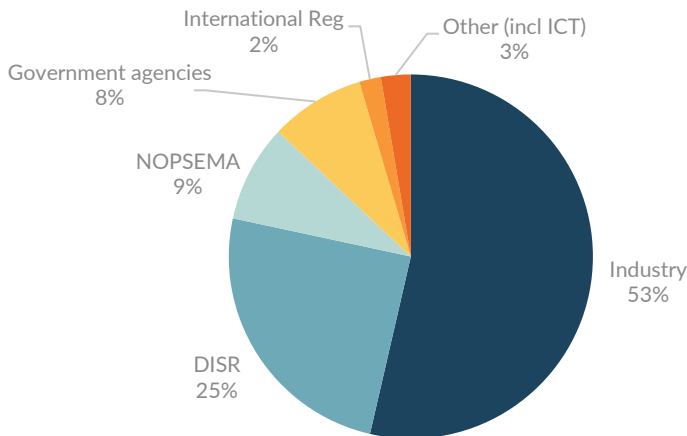


Figure 25: NOPTA meeting stakeholder breakdown 2022-23

As indicated in Figure 26, the number of meetings attended by NOPTA decreased in 2022-23 from the previous year. The decrease is mainly due to less intensive involvement in legislative reform matters due to the passage of key legislation for offshore petroleum and offshore electricity infrastructure in 2022.

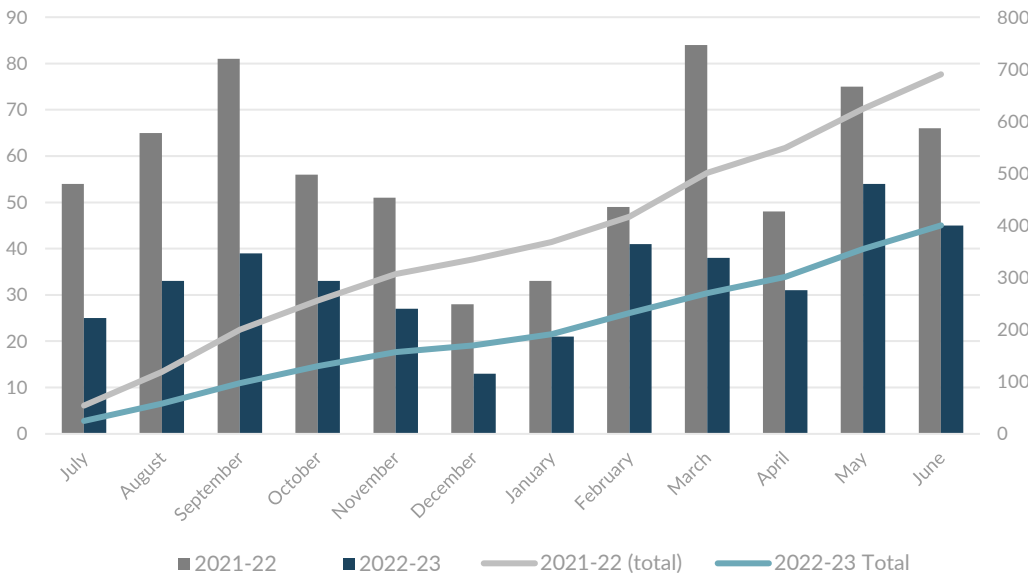


Figure 26: 2021-22 to 2022-23 NOPTA stakeholder meeting comparison

REGULATE

External Compliance

Compliance is crucial to NOPTA's regulatory responsibilities. As a regulator, NOPTA prioritises early engagement with stakeholders to address potential non-compliance. This proactive approach seeks to broaden the range of resolution options while mitigating unintended consequences for all parties. Every team within NOPTA is accountable for ensuring compliance and actively collaborates to effectively implement NOPTA's comprehensive compliance and enforcement policy.

Key activities in 2022-23 included:

External Compliance Monitoring

- Reviewed 39 instances of non-compliance with the OPGGS Act and associated regulations as per the Compliance and Enforcement Policy, and resolved 35 matters during the reporting period, with one instance of no non-compliance recorded.

Compliance Activity Overview

- Recorded 18 instances of non-compliance with regulation 5.28 of the RMA Regulations due to titleholders failing to provide required documents.
- Recorded 14 instances of non-compliance with regulation 3.03 of the RMA Regulations due to titleholders failing to submit an Annual Titles Assessment Report within the specified time period.
- Recorded 2 instances of non-compliance with section 695M of the OPGGS Act due to titleholders failing to make the required Annual Levy payment within the specified time period (**Figure 27**).

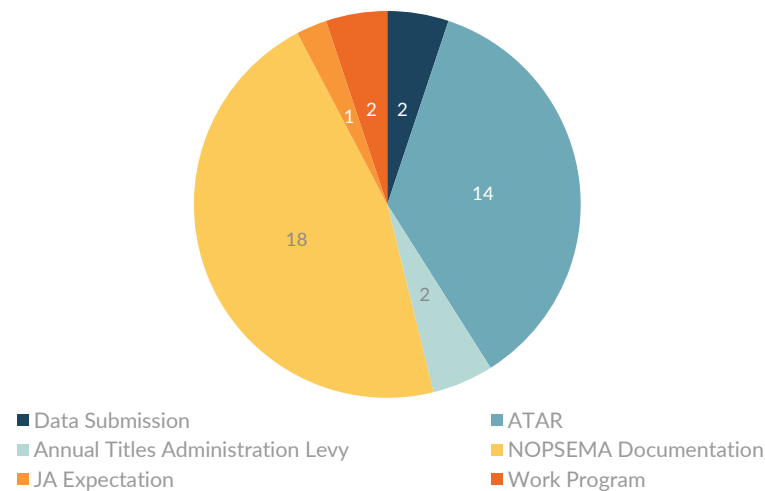


Figure 27: Compliance Activity Overview

Special Conditions and Joint Authority Expectations Monitoring

- Monitored 40 special conditions⁵ assigned to titleholders.
- Oversaw 48 Joint Authority expectations⁶ placed on titleholders (**Figure 28**).

⁵ A special condition is a unique condition on a title, further to the work program. It could be a condition attached to the grant or renewal of a title, the acceptance of a field development plan, or other approval. If a condition is not complied with, this may lead to compliance action in relation to the title.

⁶ The Joint Authority may also put an expectation on the approval of an application relating to a title, which it may consider in future decision making.

- Identified and resolved one instance of non-compliance with an expectation within the reporting period, in accordance with NOPTA's Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

Rate of Recovery Monitoring

- Monitored 83 agreed rates of recovery (**Figure 28**).
- No instances of non-compliance were identified during the reporting period.

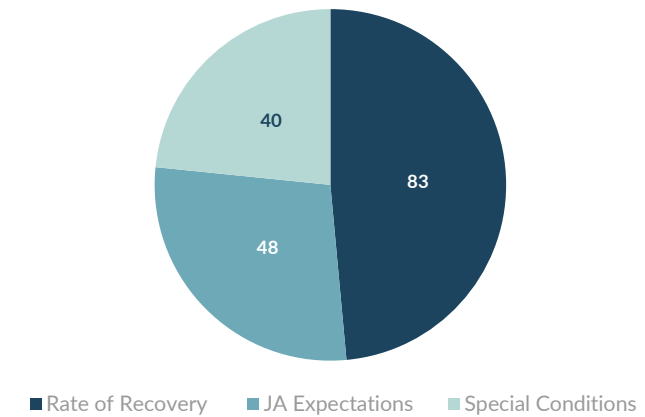


Figure 28: Special Conditions, Joint Authority Expectation & Rate of Recovery Monitoring

Optimising Our Performance

NOPTA prioritises delivering clear, timely, accurate, and transparent advice, decisions, and authorisations. To ensure continuous performance improvement, NOPTA employs internal reporting, reviews, and feedback tools

Key activities in 2022-23 included:

Internal Assurance Reviews

NOPTA's internal assurance review program ensures compliance with policies, procedures, and guidance, enhancing workflow efficiency. These quality measures validate reliability, accuracy, and consistency, promoting continuous improvement and risk control oversight.

During the reporting period NOPTA reviewed the following internal workflow processes and associated procedures:

- Annual Title Assessment Report (ATAR) processing.
- Procurement.
- File audit.
- Requests to combine ATARs or change due dates.
- Title instrument availability and accuracy on the National Electronic Approvals Tracking System (NEATS).
- Utilising information from Legislative Forms 2-7.



FINANCIALS

COST RECOVERY

Annual Titles Administration Levy

An Annual Titles Administration Levy is payable in accordance with the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2022* upon the grant of a title and annually thereafter within 30 days of the anniversary of the title. Where a title is in force for less than 12 months, the levy is calculated for the remaining period of the title.

The levy makes up the majority of NOPTA's revenue (approximately 90.5% in 2022-23). It provides a stable revenue stream to enable NOPTA to meet its ongoing activities in accordance with the OPGGS Act and associated regulations. **Table 4** indicates the total annual levy revenue collected during 2022-23, including adjustments made as a result of renewals, expiries, surrenders and cessations, (\$15.99 million). **Table 4** is not intended to reflect the number of titles in force at 30 June 2023 (refer to **Table 1**) or applications submitted (refer to **Table 2**).

Table 4: Annual Titles Administration Levy 2022-23

Title Type	No. of Titles	No. of Blocks	Length Km	Levy Amount
Exploration Permit	86	NA	NA	\$946,000
Refunds of Surrendered Exploration Permits	-12	NA	NA	-\$132,000
Refunds of Expired Exploration Permits	-4	NA	NA	-\$32,055
Greenhouse Gas Assessment Permit	7	NA	NA	\$77,000
Refunds of Ceased Greenhouse Gas Assessment Permit	-1	NA	NA	-\$5,816
Infrastructure Licence	3	NA	NA	\$82,500
Pipeline Licence	83	NA	4742	\$521,620
Production Licence	96	326	NA	\$7,172,000
Production Licence Renewals (Part Year)	1	4	NA	\$63,649
Refunds of Surrendered Production Licence	-1	9	NA	-\$180,000
Retention Lease	83	336	NA	\$7,392,000
Retention Lease Renewals (Part Year)	3	30	NA	\$94,027
Annual Levy				\$15,998,925

**Pro rata amounts calculated on number of days title is in force*

Application Fees

Application fees are payable in accordance with the RMA Regulations at the time that an application is submitted for approval to enable titleholders to undertake certain regulated activities. NOPTA received 200 applications in 2022-23 that attracted a fee, generating revenue of \$1.65 million, this equates to 9.3% of NOPTA's total income (**Table 5**).

Table 5: Application Fees 2022-23

Application Type	No. of Applications	Fee Amount
Work-bid Exploration Permit	3	\$24,750
Renewal Exploration Permit	2	\$16,500
Petroleum Retention Lease	1	\$8,250
Renewal Retention Lease	14	\$115,500
Production Licence	2	\$16,500
Renewal Production Licence	1	\$8,250
Variation Pipeline Licence	3	\$24,750
Special Prospecting Authority	3	\$24,750
Transfer	19	\$156,750
Dealing	92	\$759,000
Change in Control	3	\$24,750
Access Authority	2	\$16,500
Suspension and Extension; Variation; Exemption (per title)	29	\$239,250
Declaration of Location	4	\$33,000
Surrender	11	\$90,750
GHG Declaration of Storage Formation	1	\$8,250
GHG Special Authority	1	\$8,250
GHG Variation, Suspension, Exemption	1	\$8,250
Acceptance of a FDP	2	\$16,500
Variation FDP	1	\$8,250
Rate of Recovery	4	\$33,000
Renewal GHG Assessment Permit	1	\$8,250
Application Fees	200	\$1,650,000

Cost Effectiveness

NOPTA's ability to effectively discharge its functions under the OPGGS Act and to meet the expectations of the responsible Commonwealth Minister, is underpinned by access to sufficient resources, capacity, and qualified personnel. NOPTA is currently undergoing an independent review of its CRIS to ensure it continues to effectively and efficiently deliver its activities.

While NOPTA is structurally a branch within the department, its functions are legislated under the OPGGS Act. This provides a clear separation from the department and enables easy identification of the costs recovered from industry. The department provides the governance structure, access to corporate support and systems, and pays workers' compensation and other insurances, as well as charges directly attributable to NOPTA. In 2022-23 the department recouped \$606,553 for these operational costs.

NOPTA'S FINANCIAL RESULT

NOPTA operates a Special Account under the PGPA Act. The balance of the Special Account was \$11.5 million at 30 June 2023. Table 6 outlines NOPTA's financial performance for 2022-23 compared to 2021-22.

Table 6: OPGGSA NOPTA's 2022-23 Financial Result Compared to 2021-22

INCOME STATEMENT	2022-23 \$'000	2021-22 \$'000
Revenue - Cost Recovery		
Levies	15,999	15,773
Application Fees	1,650	2,460
Other	26	10
Total Revenue	17,675	18,243
Expenses		
Employee Benefits*	8,082	7,583
Suppliers**	4,002	3,646
NOPDCR	1,354	1,359
ICT and Telecommunications Costs	1,939	2,001
Depreciation and Amortisation***	1,073	1,989
Overhead Recharging Allocation	515	427
Total Expenses	16,965	17,006
Surplus / (deficit)	710	1,237

Notes * Employee benefits includes \$0.357 million relating to the implementation of the offshore electricity registrar in 2021-22

** Includes NOPIMS payments totalling \$0.1 million in 2022-23 (\$0.2 million in 2021-22) and \$0.156 in expenses relating to the implementation of the offshore electricity registrar in 2021-22

*** Includes Right of Use Asset Amortisation totalling \$0.441 million in 2022-23 (\$0.881 million in 2021-22)

Offshore Infrastructure Registrar Cost Recovery

Offshore Infrastructure Registrar Financial Result

The Registrar operates a Special Account under the PGPA Act. The balance of the Special Account was \$11.1 million at 30 June 2023 (Table 7).

Table 7: Offshore Infrastructure Registrar Financial Result 2022-23

INCOME STATEMENT	2022-23 \$'000
Revenue - Cost Recovery	
Levies	0
Application Fees	11,100
Other	0
Total Revenue	11,100
Expenses	
Employee Benefits	805
Suppliers	408
Overhead Recharging Allocation	91
Total Expenses	1,304
Surplus / (deficit)	9,796



Australian Government
National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator



Australian Government
Offshore Infrastructure Registrar