



Offshore Petroleum Exploration Work-bid Permits Guideline

All information should be read in conjunction with the [Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006](#) (the OPGGS Act), associated regulations, relevant guidelines, fact sheets and policies (available on [NOPTA's website](#)).

The purpose of this document is to provide a set of frequently asked questions in relation to the updated [Offshore Petroleum Exploration Work-Bid Guideline \(Work-bid Guideline\) effective 9 December 2025](#).

Please note: *this document is intended as a guide only and should not be relied on as legal advice or regarded as a substitute for legal advice in individual cases. Legislative references in this fact sheet relate to the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act (2006) (OPGGS Act) unless stated otherwise.*

Overview

The Work-Bid Guideline has been updated to reflect the Future Gas Strategy policy principles. The revised guideline considers stakeholder feedback, obtained through the Future Gas Strategy: draft offshore guidelines consultation.

Questions

Can you provide a summary of the key changes made to the Work-bid Guideline

A summary of the changes include:

- Removal of the Good Standing Agreement (GSA) policy;
- Input of transitional arrangements for existing GSAs;
- Additional requirement for reasoning and justification of new seismic acquisition;
- New merit consideration criteria for suspension and extension applications; and
- Clarifying existing rights to explore for GHG storage and injection formations.

Does this Work-Bid Guideline change my current exploration permit title conditions or obligations?

No. Titleholders must comply with their current title conditions and obligations under the OPGGS Act. This includes complying with all minimum work commitments listed on existing title instruments including seismic data acquisition.

When does the new Work-Bid Guideline commence?

The Guideline commenced on 9 December 2025.

Will the Work-Bid Guideline apply retrospectively?

No. Applications submitted prior to the commencement of the updated guideline will be assessed using the July 2022 guideline, unless stated otherwise by NOPTA.

Will the updated Work-Bid Guideline apply to future acreage release rounds?

Yes, the updated Work-Bid Guideline released on 9 December 2025 should be referred to when making bids for an acreage release.

Can I include a new seismic data acquisition in a work program for an acreage release bid?

Yes, should an applicant wish the Joint Authority to consider a bid, which includes the acquisition of new seismic data (proprietary or licensing of new multi-client seismic data) in the work program, the bid must clearly outline all the following:

- a) Whether all existing data options i.e. new reprocessing or licensing reprocessed data have been exhausted.
- b) Consideration as to possible alternatives or opportunities to acquiring new seismic.
- c) For bids with seismic in the first three years, justification as to why the acquisition of new seismic must be undertaken in the primary term as a commitment (link the proposed work program to your technical evaluation and exploration strategy).

Should I refer to this Work-Bid Guideline for making a renewal application?

Yes, the Work-Bid Guideline should be referred to in making a renewal application submitted on or after 9 December 2025.

Should I use this Work-Bid Guideline for making a suspension, extension, variation, exemption or surrender application.

Yes, the Work-Bid Guideline should be referred to in making applications for petroleum exploration permits submitted on or after 9 December 2025.



Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find more guidance for making an application?

Refer to the NOPTA Forms Guidance at
<https://www.nopta.gov.au/forms/forms.html>

Can I still apply for a Good Standing Agreement?

The Joint Authority will not offer nor enter into any further Good Standing Agreements (GSA). Instead, where a permit is cancelled, the Joint Authority must have regard to this under section 695YB of the OPGGS Act.

Does my existing GSA remain in place?

Yes, any GSA entered into prior to the commencement of this updated Work-Bid Guideline remains in place. The guideline provides for a transition period, during which the Joint Authority will note this in relation to the cancellation or expiry in default that led to the Good Standing Agreement, during the decision-making process. Refer to the Work-Bid Permits Guideline for more information.

Questions

If you have any further questions, please contact NOPTA via titles@nopta.gov.au.

Version history

Version	Date	Comment
1.0	December 2025	Creation of the FAQs