



## Offshore Petroleum Retention Lease 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 Retention Lease Guideline \(Retention Lease Guideline\) 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 Retention Lease Guideline has been updated to reflect the Future Gas Strategy policy principles. The revised guidelines consider stakeholder feedback obtained as part of the *Future Gas Strategy: draft offshore guidelines* consultation.

### Questions

#### **Can you provide a summary of the key changes made to the Retention Lease Guideline**

A summary of the changes include:

- Clarity around third-party submissions and engagement of consultants with regard to commerciality assessments;
- Updated descriptions and guidance around what is meant by 'commercially viable' and 'likely';
- Updated guidance around project economics, and Internal Rate of Return to indicate commercial viability, in alignment with government's policy of 'use it or lose it';
- Updated work program requirements to focus on removing barriers to development;
- Addition of requirement for re-evaluation of commercial viability after two or more renewals; and
- Addition of a potential condition by the Joint Authority, to require a draft Field Development Plan, depending on maturity of the development.

#### **Does this Retention Lease Guideline change my current retention lease 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.

#### **When does the new Retention Lease Guideline commence?**

The Guideline commenced on 9 December 2025.

#### **Will the Retention Lease Guideline apply retrospectively to existing retention lease applications?**

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

#### **Should I refer to this Retention Lease Guideline for making a renewal application?**

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

#### **Should I use this Retention Lease Guideline for making a suspension, extension, variation, exemption or surrender application.**

Yes, the Retention Lease Guideline should be referred to in making applications submitted on or after 9 December 2025.

#### **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>

### Questions

If you have any further questions, please contact NOPTA via [titles@nopta.gov.au](mailto:titles@nopta.gov.au).

### Version history

Version	Date	Comment
1.0	December 2025	Creation of the FAQs