

STATEMENT OF INTENT

NATIONAL OFFSHORE PETROLEUM SAFETY AUTHORITY

Minister

This Statement of Intent outlines how the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) plans to address the Statement of Expectations issued by you on behalf of the Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources (MCMPR).

NOPSA is committed to implementing the guiding principles set out by the MCMPR to promote occupational health and safety in the Australian offshore petroleum industry. To give effect to these principles NOPSA has set out these key objectives and outcomes in its Corporate Plan 2005–08:

1. To improve health and safety outcomes and reduce the likelihood and consequences of major accident events across Australian offshore petroleum operations.
 - NOPSA will benchmark its activities against comparable international organisations.
2. To administer health and safety regulation of Australian offshore petroleum operations to standards that are equal to the best in the world.
 - NOPSA will: implement a best practice ‘safety case regime’ with effective monitoring and enforcement strategies; undertake the required inspections and investigations; make consistent and timely decisions based on transparent processes, and provide effective advice.
3. To reduce the regulatory burden on the offshore petroleum industry.
 - NOPSA will: work with other government agencies to deliver an efficient and effective whole of government approach to occupational health and safety across all jurisdictions; actively communicate and consult with stakeholders; maintain a high level of awareness of relevant Australian government policy and any proposed reforms and relevant international conventions; and provide client services in a timely and effective manner.
4. To provide an organisational climate that promotes excellence in performance.
 - NOPSA will provide: professional and personal development of its staff; management of staff performance; optimum use of information and financial resources; quality reports that meet deadlines; meet audit requirements; and adhere to the public service code of conduct.

The principle upon which the *safety case regime* is founded is that it is ultimately industry’s responsibility, both management and workforce, to implement good health and safety practices throughout offshore operations. The performance of NOPSA must, as a consequence, incorporate the industry’s achievements as well as NOPSA’s effectiveness in discharging its regulatory responsibilities.

Best practice in health and safety is not simply the absence of incidents; indeed, success cannot be measured by this definition alone. NOPSA and the industry agree that a proactive approach to healthy and safe working will be encouraged by a focus

on measures of improved industry practice (leading indicators), in addition to incidents and other outcomes (lagging indicators).

NOPSA has developed a model set of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) that include both leading and lagging indicators of safety performance.

NOPSA will also provide evidence of the appropriateness, effectiveness and cost efficiency of its operations by reporting against these KPI's under its governance framework. NOPSA will:

1. Keep the Australian, State and Territory Governments informed of its functions as a regulator by providing:
 - (a) a [Corporate Plan](#) every three years. An annual Business Plan will outline specific activities to achieve the outcomes identified in the Corporate Plan.
 - (b) An [Annual Report](#) tabled in Parliament.
2. Provide a KPI traffic light report which will be forwarded to you quarterly (**Attachment A**).
3. Report, as appropriate, on incidents and investigations, and other issues that arise as a result of information provided.
4. Keep well informed of relevant policy issues, proposed reforms and relevant international conventions which have the potential to impact on NOPSA's operations.
5. Keep well informed with regard to new technical developments which have the potential to impact on NOPSA's operations.
6. Continue to build on the established good working relationship with the Australian, State and Territory government departments.

I am confident that with the implementation of these strategies under the associated performance measurement framework, the expectations set down for NOPSA will be satisfied.

John Clegg
Chief Executive Officer
NOPSA

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