



Media Release

4 June 2008
For Immediate Release

National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority to send inspectors to Varanus Island

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) is today sending two senior health and safety inspectors to Varanus Island, off Karratha on the Northwest Shelf, to investigate a major incident involving a gas pipeline rupture and subsequent fire.

NOPSA is the occupational health and safety (OHS) regulator for the Australian offshore petroleum industry.

NOPSA will carry out an investigation in conjunction with the WA Department of Industry and Resources (DOIR).¹

The investigation team will examine the facts of the incident and review the safety systems for the facility.

“The health and safety of personnel working in the offshore oil and gas industry is our highest priority. Our aim is to deliver world class health and safety regulation for the Australian offshore petroleum industry,” said NOPSA CEO, John Clegg.

Ends.

Further information from:

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1. NOPSA is contracted to provide technical advice to the WA Department of Industry and Resources (DOIR) regarding safety regulation under the WA Petroleum Pipelines legislation for the pipeline licence for Varanus Island.

NOPSA - FAST FACTS

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) is the occupational health and safety (OHS) regulator for the Australian offshore petroleum industry.

NOPSA's Background

NOPSA is a Commonwealth statutory agency established under the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967* (PSLA) that began operating in 2005. It is fully funded by statutory levies from industry.

NOPSA's mission is to deliver world class health and safety regulation for the Australian offshore petroleum industry. Its vision is that health and safety risks in the industry are properly controlled.

NOPSA's Organisation

NOPSA is led by a Chief Executive Officer. Occupational health and safety (OHS) inspectors based in its head office in Perth regulate facilities in the Perth Basin, Carnarvon Basin (the North West Shelf), the Browse Basin and the Bonaparte Basin in the Timor Sea. Inspectors based in Melbourne deal with facilities in the Bass, Gippsland and Otway basins to the south of Australia.

NOPSA's Responsibilities

NOPSA regulates OHS on facilities and diving operations in Commonwealth waters. It is not responsible for the Joint Petroleum Development Area in the Timor Sea. It is responsible for facilities in coastal waters where the State or Territory has passed the necessary mirror legislation. NOPSA also provides regulatory services to the relevant States in some other places.

Offshore petroleum facilities are defined in law. They include fixed and mobile production and drilling facilities, licensed pipelines and vessels carrying out some associated activities.

NOPSA's Functions

The law places responsibility for the health and safety of persons working on offshore facilities on the operators, employers and others who are regulated by NOPSA.

NOPSA's functions are to promote the occupational health and safety of persons engaged in offshore petroleum operations; monitor and enforce to secure compliance with OHS legislation; investigate incidents; provide reports to Ministers; advise persons on OHS matters; and cooperate with relevant agencies.

NOPSA and its inspectors have duties and powers for carrying out assessment of safety cases and similar documents, inspections of facilities and investigations of incidents. Inspectors can issue various enforcement notices and report offences to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

NOPSA runs national programmes as appropriate on topics identified as key areas of concern in relation to health or safety.