



Fact sheet



Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 (greenhouse gas storage activities)

If your project involves the injection, storage or exploration of greenhouse gas in an Australian offshore area in the sea, you must obtain titles and plan approvals in accordance with this Act.

1. What approvals do I need?

Greenhouse gas injection, storage and exploration activities in Australia's offshore areas require an appropriate title and an approved Offshore Project Proposal (OPP) and environment plan in accordance with the [Offshore Petroleum Act and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006](#) (OPGGS Act). Offshore areas generally start three nautical miles from the Australian coastline, extending to the boundary of Australia's continental shelf.

[Greenhouse gas storage titles](#) derived from Greenhouse Gas Assessment Permits are awarded on a successive basis and each title is granted over a particular area. An assessment permit can only be granted in an offshore area the Australian Government Minister for Resources has [released](#) for greenhouse gas storage, following a competitive bidding process.

Titles are as follows:

- **Greenhouse Gas Assessment Permits** authorise exploration for formations and injection sites in a defined area within the offshore release area.
- **Greenhouse Gas Holding Leases** are granted if the applicant is not currently in a position to inject and store a greenhouse gas substance but will likely be in this position within 15 years.
- **Greenhouse Gas Injection Licences** authorise injection and storage operations.
- **Greenhouse Gas Search Authorities** authorise

exploration for potential formations or injection sites for up to 180 days in an area not covered by any of the above titles.

- **Greenhouse Gas Special Authorities** authorise operations related to any of the above titles to be carried out in areas outside the area of the permit, lease, licence or search authority.
- **Greenhouse Gas Research Consents** authorise greenhouse gas-related operations in the course of a scientific investigation.
- **Infrastructure Licences** authorise the construction and operation of an infrastructure facility in relation to greenhouse gas or petroleum.
- **Pipeline Licences** authorise the construction and operation of a pipeline to convey greenhouse gas or petroleum.

[Guidelines](#) on title requirements are available on the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA) website.

Greenhouse gas operations require approval of an environment plan prior to commencement. Development projects also require approval of an OPP. Environment plans and OPPs must undergo an [assessment process](#) to receive approval. Content requirements for each of these documents are detailed within the [Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage \(Environment\) Regulations 2023](#).

Offshore titleholders should also be aware of ongoing obligations in respect to titles and offshore activities

This fact sheet provides general information and does not constitute legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice tailored to your individual circumstances. The Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA) assists major project proponents to navigate Australian Government approval processes. The MPFA does not grant approvals, nor administer the legislation listed in this fact sheet.

under the [Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage \(Resource Management and Administration\) Regulations 2011](#).

Separate requirements apply for offshore activities proposed in marine parks. For more information on these requirements, please refer to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) and Parks Australia guidance note on [Petroleum activities and Australian Marine Parks](#)^[PDF].

Specific guidance on [Offshore Carbon Capture and Storage Regulatory Approvals](#)^[PDF] under the OPGGS Act and other legislation is also available from NOPTA.

2. Who provides the approvals?

NOPTA manages the [Titles Register](#) and undertakes the technical assessment of title and title-related applications. NOPTA makes decisions on the short-termed Greenhouse Gas Search Authorities and Greenhouse Gas Special Authorities. Based on technical advice from NOPTA, the Australian Government Minister for Resources makes decisions on the grant of all other greenhouse gas titles and title-related applications.

For infrastructure and pipeline licences, the decisionmaker is the relevant Joint Authority. The Joint Authority comprises the Australian Government Minister for Resources and the [relevant State or Northern Territory Minister](#) for the offshore area in question.

NOPSEMA assesses and makes decisions on the acceptance of OPPs and environment plans.

For activities occurring in State or Northern Territory coastal waters, separate legislation applies, and additional approvals are required from each state or territory.

3. How do I apply for the approvals?

Applications for the grant of assessment permits from an acreage release are submitted to NOPTA in accordance with the requirements specified in the Invitation to Bid published in the [Australian Government Gazette](#). Applications for titles derived from assessment permits and all title-related applications are submitted to NOPTA by email or post using the approved manner and form detailed in NOPTA's [Greenhouse Gas Forms Guidance](#)^[PDF]. The specific application process will depend on the title.

OPP and environment plans are submitted to NOPSEMA for assessment based on the [submission process](#) outlined on NOPSEMA's website. Depending on the particular document involved for each element of a proposal or plan, submission may take place by online portal, secure file transfer or email.

4. More information

National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator

Further information on offshore greenhouse gas titles is available on the NOPTA [website](#).

NOPTA can be contacted by email at titles@nopta.gov.au.

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority

Further information on offshore greenhouse gas plans is available on the NOPSEMA [website](#).

NOPSEMA can be contacted by email at environment@nopsema.gov.au.

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify potential Australian Government regulatory approvals required for your project, please refer to the [Major projects help tool](#) self-assessment.

The MPFA team can be contacted by email at MPFA@industry.gov.au.