



**Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd**

**Decommissioning Campaign #1 Stakeholder  
Consultation Plan**

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## Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
ATBA	Area to be Avoided
EMBA	Environment that May be Affected
Esso	Esso Australia Pty Ltd (EAPL), the Company
OA	Operational Area
OIMS	Operations Integrity Management System
PSZ	Petroleum Safety Zone

## Definitions

Term	Definition
Activities	Activities are considered to be what other persons or organizations are already doing.  Note. Esso has adopted the definitions of a relevant person's functions, interests, or activities in accordance with Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023 (Cth).
ATBA	The boundary which commences at the most easterly intersection of the coastline of the State of Victoria at mean low water by the parallel of latitude 38°14'54.50" S and then runs southeasterly along the geodesic to the point of latitude 38°34'54.49" S, longitude 147°44'04.61" E and then along the coastline of the State of Victoria at mean low water to the point of commencement.
Claims	Evidence provided that suggests there are potential adverse impacts from the petroleum or greenhouse gas activities to which the regulatory submission relates.
Consultation	Targeted and tailored information provided to enable effective consultation on a specific planned activity within a defined timeframe.
Consultation period	Esso generally defines the consultation period during the development of a regulatory submission as being 30 days, subject to the nature and scale of the planned activity.
EMBA	Oil spill modelling is used to determine the total area that could be exposed to hydrocarbon, including trace concentrations of oil in the water column, as a result of any spill and is used for planning purposes to ensure that all social and environmental sensitivities are

Term	Definition
	acknowledged, described and considered in the development of the relevant regulatory approval submission.
Engagement	Ongoing relationship building or general engagement not related to a specific activity or defined timeframe.
Environment	Environment is defined as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and</li> <li>b) natural and physical resources; and</li> <li>c) the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas; and</li> <li>d) the heritage value of places; and includes</li> <li>e) the social, economic and cultural features of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d).</li> </ul>
Functions	Functions refer to a power or duty to do something. Note. Esso has adopted the definitions of a relevant person's functions, interests, or activities in accordance with Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023 (Cth).
Geographical consultation boundary	The geographical areas (OA, ATBA and EMBA) used as the basis for identifying relevant stakeholders in Commonwealth Waters.
Information sharing	Broad, high-level information such as information bulletins and information regarding unplanned release modeling.
Interests	Interests represent a connection to the values described in a relevant regulatory submission. Any interest possessed by an individual, whether or not the interest amounts to a legal right or is a proprietary or financial interest or relates to reputation. An interest does not extend to general public interest in an activity. Note. Esso has adopted the definitions of a relevant person's functions, interests, or activities in accordance with Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023 (Cth).
Near neighbours	Resident (private or commercial) within close proximity to an activity location e.g. adjacent land or access road users.
OA	The area within which all activities will occur as described within a environment plan or other regulatory approval plan.
Objection	A reason or argument that asserts that there are potential adverse impacts arising from the petroleum or greenhouse gas activities to which the relevant regulatory submission relates.

Term	Definition
Reasonable period	<p>A reasonable time for relevant stakeholders to identify the effect of a planned activity on their functions, interests or activities and make a response detailing their objections or claims.</p> <p>Esso generally defines a reasonable period for a relevant stakeholder to review and provide an initial response (i.e. the consultation period) as being 30 days, subject to the nature and scale of the planned activity.</p> <p>Where engagement with relevant stakeholders is ongoing after this period, Esso will continue to engage with these persons until Esso believes that it has provided sufficient evidence/justification to close the consultation (i.e. they have been provided sufficient information and reasonable time).</p>
Regulatory submission	Esso created document submitted to a regulatory body for approval to proceed with work relating to a specific scope.
Stakeholder	Stakeholder is a general use term and includes any person, group or organisation with an interest or concern in something. It includes those that may be affected in an immaterial or negligible way. Esso uses this terminology in general terms when describing those persons/organisations not deemed to be relevant stakeholders e.g. a stakeholder database containing a broad and diverse range of relevant and non-relevant stakeholders for multiple activities.
Planned activity	The activity as described in the scope of the regulatory submission.
Unplanned activity/event	<p>Accidental release e.g., loss of containment refined oils (collision) or loss of containment reservoir hydrocarbons.</p> <p>Emergency response plans (e.g. an Oil Pollution Emergency Plan) for each scope will be identified in the planned activity documentation.</p>

## 1 Introduction

Over the past 50 years of operations in Gippsland and the Bass Strait, Esso has established relationships with a broad range of stakeholders.

Esso recognises and respects the important contribution of stakeholders, including First Nations people, throughout its activities. Esso is committed to ensuring that stakeholders are identified and given sufficient information and reasonable time for consultation to allow them to make an informed assessment of the possible consequences of a planned activity on them.

The consultation process outlined in this Plan allows Esso to ascertain, understand and address the impacts and risks that might arise from its planned activity. The consultation process also allows Esso to receive information that the Company might not otherwise receive, and to use this information to enhance understanding of the environment, people, communities, heritage values, and social and cultural features that may be affected by the proposed activities and to inform decision-making.

For the purposes of this Plan, Esso defines 'consultation' as a process of communication that leads to a decision where the views of relevant stakeholders have been taken into account. Whereas 'engagement' aims to build long term relationships by exchanging information. While Esso is required by legislation to consult with stakeholders, Esso is also committed to engaging with stakeholders and continuing to further develop relationships already established.

Esso will consider and adopt appropriate measures, in response to the matters raised by stakeholders, in the management of impacts and risks as part of regulatory approvals development process.

## 2 Decommissioning Campaign 1 Scope

Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso) is a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd. Esso is the operator of the assets in Bass Strait that are part of the Gippsland Basin Joint Venture between Esso and Woodside Energy (Bass Strait) Pty Ltd (Woodside Energy) and the Kipper Unit Joint Venture (Esso, Woodside Energy, and MEPAU A Pty Ltd). These assets comprise 19 platforms with approximately 400 wells, six subsea facilities and more than 800 kilometres of subsea pipelines.

After delivering energy to Australia for over 50 years, many of the Bass Strait fields are now reaching the end of their productive life. As a result, Esso is undertaking the first Bass Strait decommissioning campaign. Activities proposed as part of the Decommissioning Campaign #1 Project include the removal of the topsides of up to 13 facilities, the removal of two monotowers and the removal of the upper jacket sections of up to 10 steel piled jacket (SPJ) facilities.

Esso has awarded an execution contract to a Heavy Lift Vessel (HLV) contractor, which along with support vessels, will be used to remove and transport the topsides and steel substructures via barges or heavy transport vessels to an Onshore Reception Centre within the existing Barry Beach Marine Terminal for dismantling. Once dismantled, materials will be transported from the Onshore Reception Centre to appropriate licenced facilities for recycling or disposal.

### 3 Standards and requirements

Esso is committed to undertaking all consultation and engagement activities in accordance with applicable ExxonMobil standards and Australian legislation.

#### 3.1 ExxonMobil standards

As a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, Esso complies with the ExxonMobil Corporation Standards of Business Conduct, which require the Company to conduct business in a manner that is compatible with the environmental, social, and economic needs of the communities in which it operates. These Standards also aim to protect the safety and health of employees, those involved in operations, and members of the public.

In addition to the Standards, Esso manages its operations in accordance with a structured and disciplined risk management framework known as the Operations Integrity Management System (OIMS). This System identifies, evaluates, and manages risks across all ExxonMobil exploration, construction, and production activities.

In accordance with OIMS System 10-1: Community Awareness and Public Affairs, Esso has developed the consultation methodology outlined in this Plan, which enables Esso to:

- ensure every effort is made to identify relevant stakeholders
- undertake a verification process to ensure all representatives of relevant stakeholders are a true representation/advocate of the views of their constituents and can be relied upon to faithfully communicate the results of engagements back to their constituents
- ensure relevant stakeholders, especially those who are directly impacted, are consulted on matters that may affect them
- ensure that consultation is genuine and provides a meaningful two-way dialogue to develop and maintain consistent and constructive relationships with relevant stakeholders to further understand potential environmental, social and economic impacts
- pursue engagement with relevant stakeholders using a level of effort commensurate with the nature and scale of the activity
- keep relevant stakeholders informed with respect to their specific functions, interests or activities
- encourage relevant stakeholders to assess information provided to them and respond to Esso with any feedback including questions, issues, concerns, suggestions, objections and/or claims
- maintain confidence of relevant stakeholders in Esso and its activities through ongoing open, informative, inclusive and timely communications, wherever possible.

Implementation of the consultation methodology provides a mechanism by which Esso can:

- meet regulatory obligations and align with industry best practice consultation and engagement methods
- review and update the consultation methodology to reflect any changes to applicable laws, best practices or standards
- provide meaningful information in a format and language that is readily understood and tailored to the needs of relevant stakeholders and groups
- provide information within an adequate timeframe to inform decision-making
- ensure consultations are based on open communication that is transparent, collaborative, inclusive and are conducted with integrity to foster respect and trust



- disseminate information in formats, methods and locations that make it easy for relevant stakeholders to access
- respect local traditions and the relevant stakeholder's preferred ways of doing things
- establish two-way dialogue that gives all relevant stakeholders the opportunity to exchange views and information, to listen, and to have their feedback heard and addressed
- seek inclusiveness in representation of views, including minority and special interest groups
- develop clear mechanisms for receiving, documenting, and responding to feedback
- incorporate feedback from relevant stakeholders into the program design and providing clear and transparent reporting back to relevant stakeholders in a reasonable timeframe.

Esso acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country, and the land and sea upon which our operations are located. We recognise the Traditional Custodians continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present. Esso understands that First Nations people see no distinction between the land and the sea, considering it all as a part of their Country, and this connection may constitute an interest for the purposes of consultation and regulatory approvals.

Esso continues to identify and attempt consultations with environmentally focused non-government organisations (eNGOs) and other environmental protection and advocacy groups.

### **3.2 Legislative requirements**

Esso will undertake consultation for decommissioning in accordance with applicable legislative requirements, case law and guidance as follows:

#### **Legislation**

##### **Commonwealth**

- *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 (Cth)*
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC)*
- *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023 (Cth)*

##### **State**

- *Environment Protection Act 2017*
- *Environment Effects Act 1978*
- *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

#### **Guidance Documents**

- Consultation in the course of preparing an environment plan (NOPSEMA, 2024b)
- Environmental Plan Content Requirements Guidance Note (NOPSEMA, 2024)
- *Environment plan content requirement* (NOPSEMA, 2024)
- *Interim Engaging with Indigenous People and Communities on Assessments and Approvals under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2023)

## Case law

- *Tipakalippa v National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (No 2) [2022] FCA 1121*
- *Santos NA Barossa Pty Ltd v Tipakalippa [2022] FCAFC 193*
- *Cooper v National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (No 2) [2023] FCA 1158*

## 3.3 Industry best practice

Esso's consultation methodology takes into consideration the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation, as shown in Table 3-1. The spectrum defines increasing levels of involvement and influence community, and other stakeholders may have on an outcome. During consultation for decommissioning, relevant stakeholders have been and will continue to be 'informed' and 'consulted' as planning progresses. Feedback will continue to be considered in the development of proposed activities.

Esso has provided feedback during community consultation sessions, meetings with stakeholders, and in Information Bulletins on how feedback provided has influenced the development of plans.

**Table 3-1 IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation**

### IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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## 4 Methodology

When planning consultation, stakeholders are identified, classified, verified and consulted, with their feedback used to inform decision-making and planning, as summarised in Figure 4-1 and detailed in the following sections. This methodology applies to each regulatory submission developed by Esso for all activities.

Esso's approach to consultation with stakeholders involves steps undertaken across three consultation levels. Esso acknowledges that there may be persons who have functions, interests or activities within relevant geographical areas, but those functions, interests or activities may not be affected by Esso's activities.

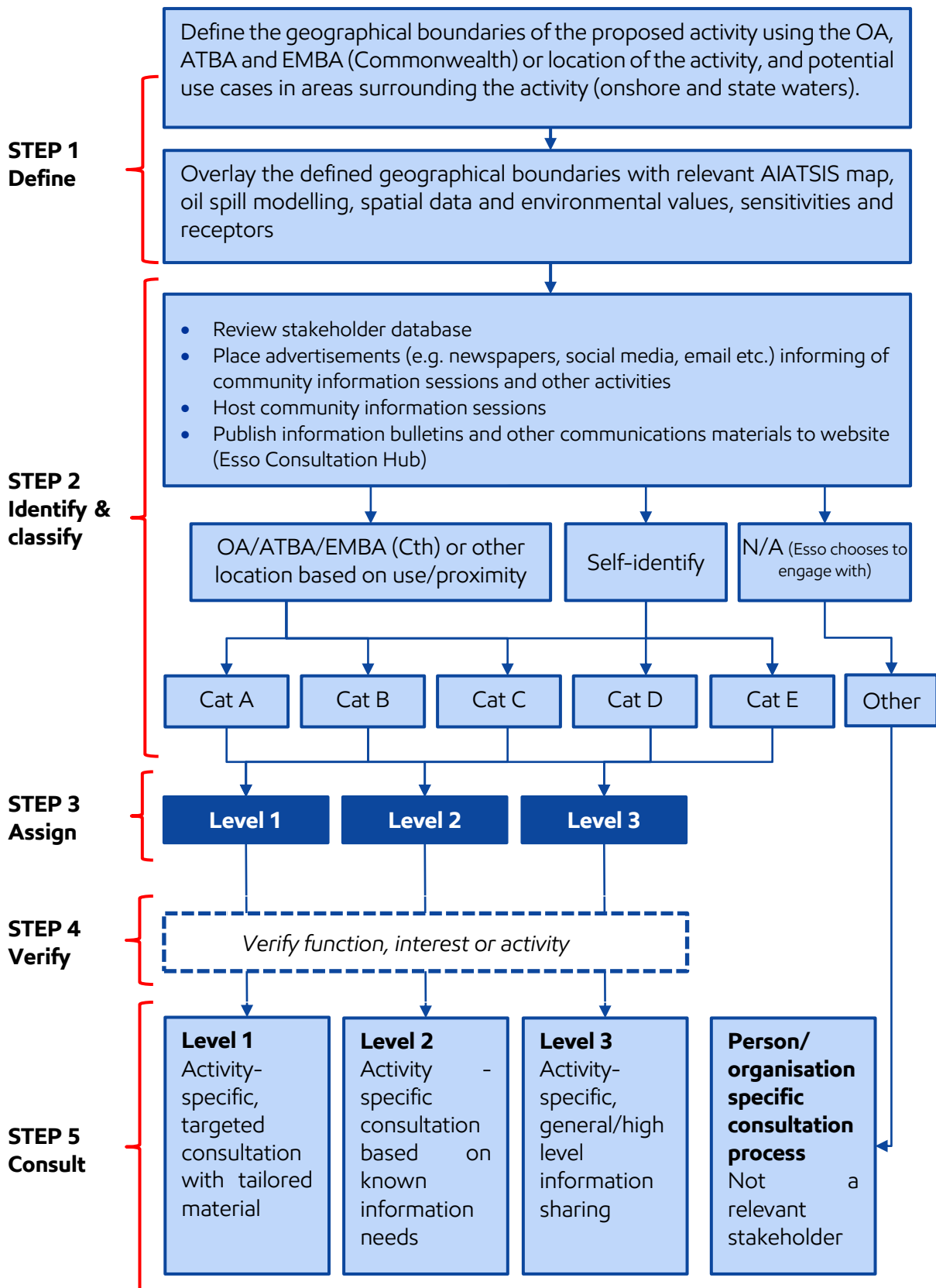


Figure 4-1 Consultation methodology

## 4.1 Step 1 – Define

Esso uses a number of methods to identify stakeholders in different onshore and offshore areas. The boundaries used for these differ due to geographical and regulatory jurisdictions.

### 4.1.1 Commonwealth Waters

To identify stakeholders for offshore activities in Commonwealth waters, Esso first identifies the geographic boundaries of the activity. These geographic boundaries are the:

- Operational Area (OA) in which Esso's physical infrastructure exists and its operational boundaries for planned activities
- Area to be Avoided (ATBA)
- EMBA during an unplanned activity.

Each of the defined geographical boundaries, as outlined in Table 4-1, are then overlaid with relevant Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) map, oil spill modelling, spatial data and environmental values, sensitivities and receptors.

**Table 4-1 Onshore and offshore geographical boundary descriptions**

Geographical Boundary	Offshore
OA	The 500m Petroleum Safety Zone (PSZ) around the offshore facility and an additional 500m exclusion zone radius to allow for vessel safety, for a maximum 1000m radius.  The transport/transit route that the heavy lift vessel and other vessels (also with a 500m exclusion zone) will operate in when transiting between facilities and transporting the removed topsides and sections of jackets from the removal activity areas to a suitable location for transfer onto a transport vessel or barge
ATBA	For offshore, the boundary which commences at the most easterly intersection of the coastline of the State of Victoria at mean low water by the parallel of Latitude 38° 14' 54.50" south and runs thence south-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 38° 34' 54.49" south, Longitude 147° 44' 04.61" east thence along the coastline of the State of Victoria at mean low water to the point of commencement.
EMBA	The area determined by oil spill modelling and is the total area that could be exposed to hydrocarbon, including trace concentrations of oil in the water column, as a result of 100 individual hydrocarbon spill simulations for various scenarios. Then, these results are combined to identify the largest envelope in which a single spill is predicted to occur. This worst-case assessment for a potential spill covers the largest area, extending beyond potential areas that may be affected by other aspects such as noise or light emissions during Campaign #1 activities.

### 4.1.2 All other areas, including State Waters

The above geographical boundaries are not suitable for application to onshore and state water activities; for these activity locations stakeholders are assessed by their proximity and use of locations within the vicinity of the activity area.

For both offshore and onshore activities, Esso defines specifications that will be used to evaluate whether a person is a stakeholder for the activity. These are the:

- activity description, which is compared to previous consultations undertaken for other Esso activities and/or facilities.
- Location of the activity, and potential use cases in areas surrounding the activity (onshore and state waters).
- scope of the activity, taking into consideration factors such as planned and unplanned impacts to environmental factors including air and water emissions, culturally sensitive areas, Sea Country and marine environments; and potential socioeconomic impacts including job creation throughout the supply chain
- environmental values and sensitivities of the planned activity, including cultural heritage (world, national and local), Sea Country, wetlands of international significance (Ramsar), listed threatened species and listed migratory species, listed threatened ecological communities and Commonwealth and State marine areas
- timing of the planned activity, including any seasonal changes.

After considering these specifications, Esso then identifies the anticipated key functions, interests and activities of relevant stakeholders.

#### 4.2 Step 2 – Identify and classify

Esso acknowledges that factors such as the nature of the activity, the environment in which the activity is being undertaken and the possible impacts and risks of the activity should be considered when determining whether the activity may be relevant to authorities, or determining who has functions, interests or activities that may be affected.

Therefore, the identification and classification process involve assessing the relevance of the reasonably ascertainable functions, interests and activities of each person/group/organisation considering the specifications outlined in Section 4.1.

The approach to consultation involves using the defined OA, ATBA and EMBA, as shown in Table 4-1 and/or the considerations listed in Section 4.1.2 (for activities onshore and in state waters), to identify relevant stakeholders. Esso then classifies all stakeholders into one of five categories, (adopting definitions for each category as defined in Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Environment Regulation 25(1)(a)-(e) for consistency across all stakeholder profiles), as follows:

- **Category A** – Each Commonwealth or State agency or authority to which the activities to be carried out may be relevant. For Esso's operations, this includes any Commonwealth or State department or agency that has responsibility for managing or protecting the environment from pollution. It may also include those with responsibilities for environmental and fisheries management, defence and communications, maritime/navigational safety, parks (marine and terrestrial), and native title.
- **Category B** – The Department or the responsible State Minister, if the plan relates to activities in the offshore area or a State
- **Category C** – The Department of the responsible Northern Territory Minister – if the plan relates to activities in the Principal Northern Territory offshore area. (*not applicable to Esso activities*)
- **Category D** – A person or organisation whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by the activities to be carried out. A connection of traditional owners with sea country may constitute an interest for the purposes of Category D categorisation. For Esso's operations in Victoria and the Bass Strait this includes Indigenous groups, non-

government organisations, worker unions and fishing groups. It may also include community groups and individuals.

- **Category E** - Any other person or organisation that the Esso considers relevant. These stakeholders can self-identify or may be identified as part of the previous identification steps.

The use of Categories A to E and functions, interests and activities have been adopted by Esso as consultation methodology standard practice to help identify, evaluate and verify stakeholders in a consistent manner across all activities.

In alignment with Esso's Environmental Plan Consultation Methodology which follows guidance provided in *Environment Plan Assessment* (NOPSEMA, 2024), *Environment Plan decision making* (NOPSEMA, 2024) and *Environment plan content requirement* (NOPSEMA, 2024), Category C is reserved for the Department of the responsible Northern Territory Minister, if the plan relates to activities in the Principal Northern Territory offshore area. Therefore, Category C is not applicable for Esso Bass Strait activities, including decommissioning activities.

To identify new stakeholders relevant to the activity, Esso has reviewed guidance from the following Commonwealth government agencies and applied this to the identification process for relevant stakeholders (of all Categories):

- DCCEW's 'Consulting the community in EPBC Act referrals and assessments and webpage and, 'Engaging with First Nations People and Communities on Assessments and Approvals under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (interim guidance)'.  
'
- NOPSEMA's guidelines on *Consultation with Commonwealth agencies with responsibilities in the marine area* (NOPSEMA, 2024)

In addition to the above, Esso has reviewed guidance in application forms for all submissions for the Decommissioning Campaign #1 Project including the DEECA's MACA Consent Application Form and South Gippsland Shire Council's Application for a Planning Permit form to ensure all efforts have been made to identify stakeholders. Esso will continue to review and comply with all applicable regulatory guidance from approving agencies / departments.

#### 4.2.1 Methodology for identification of Category A and B stakeholders

Esso has a history of extensive and ongoing consultation for its activities in Victoria and the Bass Strait spanning more than 50 years, meaning that many Category A and B stakeholders are already known to Esso.

The first step in identification is to review Esso's existing stakeholder database. This review involves comparing the defined 'activity description' characteristic to previous Esso activities and/or facilities to identify past consultations of a similar nature. This is then used to filter the database, providing a list of stakeholders for all past activities with a similar nature.

In accordance with the guidance, Esso recognises that while agencies may provide comments or advice on control measures that should be considered by titleholders to manage the potential impacts and risks of a petroleum activity, it is the approving regulator's role to determine whether proposed control measures are appropriate to the nature and scale of the proposed petroleum activity.



If Commonwealth or State departments or agencies change, Esso will leverage existing relationships to ensure consistency of consultation.

#### 4.2.2 Methodology for identification of Category D stakeholders

Identification of Category D relevant stakeholders requires their functions, interests or activities to be understood and applied broadly taking into account how potential risks and impacts of the activity may affect them. This is achieved via several methods as outlined in the following sections.

##### 4.2.2.1 *Review of stakeholders previously identified for other activities*

Given Esso's extensive history of consultation in the area, identification of stakeholders starts with a review of Esso's existing stakeholder database to generate a list of any persons, groups, and organisations with functions, interests or activities matching those defined for the activity.

##### 4.2.2.2 *Actively seeking out new stakeholders*

To ensure the broad capture of persons and organisations who may have their functions, interests or activities affected by the activity, Esso seeks to identify any new stakeholders through:

- using local knowledge of existing relationships to identify marine users and interest groups active in the area (e.g. Indigenous groups, commercial fisheries, recreational fishers, other energy producers, local business, etc.)
- providing a link to the Consultation Hub and Esso Consultation Questionnaire with existing stakeholders and asking them to share it with anyone who may be interested in Esso's activities
- seeking the advice of First Nations groups such as land councils and prescribed body corporates in relation to who and how other First Nations groups or individuals should be consulted as relevant stakeholders whose interests may be affected by the activities
- searches of internet sources, including social media platforms etc.
- identification of landowners/occupiers and near neighbours
- members of the Company's local workforce providing suggestions of other potentially impacted stakeholders
- identified stakeholders providing recommendations of other potentially impacted stakeholders, through direct engagement and/or Esso Consultation Questionnaire
- guidance from the Regulator, other government agency/department, industry associations or bodies about other potentially stakeholders
- advertisements in newspapers and other relevant news sources (e.g. Koori Mail, local papers)
- a review of legislation applicable to petroleum and marine activities
- active participation in industry bodies and collaborations e.g. Australian Energy Producers (formerly APPEA), Centre for Decommissioning Australia, National Energy Resources Australia, and the National Decommissioning Research Initiative
- leveraging existing relationships with relevant Commonwealth and State departments and agencies to identify other relevant stakeholders
- reviewing the stakeholders identified for other oil and gas activities in the area.
- 6 monthly reviews of stakeholders to ensure new stakeholders are identified and consulted.
- hosting community information sessions where members of the public can attend and review materials relevant to Esso's activities and ask questions of staff



- hosting community information sessions which include a presentation, where members of the public can attend and review materials relevant to Esso's activities and ask questions of staff
- conducting a search of the National Electronic Approvals Tracking System to access publicly available information concerning offshore electricity infrastructure licences under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (Cth).

Potential stakeholders identified through these means are added to the list generated by the review of the stakeholder database.

#### *4.2.2.3 Self-identification from broad-based information sharing*

As part of the Company's own commitments to consultation and engagement, Esso regularly conducts broad-based information sharing designed to reach both stakeholders identified for any activity and a broad range of other interested parties. This broad-based information sharing allows Esso to create awareness of its activities and encourages stakeholders to make themselves known to the Company. Any persons or organisations who self-identify are added to the list generated by the ongoing review of the stakeholder database (as described in Section 4.2.2.1).

#### *4.2.2.4 Specific identification processes for certain groups*

##### **4.2.2.4.1 First Nations Peoples**

Esso's consultation approach is consistent with Regulation 25 of the Environment Regulations, incorporating guidance provided by the Appeal ruling (*Santos NA Barossa Pty Ltd v Tipakalippa*, 2022) and DCCEW's 'Consulting the community in EPBC Act referrals and assessments' and webpage and, 'Engaging with First Nations People and Communities on Assessments and Approvals under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (interim guidance)'. The consultation methodology includes sufficient time for each stage of the consultation process, including identification of First Nations groups as well individuals within the community, information sharing, receipt of feedback and assessment of merit.

Identification commences with a review of the stakeholder database (as described in Section 4.2.2.1). Additional potentially relevant First Nations peoples are identified using the AIATSIS map of indigenous Australia, overlaid with the geographical information of the activity (including OA, ATBA and EMBA) followed by an assessment of whether there will be any impacts from Esso's planned activities affecting the functions, interests or activities. Government resources such as State Government spatial data sets are also utilised to identify potentially relevant Aboriginal Land Councils, Registered Aboriginal Parties and Registered Aboriginal Community Organisations.

The Commonwealth Heritage List (DCCEW, 2021) is a list of Indigenous, historic and natural heritage places owned or controlled by the Australian Government which have a significant heritage value to the nation have been reviewed.

The Nanjit to Mallacoota Sea Country IPA consultation project, which extends from Corner Inlet to the Victoria/NSW border has also been reviewed.

Esso reviewed the *Gunaikurnai Whole-of-Country Plan* (GLaWAC, 2015) and the *Position Statement: Offshore Renewable Energy Infrastructure Area* (GLaWAC, 2022) with particular regard to Sea Country mapping.

Currently, there is no Sea Country mapping in Esso's ATBA available. Esso will continue consulting with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) as a Level 1 relevant stakeholder to allow opportunity to discuss Sea Country in the development of future regulatory submissions.

#### **4.2.2.4.2 Local Councils**

Identification commences with a review of the stakeholder database (as described in Section 4.2). Additional potentially relevant local government/councils are identified using government resources such as State Government spatial data overlaid with the geographical information of the proposed activities in commonwealth and state waters, as well as onshore.

#### **4.2.2.4.3 Commercial fishing**

Esso has a long-standing relationship with Bass Strait commercial fishing operators' representative bodies and their members. Esso meets with South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association, Lakes Entrance Fishermen Limited and Seafood Industry Victoria on a quarterly basis to discuss all upcoming and current offshore activities including any potential risks and how/if an activity may impact their members.

Where it is identified that an activity may affect their members, various strategies can be implemented including:

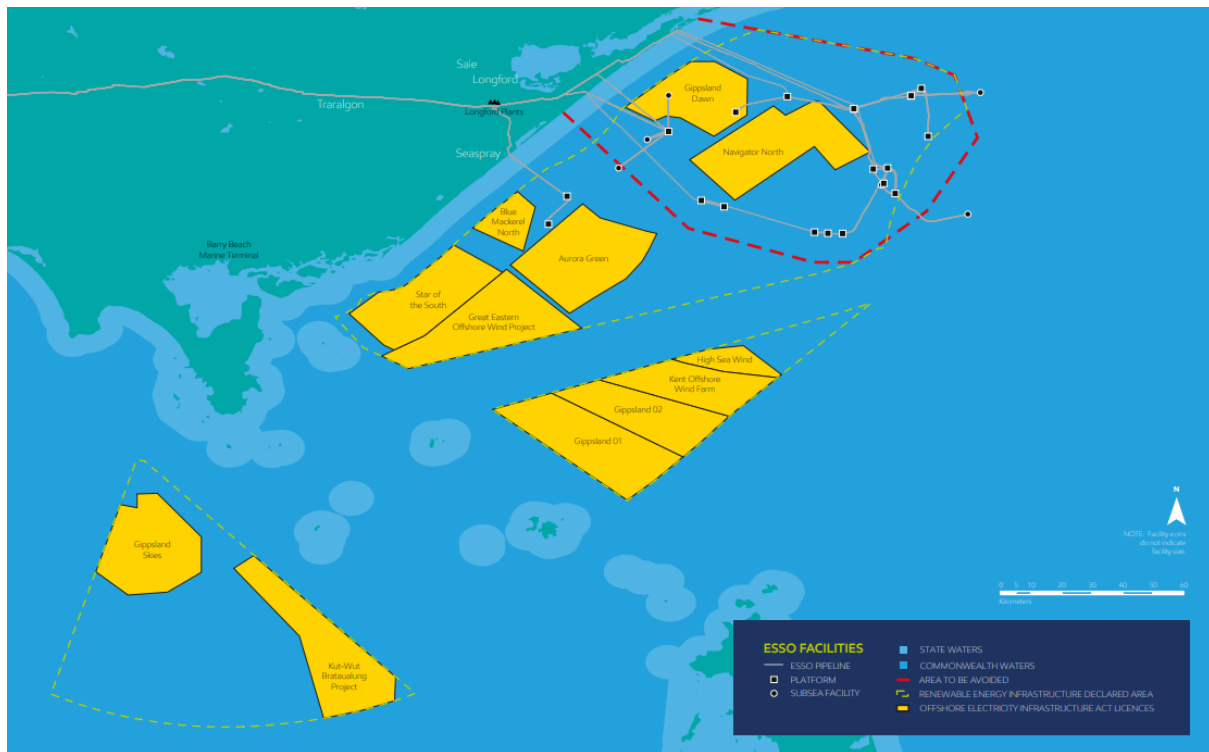
- distribution of SMS (text message) updates to the eastern fishing fleet advising of vessel movements, activities being performed outside the PSZ, coordinates of survey work, etc. Messages may be sent as often as daily during an activity, if appropriate
- updating Esso chartered vessel plotters to show where commercial fishing equipment is to avoid that area
- commercial fishers may choose to relocate their equipment for the duration of the activity.
- Esso also attends representative board meetings and any members meetings to consult directly with members on any proposed activities as requested.

While fishing is prohibited in any PSZ, reminders about PSZs are provided to all local fishing groups annually.

#### **4.2.2.4.4 Offshore Wind Industry**

In December 2022, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy declared the offshore Gippsland area in Victoria (Commonwealth area only) as suitable for offshore electricity infrastructure. This declaration does not grant exclusive rights to use the area. Esso began consultation in December 2023 to establish if these offshore wind licence holders' feasibility stage functions, interests or activities have the potential to be affected by Esso's activities.

As of July 2024, the Australian Government has granted 12 feasibility licences for offshore wind projects off Gippsland's coast in Victoria (DCCEEW, 2024). Refer to Figure 3-1.



**Figure 3-1 Victoria's offshore wind zone**

#### 4.2.3 Methodology for identification of Category E stakeholders

Where Esso chooses to consult with persons or organisations that would not be considered a stakeholder whose functions, interests or activities are not impacted by the proposed work scope, Category E allows for Esso to nominate these persons/organisations, at their discretion.

##### 4.2.3.1 Persons or organisations who self-identify

As part of the Company's own commitments to consultation and engagement, Esso regularly conducts broad-based information sharing designed to reach both relevant stakeholders identified for any activity and a broad range of other interested parties. This broad-based information sharing allows Esso to create awareness of its activities and encourages potentially relevant stakeholders to make themselves known to the Company. Any persons or organisations who self-identify are added to the list generated by the ongoing review of the stakeholder database.

Esso will undertake advertising and publish information on a planned activity to help identify any other relevant stakeholders that may not have been identified by the process.

Esso will place advertisements in newspapers, on social media, community noticeboards, via letterbox drop to communities surrounding planned activity locations, and sent via email to stakeholder emails informing people of community information sessions and directing them to the Esso Consultation Hub to seek out anyone else who may be relevant for consultation on the activity.

Where a person, organisation, department or agency identifies themselves to Esso, the Company will apply the methodology to assess if the person, organisation, department or agency is a

relevant stakeholder, for the purposes of the regulatory approval submission and assign the relevant consultation level.

The advertisements will also act as a means for sharing information to identified relevant stakeholders and providing an ongoing mechanism for feedback.

#### *4.2.3.2 Persons or organisations Esso chooses to contact*

Over the past 50 years of operations in Bass Strait, Esso has established relationships with relevant stakeholders identified in the Bass Strait Operations Environment Plan (AUGO-EV-EMM-002) and activity-specific submissions, as well as the broader public and other interested parties.

Esso recognises and respects the important contribution of stakeholders and is committed to maintaining and developing further these important relationships.

In addition to consulting with relevant stakeholders, there may be persons or organisations that Esso chooses to contact in relation to a planned activity. For example, these are persons or organisations:

- that are 'not relevant' pursuant to the consultation methodology geographical areas or categories, but that Esso has chosen to contact potentially for additional guidance, for example to update contact information or obtain the correct contacts
- that are 'not relevant' pursuant to the consultation methodology geographical areas or categories, but that Esso has contacted as a result of consultation requirements changing or updated guidance from the Regulator
- where it is unclear what their functions, interests and activities are, or whether they may be affected. In this circumstance, engagement is required to inform relevance under Esso's consultation methodology
- Esso wishes to maintain and continue to develop a relationship with.

### **4.3 Step 3 – Assign**

Once each relevant stakeholder has been identified and classified, the consultation Level is assigned during workshop(s) held with Esso consultation advisors and relevant subject matter experts. The more complex the activity, the more discussions are needed to ensure all matters are considered appropriately.

In assigning a consultation Level, the following considerations are taken into account:

- the location of the activity and whether or not their functions, interests and activities are impacted by the planned or unplanned activity
- if any impact, the degree of that impact, for example – level of EMBA overlap with a known fishery
- the functions, interests and activities of the person(s) or organisation
- persons or organisations known to Esso and previously recorded in the stakeholder database
- relevant stakeholders/organisation's known preferred methods of communication and any specific information needs

- Esso's relationship with the relevant stakeholder/organisation e.g. when did Esso last engage with them? On what topic? What is their level of interest? Is Esso currently consulting with them on other activities?
- the environmental values and sensitivities and whether or not the persons functions, interests and activities are impacted by the activity; if any impact, the degree of that impact
- if the relevant stakeholder/organisation can provide any information that will assist the design or management of the planned activities
- the duration of the activity.

The output of the workshop is recorded in a register of all relevant stakeholders related to the activity including the justifications and reasons for the assigned consultation Level, this information is then provided in the relevant regulatory approval submissions.

Esso notes that throughout the consultation process the assigned Level of consultation may be adjusted based on feedback received from the relevant stakeholders, for example a relevant stakeholder may request more or less information and may therefore move to a higher or lower Level of consultation.

#### **4.4 Step 4 - Verify**

Following identification and classification of stakeholders, Esso undertakes a process of verification. The verification aims to ensure that:

- organisational or departmental restructures, name changes, staff/contact person changes, contact information are up to date
- the functions, interests and activities used to evaluate and categorise the person or organisation as a stakeholder are accurate
- identified representatives are a true representation/advocate of the views of their constituents and can be relied upon to faithfully communicate the results of engagements back to their constituents
- stakeholders have been provided with the Esso Consultation Questionnaire to confirm they are willing to participate in the consultation process.

##### **4.4.1 Verifying functions, interests and activities**

In order to verify functions, interests and activities, stakeholders (or their verified representative) will be provided with:

- activity-specific communication material(s), such as a webpage or information bulletin, providing sufficient information on the activity
- access to the Esso Consultation Questionnaire to verify their functions, interests and activities.

The activity-specific communication material aims to ensure all relevant stakeholders are provided with sufficient information at the outset of the consultation process so they can make informed decisions about their participation or otherwise. Communication materials will be in the form of an Information Bulletin, brochure or link to a specific webpage.

One aim of the Esso Consultation Questionnaire is to verify the functions, interests and activities of each relevant stakeholder. This is achieved through providing a tailored list of functions, interests and activities (relevant to the activity) so that the respondent can select one or more

items. Esso updates the stakeholder database and may re-evaluate the person's/group's status as a relevant stakeholder.

In some cases, relevant stakeholders have developed guidance detailing their own functions, interests or activities and how and when they wish to be consulted on activities (NOPSEMA, 2024), which will be considered throughout the process. This includes, for example:

- *Consultation with Commonwealth agencies with responsibilities in the marine area* (NOPSEMA, 2022)
- *Engage Early: Guidance for proponents on best practice Indigenous engagement for environmental assessments under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* (Department of Environment, 2016).

If the functions, interests or activities of a person/s have not been advised directly to Esso via the above methods, an assessment is made based on available information relating to the person/s or organisation/s, as per the function, interests and activities definitions described in this Plan.

#### 4.4.2 Verifying true representation

The Esso Consultation Questionnaire is also used to determine the group participation of individual stakeholders. This information is used to develop a list of group members that Esso can engage with directly to seek verification that the right group representatives have been identified. This ground-truthing of views of the designated representatives is essential to confirm they will provide comprehensive and accurate representation. The Questionnaire also allows for individual stakeholders to choose whether they want to be consulted with directly or if their preference is for Esso to consult with the group representative on their behalf.

#### 4.4.3 Confirming participation

Provision is made in the Esso Consultation Questionnaire to allow for a stakeholder to 'opt out' of the consultation process. Esso will respect the wishes of the stakeholder should they choose to 'opt out'.

Where the Esso Consultation Questionnaire has not been completed and returned, this will not be considered 'opting out' and Esso representatives will seek to make further contact with the stakeholder to obtain a response, as appropriate.

Stakeholders can also notify Esso via the Consultation email (see Section 4.5.2 ) to 'opt out' of communications on specific activities.

It is recognised that in any community consultation there will inevitably be persons who cannot participate for various reasons; however, the absence of their participation does not invalidate the process provided reasonable efforts are made to identify the stakeholders and to consult with them.

### 4.5 Step 5 – Consult

Esso seeks to engage with stakeholders so that each stakeholder has sufficient information to understand the activity and to help them make an informed assessment of possible consequences associated with the activities pursuant to their own functions, interests or activities. Esso acknowledges that what constitutes sufficient information as part of a consultation process may

differ depending on the stakeholder(s). Esso therefore seeks to consult in a way that is appropriate for each stakeholder and adapted to the nature of the person to be consulted.

To achieve this, Esso consults with relevant stakeholders in accordance with their assigned consultation Level. The consultation methods for each Level are outlined in Section 4.5.3.

Each consultation has the overarching goals of:

- further strengthening foundation relationships with existing stakeholders
- developing relationships with new stakeholders
- facilitating genuine two-way dialogue between Esso and stakeholders
- building upon preceding consultations (where applicable) to further a stakeholder's understanding of the activity.

Throughout the consultation process, stakeholders are invited to correspond with Esso if they have concerns or require clarifications. Follow-up verbal discussions occur where required or if requested.

Esso also provides avenues for persons and organisations to contact Esso outside of formal engagement activities if they have any questions or concerns. If needed, Esso will provide support or assistance to relevant stakeholders in relation to understanding the technical data.

All relevant stakeholders are given the opportunity to nominate how they would like to be consulted. As appropriate, direct engagement with relevant stakeholders e.g. First Nations groups will include co-design of their consultation methodology. This may require consultation over an extended period of time.

Relevant stakeholders are not obligated to respond to a titleholder's requests to participate in the consultation process. In cases where no response has been received from a relevant stakeholder, and where sufficient information and reasonable period has been afforded to the relevant stakeholder, Esso will consider consultation closed for the purposes of the preparation of the regulatory approval submission.

The assigned consultation Levels and associated rationale for each relevant stakeholder are included in the relevant regulatory approval submissions.

#### 4.5.1 Consultation timing

Esso recognises that the time required for consultation varies depending on the individual circumstances of the stakeholder, the planned activity, the extent of potential impacts and risks on that stakeholder, and the level of information that has been provided. Therefore, what is a reasonable period for consultation should be considered on a case-by-case basis but at a minimum allows sufficient time for:

- a stakeholder to assess information and provide a response detailing any feedback
- Esso to consider responses when developing regulatory submissions
- Esso to reply to the stakeholder addressing any feedback.

#### 4.5.2 Consultation mechanisms

Esso uses different mechanisms to consult with stakeholders. Where possible the method most appropriate, and/or has been requested, by the stakeholder is used.

Given the nature of consultation, the process will always be context-specific, meaning that techniques, methods, approaches and timetables will be tailored to the issue, to the situation and to the stakeholders being consulted. At all times the provision of sufficient information is the focus.

Direct mechanisms typically used by Esso to communicate with stakeholders include:

- in-person discussions and presentations
- community information sessions
- presentations at committee meetings
- formal and informal meetings
- phone calls
- video meetings
- forums
- letterbox drops
- email correspondence.

Wherever possible, Esso aims to conduct face-to-face consultations in a location within the stakeholders' community in a venue where they feel comfortable. Such locations and venue considerations can assist to:

- make consultation convenient for the person being consulted with
- lend transparency to the process
- increase accountability of local leaders
- demonstrate that Esso values the input of local communities
- contribute to a stakeholders' feeling of ownership over the consultation process
- allow stakeholders to identify their own representatives, preventing illegitimate representatives from claiming that they speak for them.

All consultations are undertaken with respect to the physical, environmental and cultural sensitivities of the person being consulted with.

Stakeholders are not obligated to respond to a titleholder's requests to participate in the consultation process. In cases where no response has been received from a stakeholder, and sufficient information and reasonable period has been afforded to the stakeholder, Esso will consider consultation to be closed for the purposes of preparation of the regulatory submission.

During all communications, Esso encourages stakeholders to provide feedback by:

- meeting with us in person/phone/online call
- emailing the [consultation@exxonmobil.com](mailto:consultation@exxonmobil.com) email address
- accessing the Consultation Hub
- completing the Esso Consultation Questionnaire
- calling +61 3 9261 0000
- or writing to GPO Box 400 Melbourne VIC 3001.

The email inbox and Esso Consultation Questionnaire are monitored daily and Esso endeavours to respond in a timely manner.



### 4.5.3 Consultation Levels

#### 4.5.3.1 Consultation Level 1

Relevant stakeholders assigned with consultation Level 1 will be provided with targeted and tailored activity-specific information to enable an effective consultation process. This can include meetings, presentations, workshops, forums, phone calls and specific information such as mapping. Consultation Level 1 is the highest level of engagement with relevant stakeholders and may require consultation over an extended period.

Consultation Level 1 is generally applied to relevant stakeholders whose functions, interests or activities are located in the OA of the planned activity (Commonwealth waters) or in close proximity to the activity location (state waters and onshore) e.g. near neighbours. Esso may also determine this level of consultation appropriate if it is demonstrated that a stakeholder's functions, interests or activities are impacted by the planned activity (and are not within a geographical boundary or close proximity).

Relevant stakeholders will be provided with sufficient information (in a variety of formats, i.e. written, face to face, telephone etc.) and a reasonable period (generally 30 days, but can be more according to the activity complexity) to respond. If no response is received, Esso will make a second attempt to contact the relevant stakeholder.

#### 4.5.3.2 Consultation Level 2

Relevant stakeholders assigned with consultation Level 2 will be provided with specific information based on known information needs (e.g. published industry guidance notes or proformas outlining what information a relevant stakeholder wishes to receive).

This may include meetings, presentations, workshops, forums, phone calls and specific information such as mapping. This may require consultation over an extended period of time.

For activities in Commonwealth waters, Consultation Level 2 is generally applied to relevant stakeholders whose functions, interests or activities are located in the ATBA of the planned activity. Esso may also determine this level of consultation appropriate if it is demonstrated that a stakeholder's functions, interests or activities are impacted by the planned activity (and are not within a geographical boundary or close proximity).

For stakeholders in all other locations, Consultation Level 2 is generally applied to stakeholders whose functions, interests or activities are impacted by the planned activity as a local resident or business. Esso may also determine this level of consultation appropriate if it is demonstrated that a stakeholder's functions, interests or activities are impacted by the planned activity (and are not within a geographical boundary or close proximity).

Relevant stakeholders will be provided with sufficient information (in a variety of formats, i.e. written, face to face, telephone etc.) and a reasonable period (generally 30 days, but can be more according to the activity complexity) to respond.

#### 4.5.3.3 Consultation Level 3

Relevant stakeholders assigned with consultation Level 3 will be provided with activity-specific information but at a broader level. This can include activity-specific information bulletins including

the impacts, risks and the mitigative controls in place, information regarding EMBA and oil spill modelling, and/or links to the Esso Consultation Hub and Esso Consultation Questionnaire.

If requested, consultation can include face-to-face engagements, phone calls, community meetings, specialist group meetings or community information sessions.

Consultation Level 3 is generally applied to relevant stakeholders whose functions, interests or activities are located in the EMBA and may be affected by *unplanned* activities associated with the planned activity or if the relevant stakeholder has indicated that this is the level of consultation they prefer.

For stakeholders in other locations, Consultation Level 3 is generally applied to stakeholders whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by the *unplanned* activities associated with the activity, or if the relevant stakeholder has indicated that this is the level of consultation they prefer.

Relevant stakeholders will be provided with sufficient information (in a variety of formats, i.e. written, face to face, telephone etc.) and a reasonable period to respond (generally 30 days but can be more according to the activity complexity). If no response is received, no further consultation will be undertaken but Esso will continue to provide broader, high-level information.

#### 4.5.4 Activity feedback

Esso makes ongoing efforts to obtain responses through consultation. Esso is committed to considering all input and/or responses received from relevant stakeholders in the development of regulatory approval submissions. Relevant stakeholder's responses may be received in various ways.

Esso accepts responses and engages in consultation in order to understand the responses. Esso clearly identifies and addresses each matter raised by relevant stakeholders, and if applicable to the activity to which the regulatory approval submission relates:

- demonstrates that the risk or impact in question has been reduced to ALARP and will be of an acceptable level
- provides a statement that addresses each element of the objection or claim made by a relevant stakeholder and where control measures are implemented to resolve objections and claims, will clearly communicate this to the relevant stakeholder
- provides copies of all written responses (only as required by regulatory submissions)

Responses received from relevant stakeholders, throughout the development of regulatory approval submissions (and subsequent revisions), is considered and addressed as appropriate. A summary of responses, objection and/or claim, as well as Esso's assessment of the merits of feedback, objections and/or claim, and Esso's response, are provided (only) in the relevant regulatory approval submissions.

Information gathered during consultation is entered into Esso's stakeholder database and used to:

- align delivery of planned engagement mechanisms and materials to the requests of stakeholders
- develop additional materials and/or conduct additional engagements in response to feedback received

- be considerate of the level of participation requested by each stakeholder
- take into account any views of what constitutes reasonable timeframes, availability and or accessibility issues offered by stakeholders.

All feedback is documented in Esso's stakeholder database.

#### 4.5.5 Ongoing consultation

Esso recognises the importance of ongoing engagement with stakeholders as it is an opportunity to review and update Esso's current relevant stakeholder's functions, interests and activities, and as a forum for enquiry, objections or claims to be raised during related to a planned activity.

In the case that a response is received following the submission of a regulatory approval submission, the response will be considered for any implications to the planned activity and clearly communicated to the relevant stakeholder.

Stakeholders are encouraged to periodically visit Esso's Consultation Hub and sign up to receive Esso's *Connection* magazine to maintain awareness of Esso's activities outside the activity for which they were identified as a stakeholder.

#### 4.6 Consultation reporting

Esso maintains a stakeholder database to log engagements. Consultation-related communications, including meetings, calls, distribution of communications materials, emails etc., are logged in the stakeholder database, detailing any feedback received, including questions, issues, concerns, suggestions, objections and/or claims, and any actions/responses. Actions are tracked and feedback is provided to stakeholders as required.

A report on activity-specific consultations is included in regulatory submissions, where relevant.

Esso acknowledges the requirement to manage personal information in compliance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth), and Esso's privacy policy will be followed during all engagements and consultations.

## 5 Appendix A – Example consultation materials

The following consultation materials demonstrate some of the various methods Esso uses to consult with stakeholders. Included are advertisements, activity update emails, information bulletins, fliers, Esso Consultation Questionnaire responses and presentations. Note. Some items are partially shown for reference only.

### Newspaper Advertisement

## ExxonMobil Community Consultation – decommissioning of oil & gas infrastructure in Bass Strait

An ExxonMobil Brand

Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso), a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, is committed to operating and decommissioning its Gippsland and Bass Strait facilities safely and effectively. After delivering energy to Australia for over 50 years, many of the Bass Strait oil and gas fields are now reaching the end of their productive life. As planning for decommissioning progresses, Esso is focused on safely shutting-down non-producing facilities and ensuring they stay safe throughout the entire decommissioning process.

### Community Information Sessions

If you'd like to know more about plans for **Decommissioning of platforms and pipelines in Bass Strait**, the Esso Consultation Team will be hosting community information sessions at the following locations:

#### Monday 17 February 2025 – Yanakie

Yanakie Hall  
Millar Road, Yanakie

#### Tuesday 18 February 2025 – Foster

Foster War Memorial Arts Centre  
Main Street, Foster

#### Wednesday 19 February 2025 – Leongatha

South Gippsland Trade Skills Alliance (SGBLEN)  
71 Ogilvy Street, Leongatha

#### Monday 24 February 2025 – Lakes Entrance

On the Wharf Café, Bullock Island  
Lakes Entrance

#### Tuesday 25 February 2025 – Yarram

The Yarram Country Club  
322-340 Commercial Road, Yarram

#### Wednesday 26 February 2025 – Sale

The Criterion Hotel  
90 Macalister Street, Sale

All the above sessions will run from **5.00pm – 7.00pm** with a **presentation** about Esso's operations with a focus on decommissioning projects.

We encourage you to come along and ask questions or to raise any concerns you may have. Please **register your attendance** by emailing: [consultation@exxonmobil.com](mailto:consultation@exxonmobil.com)

If these dates and times don't suit, contact us at [consultation@exxonmobil.com](mailto:consultation@exxonmobil.com) or by phone on 03 9261 0000.

The Esso Team will also be available to discuss all current activities, including:

- Bass Strait State Waters Environment Plan
- Bass Strait Operations Environment Plan
- Gippsland Basin Geophysical and Geotechnical Investigations Environment Plan
- Jack-Up-Rig Plug & Abandonment Revision 1 Environment Plan
- Turrum Phase 3 Drilling Environment Plan

### Like to be consulted about these activities?

Esso is working to identify and consult with relevant persons [stakeholders] whose functions, interests, or activities may be affected by one or more of Esso's proposed activities.

Complete the [Esso Consultation Questionnaire \(sli.do\)](#) in the Esso Consultation Hub to let us know if you'd like to be consulted or have any questions or feedback.

Refer to the NOPSEMA brochure [Consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans brochure.pdf](#) ([nopsema.gov.au](http://nopsema.gov.au)) to understand more about consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans assessed under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023.

Your feedback and our response will be included in the relevant regulatory application documentation and submitted to the regulator.

### Please connect us with other interested people

If there is anyone you know who may be interested in our activities, we encourage you to share this information with them.

### To find out more information



For more information about Esso's activities and other projects, go to the Esso Consultation Hub at:

<https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/australia/our-approach>

*Email update (partial)*

Gippsland Basin Decommissioning



## Decommissioning Campaign #1 Onshore Reception Centre Stakeholder consultation



Good afternoon,

After delivering energy to Australia for over 50 years, many of the Bass Strait fields are now reaching the end of their productive life. As a result, Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso Australia), together with its co-venturer, Woodside Energy (Bass Strait) Pty Ltd, is planning to undertake the first Bass Strait decommissioning campaign. Activities proposed for the Decommissioning Campaign #1 include removal of the: topsides of up to 13 facilities; two monotowers; and upper jacket sections of up to 10 steel piled jacket facilities.

Following on from previous information distributed for Campaign #1 in September 2024, this bulletin provides information on the detailed planning activities and environmental studies that are currently underway to assess the potential environmental impacts and risks associated with Early Works (site readiness) activities planned to be conducted at the Onshore Reception Centre (ORC) at Barry Beach Marine Terminal.

Pending regulatory decisions, the ORC Early Works are anticipated to commence in 2H 2025.

Further details including information on the key environmental impacts and risks associated with the activities planned to be conducted, as part of site readiness works at the ORC, are available in this [Information Bulletin](#).

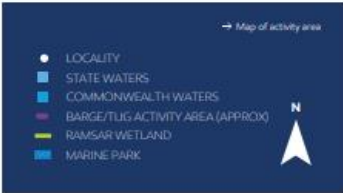
Esso Australia has identified that you may be a relevant stakeholder because you or your organisation have functions, interests, or activities that may be affected by one or more of our proposed offshore petroleum activities. This [link](#) provides more information on who may be a relevant stakeholder to our activities<sup>1</sup>.



Information Bulletin (partial)



3 | Onshore Reception Centre



**Eso at Barry Beach Marine Terminal - Our history**

Barry Beach Marine Terminal is an existing port facility owned by Eso and has been part of South Gippsland's industrial precinct for over six decades. It is where most of the Eso offshore infrastructure was constructed from the 1960s and has been continuously operating as the supply depot for Bass Strait oil and gas operations since that time.

The facility consists of a marine operations terminal, which includes boat servicing, quays, storage and construction facilities, warehouse and office buildings, the offloading, storage and dismantling of offshore equipment, infrastructure and goods for offshore use. Barry Beach Marine Terminal has a long history of being continuously used as the main operations, maintenance and supply base for Eso's Bass Strait oil and gas operations, including decommissioning activities. It is well placed to support this next phase of Eso's decommissioning program.

**Why an Onshore Reception Centre at Barry Beach Marine Terminal?**

Eso Australia identified Barry Beach Marine Terminal as the preferred ORC to dismantle the facilities given its suitability and existing similar use, as well as its close proximity to the Bass Strait fields to minimise potential higher risks associated with transporting removed structures in open water over long distances.



Barry Beach Marine Terminal is where most of Eso's offshore facilities have been fabricated, offloaded onto barges and transported offshore for installation over the past 50 years. The terminal has the capacity and space to accommodate all Decommissioning Campaign #1 facilities, which will be delivered over a short period of approximately four months. This process is effectively a reversal of the process used to deliver the platforms to their offshore locations.

**Activity description**

Eso is undertaking detailed planning, studies and engineering designs for Decommissioning Campaign #1 to ensure regulatory

submissions comply with regulatory requirements. To support this work, regulatory submissions will be staged based on the following activities:

1. ORC Early Works (site readiness)
2. Transportation, offloading and set-down operations including transit of the removed structures (via HILV or CSVs) in State waters and offloading of the structures at the ORC.
3. Onshore dismantling operations at the ORC.

Detailed studies and engineering works are underway to mitigate potential impacts of Early Works activities.

## Decommissioning Webpage (partial)

Australia

### Decommissioning in the Bass Strait

ExxonMobil Australia is committed to decommissioning our Bass Strait offshore facilities responsibly

Article

8 min read

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The process of decommissioning offshore facilities presents complex challenges. As operator of some of Australia's oldest oil and gas fields, Esso Australia is committed to decommissioning our Bass Strait offshore facilities safely and effectively.

We have substantial experience in safely and effectively decommissioning facilities to achieve positive outcomes across the globe, and we are excited to be part of Australia's growing decommissioning industry.

As we continue to plan for decommissioning our non-producing facilities, we are working with relevant stakeholders to find solutions that balance environmental impacts and benefits with the needs of the community and regulatory requirements.

### Bass Strait Decommissioning Annual Report 2024

2024 Esso Decommissioning Report →

### Our ongoing role in the Gippsland Basin

Esso Australia has been a proud member of the Gippsland community for more than 50 years. During that time, we have delivered highly skilled jobs and business opportunities to the region and created significant, long-lasting economic benefits.

We are managing the decline in Bass Strait oil and gas production by streamlining our operations, transitioning from Australia's oldest oil and gas business to a

## Esso's Consultation Questionnaire

Survey

Esso Consultation Questionnaire

Multiple choice  
94 votes

ExxonMobil Privacy Policy

Open text  
94 votes

Email address

Multiple choice  
94 votes

Which of the following Esso activities would you like to be consulted on:

Multiple choice  
94 votes

How would you prefer us to communicate with you:

Multiple choice  
94 votes

Please select any functions, interests or activities that may apply to you:

Multiple choice  
94 votes

Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Multiple choice  
94 votes

Please select any group(s) you are represented by, a member of, or participate in:

Multiple choice  
94 votes

Do you wish to be consulted through your representative?

Multiple choice  
93 votes

How did you hear about our activities?

Open text  
31 votes • Showing results

Thank you for your participation, your time and feedback is important to us. If you have any specific questions or feedback about any of our activities, please use the Q&A option at ...



Flier



Stakeholder Consultation Gippsland

## Community information sessions



Esso Australia Pty Ltd (Esso), a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, is committed to operating and decommissioning its Bass Strait offshore facilities safely and effectively. If you'd like to know more about our current operations and offshore decommissioning activities, including the Onshore Reception Centre at Barry Beach Marine Terminal, the Esso Consultation Team will be hosting community information sessions on:

- Monday 17 February in **Yanakie**  
Yanakie Hall, Millar Road, Yanakie
- Tuesday 18 February in **Foster**  
Foster War Memorial Arts Centre, Main Street, Foster
- Wednesday 19 February in **Leongatha**  
Leongatha Memorial Hall, 6-8 McCartin Street, Leongatha
- Monday 24 February in **Lakes Entrance**  
On the Wharf Café, Bullock Island, Lakes Entrance
- Tuesday 25 February in **Yarram**  
The Yarram Country Club, 322-340 Commercial Road, Yarram
- Wednesday 26 February in **Sale**  
The Criterion Hotel, 90 Macalister Street, Sale

All the above sessions will run from **5.00pm - 7.00pm** with a presentation about Esso's operations with a focus on decommissioning projects.

Please register your attendance at [consultation@exxonmobil.com](mailto:consultation@exxonmobil.com)



### How to contact us

If none of these sessions work for you, feel free to contact us to ask a question, raise a concern or register your interest to be involved by:

T: +61 3 9261 0000

E: [consultation@exxonmobil.com](mailto:consultation@exxonmobil.com)

### To find out more information

For more information about Esso's Decommissioning activities and other projects, go to the Esso Consultation Hub using the QR Code below or visit:

<https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/australia/our-approach>



### Like to be consulted about these activities?

Please fill in the Esso Consultation Questionnaire in the Esso Consultation Hub to let us know if you'd like to be consulted and any questions or feedback you may have.

© Esso Australia Pty Ltd 2025  
ABN 49 000 018 566

Community Information Session Presentation (February 2025, partial shown)



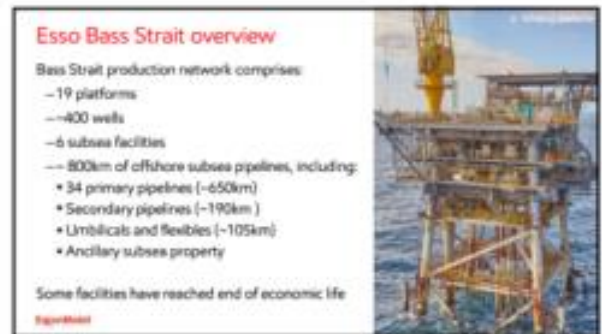
1



4



2



5



3



6

### Removal Activities Staged

Esso's decommissioning activities are staged and managed according to the infrastructure.

- Now - 2030
  - **Campaign #1:** Non-producing platform facilities and Onshore Reception Centre (ORC) at Barry Beach Marine Terminal (BBMT)
  - **Campaign #1A:** Shallow buried umbilicals and flexibles
- 2030+
  - Future campaigns consider Pipelines, Concrete Gravity Structures, Remaining platforms (still in use) and Jacket Bases

Esso/Motil

7

### Preparatory Decommissioning Activities

- Activities are:
  - conducted in accordance with relevant Safety Cases
  - managed through the Bass Strait Environment Plan & other EPs as appropriate
- Specific activities required for facility preparation include:
  - Topsides purge & draining/isolation of liquids
  - Pipeline flushing & cleaning
  - Powering down of the platforms & shutting down systems, including living quarters
  - Air gapping (cutting) of piping & topside structures in preparation for removal
  - Making safe for removal & transport
- Vessels assisting in preparatory activities include:
  - DOF Skandi Darwin
  - Construction Support Vessel such as Allseas Fortitude

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### Regulatory requirements



- Commonwealth waters (>3nm from coastline) are regulated by:
  - National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) under Offshore Petroleum & Greenhouse Gas Regulator (Environment Protection Act 1986)
  - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under Environment Protection (Bore Damaging) Act 1981
  - National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPITA) under Offshore Petroleum & Greenhouse Gas Regulator Act 1986 (Environment Act 1986)
- State waters (<3nm from coastline) are regulated by:
  - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) under Offshore Petroleum & Greenhouse Gas Regulator (Environment Protection Act 1986)
  - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under Environment Protection (Bore Damaging) Act 1981
- Onshore areas are regulated by:
  - Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) under Planning and Environment Act 1987 and Environment Protection Act 1986
  - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under Environment Protection (Bore Damaging) Act 1981
  - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) under Environment Protection (Bore Damaging) Act 1981
  - South Australian Water Council (SAWC) under the Planning and Environment Act 1987
  - Environment Protection Authority (EPA) under the Environment Protection Act 2017

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### Skandi Darwin

- Esso entered into a multi-year agreement with DOF Subsea Australia Pty Ltd to charter the Skandi Darwin as the Multi-Purpose Support Vessel (MPSV)
- The Skandi Darwin is expected to be working in Bass Strait until at least Q3 2025 supporting Preparatory Decommissioning Activities



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## 2. Preparatory Decommissioning Activities

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### Fortitude

- The Fortitude is a Construction Support Vessel (CSV) contracted through Allseas
- The CSV Fortitude or similar vessel is expected to arrive in 4Q 2026 to commence Preparatory Decommissioning Activities & will also support Removal Activities



© Fortitude

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### Removal Activities – Potential impacts and risks

- **Physical presence – Seabed disturbance** resulting from:
  - Creating/clearing access for cutting tools around structures
  - Post decommissioning sediment sampling & visual surveys (remotely operated vehicle (ROV) operating near the seabed)
- **Planned discharges to the marine environment** during lifting of jackets & cutting of pipelines & umbilicals:
  - Residual fluid in pipelines, skimmer pipes & umbilicals will be released during cutting to allow removal of jackets. Fluid is seawater, with minor volumes of residual hydrocarbons, biocide, corrosion inhibitor & water based hydraulic fluid
  - Small quantities of metal particles & titanium-iron oxide-mineral sand (used during historical modifications of Kingfish A & Kingfish B jackets) will be released during cutting & lifting of jackets
- **Noise emissions**
  - Vessels & cutting activities will generate underwater noise due to vessel thrusters & cutting tools

*Excerpted*

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### Campaign #1 - Onshore Reception Centre

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### Onshore Reception Centre at Barry Beach Marine Terminal

Barry Beach Marine Terminal (BBMT) has been selected as the location for the Onshore Reception Centre for Esso's Bass Strait decommissioning.

- Over 50 years, BBMT has served as the main supply depot of Esso to support Bass Strait offshore operations
- Site operator Gube will undertake site readiness activities (early works)
- Recovered infrastructure will be dismantled and transported offshore for recycling
- The dismantling work was recently awarded to local company, CMA Contracting, based in Traralgon



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### ORC - Dismantling

**• Topsides Process**

- Make safe, survey and extraction of residual hazardous materials
- Soft stripping of other materials
- Weakening and controlled collapse of remaining steel structure
- Mechanical dismantling

**• Jacket Process**

- Weakening and controlled collapse
- Removal of the marine growth
- Mechanical dismantling



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### ORC - Site Layout



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### ORC - Recycling and Waste Management

**Recycling and disposal**

- Approx 60,000 tonnes of material from offshore facilities
- >80% of materials are steel
- 95% of the material to be recycled, including steel, copper, wood and plastic



**Waste management**

- Waste streams will be segregated and temporarily stored in suitable containers or enclosures
- Waste will be classified and transported to a lawful facility for recycling / disposal
- Wastewater will be treated using a temporary treatment system. Treated water will be tested to meet the permitted discharge criteria
- All waste will be handled, transported and tracked through to recycling / disposal in accordance with applicable legislative requirements

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### ORC - Studies

• Terrestrial ecology	• Shorebirds and waders
• Cultural heritage	• Benthic habitat and marine ecology
• Infrastructure condition	• Bushfire
• Detailed Site Investigation	• Flood
• Marine water quality monitoring	• Odour
• Road traffic	• Visual amenity
• Noise and vibration	• Social Impact

Studies supporting regulatory approvals will be available along with published submissions.



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### ORC - Potential Impacts and Risks

**• Noise emissions**

- Early works and operational activities will generate noise

**• Light emissions**

- Artificial light may be required to maintain operational safety (all stages)

**• Dust emissions**

- Generated during early works and dismantling of the removed infrastructure

**• Odour**

- Generated as a result of the decay of marine growth present on removed infrastructure

**• Traffic movements**

- During early works and operational activities

**• Waste management**

- Recyclable materials (steel, concrete, copper, wood, plastic)
- Organic waste, including marine growth on subsea jackets
- Landfill materials, such as insulation, construction materials, nylon and rubber
- Regulated hazardous waste including residual hydrocarbon, naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM), asbestos, various fibres
- Electrical waste (batteries, lightbulbs, circuit boards, PVT)
- Waste generated may include: Waste oils, Treated wastewater, Regulated hazardous waste

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