

The ExxonMobil logo is positioned in the top right corner of the page. It features the word "Exxon" in a white, sans-serif font, followed by the word "Mobil" in a similar font, with a stylized flame icon integrated into the letter "i". The background of the entire page is a photograph of an offshore oil platform with two large yellow cranes, one of which has the ExxonMobil logo on its side. The platform is situated in the ocean under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

ExxonMobil

INFORMATION BULLETIN
July 2025

CONSULTATION

Producing Environment Plan

Bass Strait operations

Esso is committed to engaging with the communities where we operate and helping our stakeholders understand our business. This information bulletin has been developed as part of Esso's commitment to keep relevant persons and other stakeholders informed of planned activities in Bass Strait and to provide them with sufficient information about the nature and scale of the activity, as well as its potential risks and impacts, so that stakeholders can make an informed decision as to whether their functions, interests or activities are affected.

Overview

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 Mitsui E&P Australia Pty Ltd). These assets comprise of 19 platforms with approximately 425 wells, six subsea facilities and more than 800 kilometres of subsea pipelines.

Esso conducts its Bass Strait activities in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, and accepted Environment Plans (EPs). EPs are developed in accordance with the requirements of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 (Cth) (OPGGGS Act) and require acceptance by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).

An EP is a comprehensive document that describes the existing environment, including relevant persons, and how Esso will undertake activities to avoid, minimise or manage potential environmental impacts to As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and meet regulatory acceptability criteria. Demonstrating ALARP requires a titleholder to implement all available control measures where the cost is not grossly disproportionate to the environmental benefit gained from implementing the control measure.

While preparing an EP, Esso must consult with relevant authorities, persons and organisations whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by the proposed activities (i.e. a relevant person) and provide the opportunity for any feedback.

The currently accepted Bass Strait Environment Plan (BSEP) will be superseded by two EPs known as the **Bass Strait Producing EP** and the **Bass Strait Non-Producing EP**, valid for five years. The purpose of this information bulletin is to assist with stakeholder consultation by outlining the scope and activities within the **Producing EP**.

The current BSEP is publicly available at: info.nopsema.gov.au/environment_plans/470/show_public.

Scope

Esso's Bass Strait facilities are operated in accordance with defined Stages of Petroleum Activity as shown in Figure 1.

In accordance with the OPPGS Act, Esso is developing the Producing EP to manage the environmental impacts and risks associated with the operation and maintenance of producing infrastructure in the 'Production' stage. This includes six offshore platforms, two subsea facilities and associated pipelines. The facilities are:

- Barracouta platform
- Marlin A platform
- Marlin B platform
- West Tuna platform
- Tuna platform
- Snapper platform
- West Barracouta subsea facility
- Kipper subsea facility.

Of these producing facilities, the Barracouta, Tuna and Snapper platforms, West Barracouta subsea facility and associated pipelines will be transitioning to the Cessation of Production and/or Stasis Mode stages, during the valid period of the EP.

Non-producing infrastructure will be included in the Non-Producing EP.

Location

Esso's Bass Strait producing assets are located off Victoria's Gippsland coast in Australia. Esso's facilities are in water depths that range from 38 metres (West Barracouta subsea facility) to 95 metres (Kipper subsea facility). Their distance from the coast ranges from 22 kilometres (West Barracouta subsea facility) to 45 kilometres (West Tuna). Figure 2 shows the location of the Bass Strait facilities in the scope of the Producing EP.

An Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) excludes unauthorised vessels more than 200 tonnes or 24 metres in length from entering the area around the Bass Strait platforms.

→ STAGES OF PETROLEUM ACTIVITY

PRODUCING EP

PRODUCTION



NON-PRODUCING EP

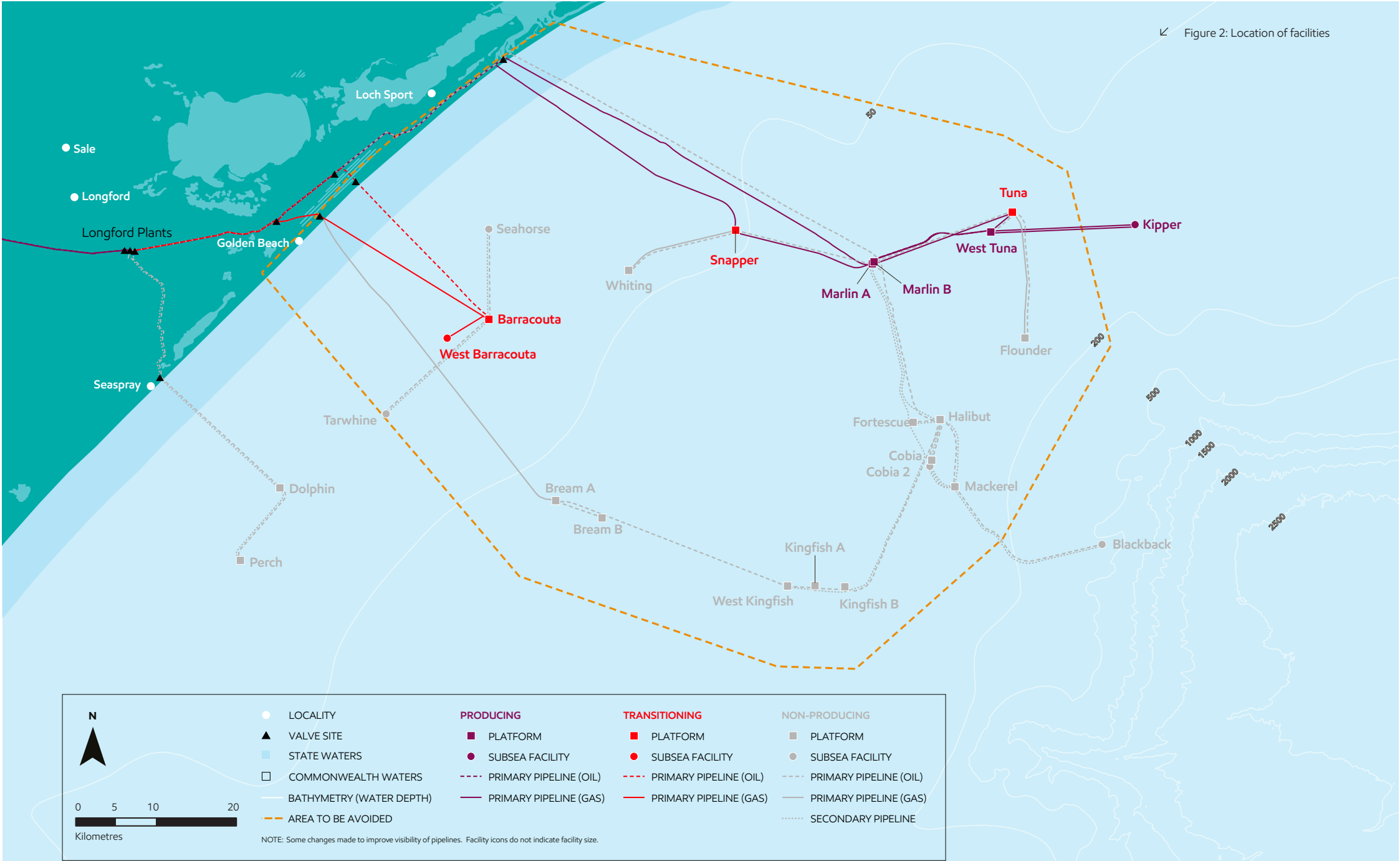
PREPARATORY DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES



FUTURE SCOPES

REMOVAL ACTIVITIES

SURRENDER OF TITLES





↑ Workers at Marlin B platform

The ATBA is defined in Schedule 2 of the OPGGS Act and is administered by NOPSEMA. A traffic separation scheme operates to the south of the ATBA to control coastal shipping.

All Esso Bass Strait producing facilities are located within the ATBA, with the exception of the Kipper subsea facility, and associated pipelines.

Facilities description

Bass Strait producing facilities contain staffed platforms and subsea facilities that have interconnecting pipelines and umbilicals.

Activity description

The Producing EP will include all Production stage activities required for the facilities to produce hydrocarbons (now gas and condensate only), which is then distributed via pipelines. This includes all:

- operations, including platform, subsea facility and pipelines
- wellwork
- inspection, maintenance and repair (IMR), including well integrity testing, structural and corrosion control maintenance/repair as required, and checks on operating systems such as fuel gas, air compressors, crane and lifting equipment, open and closed piles, and safety systems
- support operations, including vessels, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and helicopters.

Petroleum Safety Zones and Notice to Mariners

Each producing platform and subsea facility has a 500-metre Petroleum Safety Zone (PSZ), established by NOPSEMA, in accordance with Section 616 of the OPGGS Act. There is also a 200-metre operational zone around primary and secondary pipelines more than 3 nautical miles from shore (Commonwealth Waters). These PSZs and operational zones are in effect under the current BSEP and will not change in the Producing EP. As such, the existing Notice to Mariners issued by the Australian Hydrographic Service and AUSCOAST warnings issued by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority will continue to apply.

Interaction with commercial fishing

The Producing EP activities are located within existing Commonwealth fisheries that may be used by commercial fishers.

The impacts to commercial fishing will be minimal as fishers are already required to avoid the established PSZs. Ongoing consultation will continue with the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association and Seafood Industry Victoria on a quarterly basis.

Oil Pollution Emergency Plan

In accordance with the OPGGS Act, Esso must demonstrate and document oil spill response arrangements. The Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) forms part of the Producing EP submission and demonstrates Esso's capability to respond in the unlikely event of an oil spill.

Esso is a member of the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre, a co-operative national oil spill response organisation, which provides access to additional oil spill response resources if required.

Esso's OPEP interfaces with national, state and industry response plans prepared and implemented by the Australian Government via the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (NatPlan), the Victorian Government (Maritime Emergencies (non-search and rescue) Plan), the Tasmanian Government (TasPlan), the NSW Government (NSW Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan) and the Australian Oil industry's Australian Marine Oil Spill Plan (AMOSPlan) administered by the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre.

The OPEP defines spill response options which may be applied to a spill event. The selected spill response option(s) would depend upon the size and type of spill; environmental sensitivities within the spill path; prevailing weather conditions; access restrictions and available resources. In all instances, a Net Environmental Benefit Analysis is undertaken, in consultation with relevant government agencies, to determine the most appropriate spill response option.

Potential impacts, consequences and control measures

Esso's aim is to minimise environmental and social impacts associated with the activities outlined in the Producing EP. As such, Esso has undertaken an initial assessment to identify potential impacts and consequences to the environment and relevant persons resulting from the activities.

For each potential impact, Esso has outlined control measures to assist relevant persons make an informed assessment of possible impacts to their functions, interests or activities.

Table 1: Potential key environmental impacts and control measures - Operations, wellwork, IMR and support operations

POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES	POTENTIAL CONTROL MEASURES
Physical presence - Seabed disturbance	Localised and temporary increase in turbidity; smothering/alteration of benthic habitats near the seafloor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ROVs will inspect the seafloor post wellwork and IMR activities to confirm that no unplanned equipment has inadvertently been left on the seafloor and is removed where practicable.
Physical interaction - Other marine users	Changes to the function, interests or activities of other users through disruption to activities: commercial fishing; recreational fishing; other marine users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSZs are established in accordance with OPGGS Act. Relevant persons whose activities are within activity locations outside of PSZs will be informed in advance of the commencement of activities. Collaboration with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in providing adequate warnings and Notices to Mariners.
Planned discharges to the marine environment ¹	Temporary and localised reduction in water quality; temporary change to predator/prey dynamics; injury/mortality to fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine discharges and vessel waste treatment systems are maintained to international standards. Food scraps will be macerated prior to discharge. Discharged bilge water will have less than 15 parts per million oil in water content. Chemicals planned for discharge will be evaluated to confirm suitability for discharge prior to use. Produced formation water start up procedures will be implemented if required (Marlin B only). Open and closed drains will remain fit-for-purpose.
Noise emissions	Temporary displacement of sound sensitive fauna around active vessels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support vessels and helicopters will comply with Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (Cth) Part 8 Division 8.1 interacting with cetaceans. Noise adaptive management procedures will continue to be implemented where required.
Light emissions	Temporary and localised changes in ambient light; attraction of light sensitive species; change in fauna behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting will be kept to a minimum while still meeting navigational and workplace safety requirements. Lighting will be used in accordance with the <i>National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife</i>.
Air emissions, flaring and venting	Temporary and localised reduction in air quality; contribution to the global greenhouse gas effect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions. Ongoing maintenance of all emissions generating equipment onboard platforms and vessels. Implementation of emission reduction strategies. Efficient flare combustion.
Waste management	Contribution to onshore landfill; air, water and land pollution if waste is not managed appropriately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management procedures will continue to be implemented and incorporate consideration of the waste hierarchy and ensure waste is handled, monitored and tracked in accordance with applicable legislation and transportation and Environment Protection Agency licencing requirements.
Unplanned introduction of invasive marine species	Displacement of native marine species and habitat domination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All vessels will implement a ballast water management plan. All vessels will comply with Australian biosecurity and ballast water management requirements and guidance.

¹ Including treated sewage and food waste; treated bilge and deck wash; cement; cooling water and brine; produced formation water and operational fluids.

Table 1: Potential key environmental impacts and control measures - Operations, wellwork, IMR and support operations continued

POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES	POTENTIAL CONTROL MEASURES
Naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM)	Temporary exposure of marine fauna to radioactive material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If production tubing is removed from a well, it will be tested for NORM. Any NORM found will be treated as prescribed waste and transported to shore in accordance with the waste management procedures, and handled onshore in accordance with waste management protocols at Barry Beach Marine Terminal.
Unplanned interaction with marine fauna	Impacts to marine fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support vessels will comply with Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (Cth) Part 8 Division 8.1 interacting with cetaceans. Injury/mortality of <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) - listed fauna will be reported to appropriate regulatory departments.
Accidental or unplanned release of materials, chemicals; hydraulic fluids, drain systems and/or waste/dropped objects	Temporary and localised change in water quality and marine ecosystems; physical harm to marine fauna resulting from ingestion, inhalation or skin contact with hydrocarbons; potential toxicity impacts; injury/mortality to fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil and chemical stores are bunded and located within a deck bund. Chemicals not approved for discharge are stored away from drains/piles. All personnel are made aware of spill cleanup requirements and spill kit locations during induction process. All equipment including level indicators and pumps undergo regular IMR per existing programs. Waste handling, storage and disposal procedures are in place. Lifting equipment will be certified and routinely maintained per IMR program. Lifting plans and procedures are in place. Subsea materials register is in place to track unplanned dropped objects that cannot be immediately retrieved. Bulk transfer equipment and procedures will meet the international <i>Guidelines for Offshore Marine Operations</i> requirements and equipment will be routinely maintained.
Vessel collision resulting in unplanned release of hydrocarbons (marine gas oil)	Impacts to water quality and marine ecosystems; temporary closure of areas (fishing grounds, beaches); visual amenity; physical harm to marine fauna resulting from ingestion, inhalation or skin contact with hydrocarbons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSZs are established in accordance with the OPGGS Act. Navigational aids and communication systems are in place. Compliance with legislative requirements for the prevention of vessel collisions and safety and emergency arrangements. Emergency response preparedness plans are in place.
Loss of containment from a pipeline	Temporary and localised change in water quality; injury/mortality to fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pipeline IMR program is implemented and includes corrosion and leak detection monitoring and annual integrity reporting. An OPEP is in place and will be implemented as required.
Loss of well control	Potential toxicity; oiling of fauna; reduction in visual aesthetic; socioeconomic impacts to the fishing and tourism industries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A NOPSEMA accepted Well Operations Management Plan is in place which provides well integrity assurance. Esso wellwork execution manual/surface well control equipment manual requirements, including details of well workover plans will be implemented. NOPSEMA accepted Safety Case including planned maintenance of pressure well control equipment, testing of well control equipment and validation of activity specific safety critical equipment will be in place prior to commencement of activities. Emergency Preparedness and Response Manual is in place and includes: OPEP, Operational and Scientific Monitoring Plan and Source Control Plan.

Environment That May Be Affected

The Environment That May Be Affected (EMBA) is the largest spatial extent where the activities could potentially have an environmental consequence (direct or indirect impact). For this activity, the broadest extent of the EMBA takes into consideration planned and unplanned activities and is determined by a highly unlikely release and exposure to hydrocarbon, including trace concentrations of oil in the water column, as a result of any spill from this activity.

This area takes into account the merged area of many possible paths a hydrocarbon release could travel depending on the weather and ocean conditions at the time of the release. This means in the highly unlikely event a hydrocarbon release does occur, an individual spill would affect a significantly smaller area.

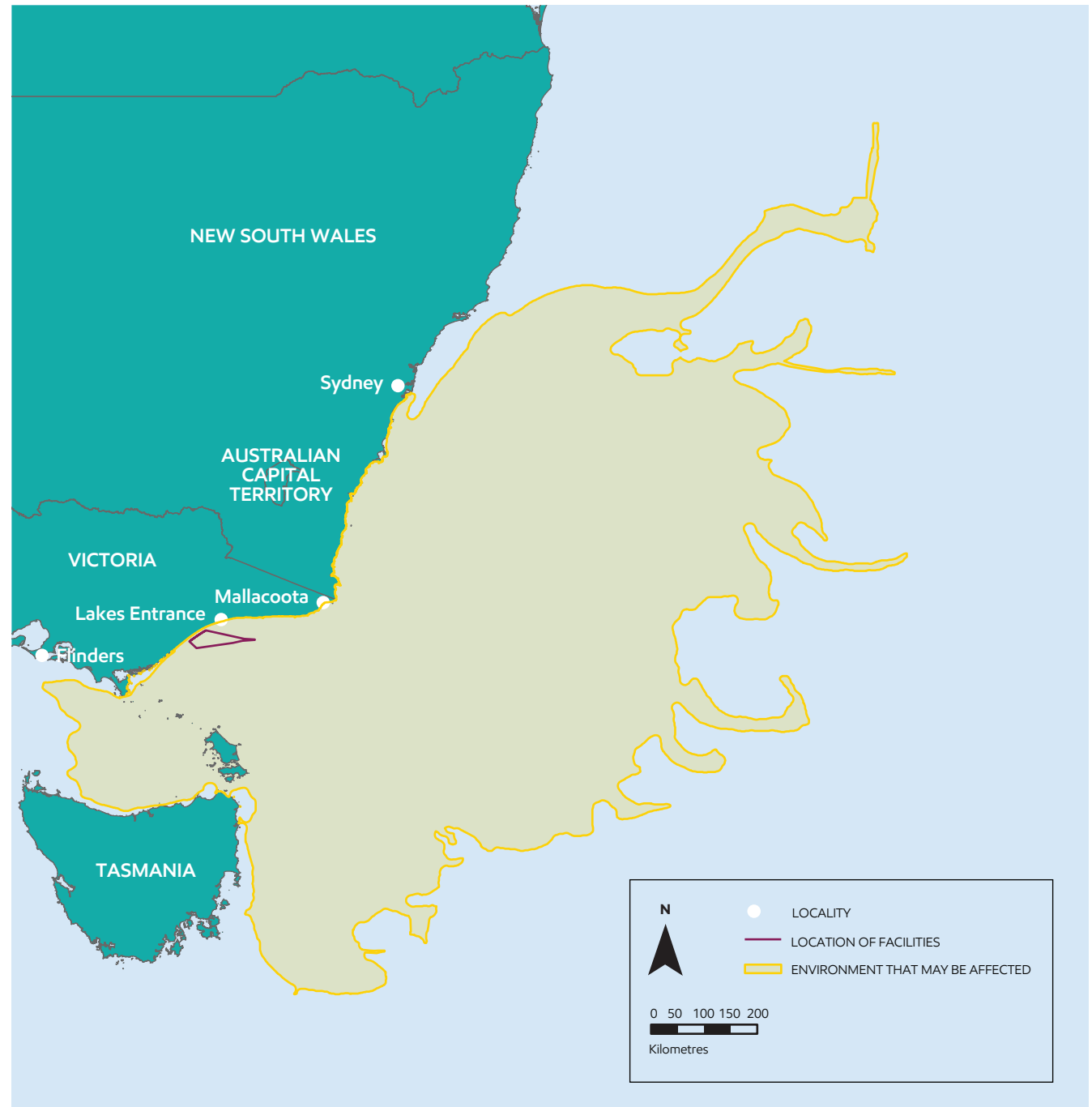
For this activity, Esso has defined the EMBA on the furthest feasible extent (lowest exposure zone) from the release location of all modelled scenarios where hydrocarbon thresholds, including surface, entrained and dissolved aromatic hydrocarbons could be exceeded.

Consultation

Esso is committed to ongoing engagement with the communities where we operate. Your functions, interests and activities may mean you, your business or your organisation are a relevant person for these activities. Your participation will help Esso to better understand the impacts and risks that may arise from the Producing EP activities. As such, we're seeking your feedback as we develop the Producing EP. Please note that your feedback and our response will be included in the Producing EP, which will be submitted to NOPSEMA for acceptance in accordance with the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023 (Cth).

Please let us know if your feedback is sensitive and we will make this known to NOPSEMA upon submission of the EP in order for this information to remain confidential to NOPSEMA. Esso will communicate any material changes to the proposed activity to relevant persons as they arise.

If you would like to comment or would like additional information, please contact us.





How to contact us

For more information, visit our Consultation Hub using the QR Code below, or contact our Consultation team at:

T: +61 3 9261 0000

E: consultation@exxonmobil.com

W: corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/australia



Scan to access the
Consultation Hub and
Esso Consultation Questionnaire

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Acknowledgement of traditional owners



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.