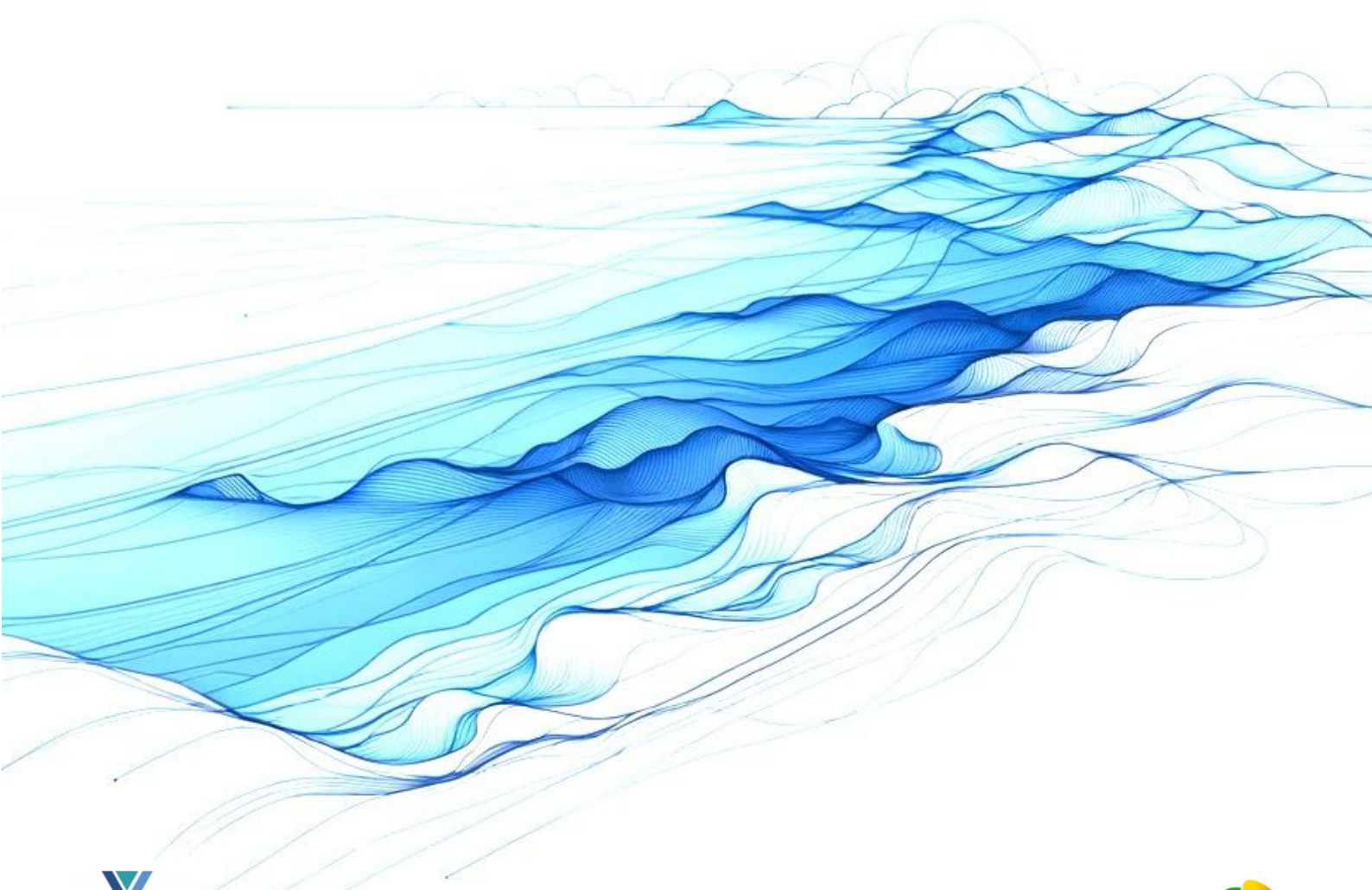
REGIA
Marine Seismic Survey

Risk Assessment
Accidental Release of Materials or Waste Overboard

Appendix D1: REG-EP-016-D1

Rev 5

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Klarite

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1 Introduction

Accidental release of material and waste overboard was identified through the Preliminary Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment (**PEIRA**) (Appendix B4) as an aspect needing further assessment. Hence, this document presents a detailed examination of **Accidental Release of Materials and Waste Overboard** as a risk pathway between the Regia Marine Seismic Survey (**Regia MSS**) and the existing environment that may be affected by that aspect.

1.1 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this document is to assess all relevant sources of information to provide clear outcomes around levels-of-impact, and any associated mitigation and management measures that may be needed.

This is the second stage of the environmental assessment. Its purpose is to rank the impact according to the criteria set out in the Environmental Assessment Process found in Appendix B3. The purpose of this stage is to demonstrate that the impact can be managed to an acceptable level through the adoption of mitigation measures and the setting of an appropriate environmental performance outcome.

Any measures adopted, either through consultation or because of the assessment will be carried through to stage three of the overall process when the ALARP assessment occurs. Recommendations will be made if there is any further assessment required in the third stage.

1.2 Consultation in Preparation of the EP

This document was first published in draft form to the Document Library of the Regia MSS Consultation Hub on 11 September 2023. This was done to acknowledge that the final full Environment Plan (EP) can be a large document that is difficult for readers to digest in the 30-day public comment period. As such, the public and relevant persons were invited to comment on the document with an explicit request for readers to provide feedback on:

- The accuracy of the described environment that may be affected.
- Any omissions of environmental values and sensitivities relevant to the environmental aspect.
- Any errors or omissions of scientific/peer reviewed literature that should be considered.
- Any errors or omissions of relevant legislation or documents of standing that should be considered.
- Any further mitigation or management measures that should be considered.

Up to 22 December 2023, there were no specific comments received on the content of the document.

2 Aspect – Accidental Release of Materials or Waste Overboard

2.1 How the Aspect Occurs

An accidental release of materials or waste may occur from the seismic and support vessels.

No materials or solid wastes will be disposed at sea from vessels undertaking the Regia MSS.

2.2 Extent and Duration of the Aspect

Duration: 90 days

Extent: Operational Area

The extent of the area where the risk of an accidental release of materials or waste may occur is within the Operational Area and the risk could occur while the activity is undertaken.

3 Cause-Effect Pathway

The PEIRA (Appendix B4) identified a cause-effect pathway for an accidental release of materials or waste for the following environmental components and their social, cultural, and economic features:

- Water quality
- Benthic assemblages
- Birds
- Sharks
- Marine reptiles
- Marine mammals
- Coastal developments
- Commercial fishing and aquaculture
- People and communities
- Marine protected areas
- Marine industries

The PEIRA identified that risk of an accidental release of materials or waste to the following environment components was ranked as having a negligible level of effect and are not assessed further in this section:

- Water quality
- Benthic assemblages

There is the potential for materials or waste to be accidentally released overboard due to open bins, crane operator error or improper storage or handling. Materials or wastes that could potentially be released overboard are typically inert such as paper, cardboard, foam (earplugs) and plastics (wrapping material, hard hats). These materials or waste could pose a risk marine fauna via ingestion or entanglement. They may also result in visual pollution in the ocean and on shorelines impacting the values of coastal developments, indigenous culture, and marine protected areas.

Larger dropped objects may also occur such as loss of towed equipment (streamers, acoustic sources, paravanes for streamer steering) and sea containers. These may pose a navigational or entanglement hazard to commercial fishers and other marine users.

4 Description of the Existing Environment that May be Affected by the Activity

As detailed in Section 2.2, the Operational Area has been adopted as the extent of the area wherein an accidental release of materials or waste may occur.

To identify the presence of those species that may be at risk of ingestion or entanglement with materials or waste accidentally released overboard (birds, dolphins, pinnipeds, sharks, turtles, whales) a Protected Matters Search (PMST) was undertaken for the Operational Area with the report available in Appendix B5. Annex 3 details those species identified, any biologically important areas and conservation advice or management plans.

PMST searches were run again prior to resubmission to ensure any changes to species or listings were identified to control for passage of time. Conservation Advice has also been updated for several species and subsequent changes throughout the EP have been made to account for these updates. Changes relevant to the assessment of an accidental release of material or waste include:

- Changes to EPBC Act status of several bird species
  - Red Knot is listed as Vulnerable (previously Endangered)
  - Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is listed as Vulnerable (previously not listed as threatened)
  - Sooty Shearwater is listed as Vulnerable (previously not listed as threatened)
- Updates to conservation advice for several bird species
  - Conservation Advice for *Calidris canutus* (Red Knot) (DCCEEW 2024)
  - Conservation Advice for *Calidris acuminata* (Sharp-tailed Sandpiper) (DCCEEW 2024a)
  - Conservation Advice for *Ardenna grisea* (Sooty Shearwater) (DCCEEW 2023i)
  - Conservation Advice for *Calidris ferruginea* (Curlew Sandpiper) (DCCEEW 2023m)
  - Conservation Advice for *Numenius madagascariensis* (Far Eastern Curlew) (DCCEEW 2023n)

These changes have been incorporated throughout the EP and the risk assessment has been revised accordingly. [Section added in response to Matters: I16 and I17]

Information is provided for those species undertaking biologically important behaviour within the Operational Area as these species are more likely to be at risk from ingestion or entanglement with materials or waste accidentally released overboard.

4.1 Birds

The PMST Report identified multiple bird species or species habitat within the Operational Area. provides a summary of the PMST Report. Several of these bird species were identified to be undertaking biologically important behaviours and/or have BIAs within the Operational Area. No habitats critical to the survival of the bird species were identified within the Operational Area.

The orange-bellied parrot, which is critically endangered is likely to migrate through the Operational Area, however, it does not land at sea or use coastal areas as habitat so risks to this species are not predicted from marine debris.

Seabirds that forage at sea are more likely to encounter marine debris and hence are discussed further in this section.

Several albatross species were identified as foraging behaviour likely within the Operational Area with the White-capped Albatross identified as foraging behaviour known to occur. In addition, the following albatross species have foraging BIAs within the Operational Area:

- Antipodean (*Diomedea antipodensis*) – Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-059
- Black-browed (*Thalassarche melanophris*) - Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-060
- Buller's (*Thalassarche bulleri*) - Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-071
- Campbell (*Thalassarche impavida*) - Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-061
- Indian Yellow-nosed (*Thalassarche carteri*) - Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-063
- Shy (*Thalassarche cauta*) - Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-066
- Wandering (*Diomedea exulans*) - Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-072

These BIAs cover either most or all the South-east Marine Region (CoA 2015a).

Albatrosses and petrels are among the most oceanic of all seabirds and seldom come to land unless breeding (CoA 2022). Albatross and petrel species exhibit a broad range of diets and foraging behaviours, and hence at-sea distributions are diverse. Combined with their ability to cover vast oceanic distances, all waters within Australian jurisdiction can be considered foraging habitat, however the most critical foraging habitat is those waters south of 25° where many species spend most of their foraging time (CoA 2022).

Albatrosses have a widespread distribution throughout the southern hemisphere. They feed mainly on cephalopods, fish and crustaceans, using surface feeding or plunge diving to seize their prey (ACAP 2020). Albatrosses are colonial, usually nesting on isolated islands and foraging across oceans in the winter months with most observations along the edge of the continental shelf (CoA 2022).

The Flesh-footed Shearwater and Northern Giant Petrel were also identified as foraging behaviour likely within the Operational Area. No BIAs for these species occur within the Operational Area. The Common Diving-petrel (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-062), Short Tailed Shearwater (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-065) and Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-067) were identified as having foraging BIAs within the Operational Area.

Petrels are oceanic and have a widespread distribution throughout the southern hemisphere. They are colonial and breed on sub-Antarctic and Antarctic islands in a circumpolar band generally between 40°S and 60°S. Petrel species feed on small fish, cephalopods (octopus, squid and cuttlefish) and crustaceans along the edge of the continental shelf and open waters (CoA 2022).

The Australasian Gannet was also identified as having a foraging BIA within the Operational Area (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-073). The Australasian Gannet generally feeds over the continental shelf or inshore waters. Their diet is comprised mainly of pelagic fish, but also squid and garfish. Prey is caught mainly by plunge-diving, but it is also seen regularly attending trawlers (CoA 2015a).

Several shorebirds were identified from the PMST Report as being present in the Operational Area with the Australian Fairy Tern and White-fronted Tern identified as foraging behaviour likely within the Operational Area. Threatened shorebirds that may occur within the Operational Area are the Australian Fairy Tern, Curlew Sandpiper, Eastern Curlew, Red Knot and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. These species are commonly found on coastal shores including beaches and rocky shores and either feed at low tide on worms, crustaceans and molluscs or fish species or feed on aquatic biota. Many of the wader species are migratory travelling from the Northern Hemisphere in non-breeding months. Most inhabit intertidal mudflats, rocky islets, sand beaches, mangroves, rocky coastline, and coral reefs. Roosting occurs in similar habitats and species are found feeding on fish, crustaceans, aquatic insects, as well as plants and seeds (Higgins & Davies 1996).

4.2 Pinnipeds

The PMST Report identified the Australian Fur-seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus*) as likely to occur within the Operational Area, while the Australian Sea-lion (*Neophoca cinerea*) and the New Zealand Fur-seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*) may occur. No biologically important behaviours or BIAs were identified within the Operational Area for these species.

4.3 Sharks

The PMST Report identified five shark species, that may (School - *Galeorhinus galeus*), are likely (Porbeagle - *Lamna nasus*, Mako - *Isurus oxyrinchus*, Little Gulper - *Centrophorus uyato*) or are known (White - *Carcharodon carcharias*) to occur within the Operational Area. A foraging BIA was identified for the White Shark only (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-027).

The White Shark is listed as Vulnerable. White Sharks are long-lived, living for 30 years or more (Bruce and Bradford 2008), and are found throughout temperate and sub-tropical regions in the northern and southern hemispheres (Last & Stephens 2009). The species is also commonly found in inshore waters in the vicinity of islands, and often near seal colonies (Malcolm et al. 2001). The foraging BIA that is within the Operational Area is centred on Lady Julia Percy Island which is a known seal breeding colony.

4.4 Turtles

The PMST Report identified three turtle species, that may (*Chelonia mydas* - green) or are likely (*Dermochelys coriacea* - leatherback and *Caretta caretta* - loggerhead) to occur within the Operational Area. No BIAs or habitat critical to the survival of the species were identified.

4.5 Dolphins and Whales

The PMST Report identified several dolphin and whale species that are known, likely or may occur within the Operational Area. Table D1-1 details those species that have biologically important areas or biologically important behaviours identified within the Operational Area.

Table D1-1: Cetacean Species Biologically Important Behaviours and/or BIAs within the Operational Area

Receptor	Biologically Important Behaviour
Blue Whale	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour known to occur within area
	Foraging (annual high use area) BIA (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-016)
Fin Whale	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour known to occur within area
Pygmy Right Whale	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area
Sei Whale	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour known to occur within area
Southern Right Whale	Breeding known to occur within area
	Migration BIA (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-085)

4.5.1 Blue whale

The Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) is listed as an endangered species under the EPBC Act. There are two subspecies of blue whales that use Australian waters (including Australian Antarctic waters), the Pygmy Blue Whale (*B. m. brevicauda*) and the Antarctic Blue Whale (*B. m. intermedia*). The Otway region, where the Operational Area is located, is an important migratory and foraging area for Blue Whales, as shown by passive acoustic monitoring and aerial surveys (Gavrilov 2012, McCauley et al. 2018, Gill et al. 2011). Underwater acoustic monitoring programs have detected Antarctic and Pygmy Blue Whale calls in the Otway Region (McCauley et al. 2018).

Important foraging grounds for Blue Whales include the Great Australian Bight, South Australia, and off Portland Victoria. Research to date has found that Pygmy Blue Whales occupy the western area of the Bonney Upwelling system in the Eastern Great Australian Bight and adjacent to the Kangaroo Island canyons from November and December (DoE 2015c). Pygmy Blue Whales then move south-east to the Bonney Upwelling system off eastern South Australia and Victoria (e.g., between Robe, SA and Cape Otway, Vic). This occurs predominately between January to April (DoE 2015c).

The Blue Whale was extremely abundant until the early 20th century when they were hunted to near extinction. Approximately 341,830 Blue Whale takes were recorded by commercial whaling in the

Antarctic and sub-Antarctic in the 20th century, of which 12,618 were identified as Pygmy Blue Whales (Branch et al. 2004). The current global population of Blue Whales is uncertain but is plausibly in the range of 10,000 to 25,000, corresponding to about 3-11% of the 1911 estimated population size (Reilly et al. 2008).

The Operational Area is within the foraging (annual high use) BIA where Pygmy Blue Whales predominately occur between January to April (DoE 2015c) (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-068).

4.5.2 Fin whale

The Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) is a cosmopolitan migratory species that is listed as vulnerable and occurs from polar to tropical waters but is rarely sighted in inshore waters. Fin Whales show well defined migratory movements between polar, temperate, and tropical waters which are essentially north–south with little longitudinal dispersion.

While Australian Antarctic waters are important feeding grounds for Fin Whales, the species also feeds in the Bonney Upwelling during summer/autumn sometimes in the company of Blue and Sei Whales (DCCEEW 2023b). Areas of upwelling and interfaces with mixed and stratified waters may be an important feature of Fin Whale feeding habitat with the species feeding on planktonic crustacea, krill, some fish, and cephalopods (DCCEEW 2023b). Fin Whales frequently lunge or skim feed at or near the surface and they are known to dive to 230 m to feed.

There are no BIAs for the Fin Whale within Australian waters. Fin Whales are likely to be foraging in the Operational Area at similar time as Blue Whales, predominately occur between January to April.

4.5.3 Pygmy Right Whale

The Pygmy Right Whale (*Caperea marginata*) is a little-studied baleen whale species that is found in temperate and sub-Antarctic waters in oceanic and inshore locations. No population estimates are available for Pygmy Right Whales globally, or in Australian waters (DCCEEW 2023p). The species has never been hunted commercially and is listed as a migratory species under the EPBC Act.

Species distribution in Australia is found close to coastal upwellings and the Subtropical Convergence may be important for regulating distribution (Bannister et al. 1996). Key locations include south-east Tasmania, Kangaroo Island (SA) and southern Eyre Peninsula (SA) close to upwelling habitats rich in marine life and zooplankton upon which it feeds (Bannister et al. 1996).

There are no BIAs for the Pygmy Right Whale within Australian waters. Pygmy Right Whales are likely to be foraging in the Operational Area at similar time as Blue Whales, predominately occur between January to April.

4.5.4 Sei Whale

The Sei Whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*) is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act. Sei Whales are considered a cosmopolitan species, ranging from polar to tropical waters, but tend to be found more offshore than other species of large whales. Sei Whales move between Australian waters and Antarctic feeding areas; subantarctic feeding areas (e.g. Subtropical Front); and tropical and subtropical breeding areas. The proportion of the global population in Australian waters is unknown as there are no estimates for Sei Whales in Australian waters.

In Australia, Sei Whales occur within Australian Antarctic Territory waters and Commonwealth waters, and have been infrequently recorded off Tasmania, NSW, Queensland, the Great Australian Bight, Northern Territory and Western Australia (Parker 1978, Bannister et al. 1996, Thiele et al. 2000, Chatto and Warneke 2000, Bannister 2008).

Sightings of Sei Whales within Australian waters includes areas such as the Bonney coast upwelling (Miller et al. 2012), where opportunistic feeding has been observed between November and May (Gill et al. 2015).

There are no BIAs for the Sei Whale within Australian waters. Sei Whales are likely to be foraging in the Operational Area at similar time as Blue Whales, predominately occur between January to April.

4.5.5 Southern Right Whale

The Southern Right Whale (*Eubalaena australis*) is listed as endangered under the EPBC Act. Southern Right Whales were depleted to less than 300 individuals globally due to commercial whaling in the 19th and 20th centuries (Tormosov et al. 1998). They were protected from whaling in 1935 however, due to illegal whaling in the 1970s and because Southern Right Whales have a slow rate of increase (7% per annum) compared to other marine mammals, their numbers remain low (IWC 2013). Global abundance estimates are 13,000 for the species, across key wintering grounds in South Africa, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand.

Southern Right Whales are distributed in the Southern Hemisphere with a circumpolar distribution between latitudes of 16°S and at least 65°S. They migrate from southern feeding grounds in sub-Antarctic waters to Australia in between May and November to calve, mate and rest (Bannister et al. 1996, DCCEEW 2022). In Australian coastal waters, they occur along the southern coastline of the mainland and Tasmania and generally extend as far north as Sydney on the east coast and Perth on the west coast (CoA 2012). There are occasional sightings further north, with the extremities of their range recorded at Hervey Bay and Exmouth (CoA 2012).

The largest established calving areas in Australia include Head of Bight in SA, and Doubtful Island Bay and Israelite Bay in WA. Smaller but established aggregation areas regularly occupied by Southern Right Whales include Yokinup Bay in WA, Fowlers Bay in SA and the Warrnambool and Portland in Victoria. Emerging aggregation areas include Flinders Bay, Hassell Beach, Cheyne/Wray Bays, and Twilight Cove in WA, and sporadically occupied areas include Encounter Bay in SA. Southern Right Whales generally occupy shallow sheltered bays within 2 km of shore and within water depths of less than 20 m (Charlton et al. 2017).

The Operational Area overlaps the Southern Right Whale Migration BIA where the whales are present between April and October (AMSIS 2025, formerly National Conservation Values Atlas (NCVA)) (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-085).

4.6 Coastal Developments

No coastal developments are within the Operational Area. The closest coastal developments to the Operational Area are the towns of Port Campbell, Port Fairy, and Warrnambool. The Great Ocean Road, a major tourist draw card is popular for its pristine beaches. The nearest coastline is ~ 7 km from the Operational Area.

4.7 Commercial Fishing and Aquaculture

No aquaculture is undertaken within the Operational Area.

Based on the Commercial Fisheries Analysis report (Appendix B6), the Operational Area overlaps the following commercial fisheries that have catch effort:

- Commonwealth
    - Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery following sectors:
    - Shark Gillnet sector
    - Trawl – otter board
    - Southern Squid Jig Fishery
- Victorian:
    - Giant Crab
    - Multi-species Ocean

- Octopus
- Southern Rock Lobster
- Wrasse

4.7.1 Commonwealth Fisheries

4.7.1.1 Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF)

The Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) stretches south from Fraser Island in southern Queensland, around Tasmania, to Cape Leeuwin in southern Western Australia. Information on the Shark Gillnet Sector and Commonwealth Trawl Sector are from the Fishery Status Reports (Patterson et al. 2022).

The Shark Gillnet Sector is part of the Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector of the SESSF. Most fishing in the sector using nets occurs in Bass Strait targeting Elephantfish, Gummy Shark, Sawsharks and School Shark. Fishing is generally concentrated east of King Island. In the 2021-22 fishing season there were 32 active trawl vessels.

The Commonwealth Trawl Sector of the SESSF extends south from Barrenjoey Point in northern New South Wales to east of Kangaroo Island off South Australia. The Commonwealth Trawl Sector is a multispecies fishery, targeting a variety of fish and shark species. Effort in the fishery is widely distributed. However, since 2007 – after the closure to trawling of most SESSF waters deeper than 700 m – effort has become increasingly concentrated on the shelf (to 200 m) rather than on the slope. In the 2021-22 fishing season there were 27 active gillnet vessels.

4.7.1.2 Southern Squid Jig Fishery

A single species fishery targeting Gould's Squid (*Nototodarus gouldi*) that operates year-round. Portland and Queenscliff are the major Victorian landing ports. Jigging typically occurs midwater at depths between 50 and 100 m at night using large lights that illuminate the waters around a boat. In 2021 there were eight active vessels in the fishery with the landing ports being Triabunna (Tasmania); Queenscliff and Apollo Bay (Victoria) (Patterson et al. 2022).

4.7.2 Victorian Fisheries

4.7.2.1 Giant Crab

A small fishery operating in western Victoria and closely linked with the Rock Lobster Fishery. Most vessels are used primarily for rock lobster fishing with giant crab taken as by-product. Fishing effort is concentrated on continental shelf edge (~200 m deep). Giant crabs (*Pseudocarcinus gigas*) inhabit the continental slope at approximately 200 m depth and are most abundant along the narrow band of the shelf edge. Closed seasons operate for male (15 September to 15 November) and female (1 June to 15 November) giant crabs. Data for 2020/21 is not available due to insufficient data to report because there are less than five licence holders (policy requirement to protect commercial confidentiality of data) (VFA 2021).

4.7.2.2 Multi-species Ocean

The wrasse, inshore trawl, southern rock lobster and giant crab Victorian fisheries can catch gummy shark and school sharks as part of their fishery. Snapper is caught using lines, nets and haul seine. Over 90% of the catch is from Port Phillip Bay, and around 5% from coastal waters. In 2020/21, 45 tonnes were landed but a value could not be provided as there is insufficient data to report because there are less than five licence holders (policy requirement to protect commercial confidentiality of data) (VFA 2021).

4.7.2.3 Octopus

The octopus fishery is a new fishery harvesting mainly pale octopus (*Octopus pallidus*) in East Gippsland. The fishery may also catch maori octopus (*Macroctopus maorum*) and gloomy octopus (*Octopus tetricus*). Octopus are caught using purpose-built unbaited traps. The fishery commenced on 1st August 2020. Three zones have been established for the management of commercial octopus fishing in Victoria. Octopus Fishery Access Licences authorise commercial take of octopus from the

eastern octopus zone where the majority of commercial octopus fishing in Victoria has occurred to date (VFA 2023). The Operational Area is within the western zone where fishing is less established and being managed by the Victorian Fishing Authority through exploratory, temporary permits.

4.7.2.4 Southern Rock Lobster

Victoria's second most valuable fishery with a production value of A$13.6 million in 2020/21 (VFA 2021). Since 2009/10, annual quotas for the western zone that overlaps the Operational Area have been set at between 230 and 260 tonnes and have been fully caught each year (VFA 2023a). In the western zone, most catch is landed through Portland, Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Port Campbell and Apollo Bay. Closed seasons operate for male (15 September to 15 November) and female (1 June to 15 November) lobsters. Southern rock lobsters (*Jasus edwardsii*) are found to depths of 150 m, with most of the catch coming from inshore waters less than 100 m deep (VFA 2023a).

4.7.2.5 Wrasse

The fishery extends the length of the Victorian coastline from high tide mark to 20 nm offshore (VFA 2023b). Fishers mostly use hook and line. Limited entry fishery with 22 current licences. Total annual catch in 2019/20 was 21.5 tonnes (VFA 2023b).

4.8 People and Communities

4.8.1 Social and Economic Features

During consultation, as presented in Annex 2, objections and claims were raised regarding concerns of increased rubbish washing up on local beaches, impacts on commercial fishing and the ecosystem in general, which may impact tourism and local enjoyment of the area.

4.8.2 Cultural Features

Native Title (see Appendix F3, section 3.16) has not been identified to occur within the Operational Area. However, the Operational Area is adjacent to Eastern Maar and Gunditjmara Native Title determinations, including Deen Maar (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-076) and the currently under consultation Nyamat Mirring IPA (GMTOAC, 2023). Deen Maar is culturally significant to both the Gunditjmara and Eastern Maar (Appendix F3, Section 3.16.1). For the Gunditjmara people, Native Title also includes culturally significant sites such as the 'Convincing Ground' (Appendix F3, Section 3.16.1). The Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) with overlap within the Environmental Planning Area are Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

On its northeastern side, the Environmental Planning Area overlaps the tip of the Mornington Peninsula. The peninsula, particularly Point Nepean located at the tip, holds cultural values for the Bunurong people, including story and song (Appendix F3, Section 3.16.1).

Short-tailed shearwaters (mutton birds) are identified as being culturally significant to the Gunditjmara People and are used in harvesting practice (GMTOAC, 2023). Shearwaters are also identified as culturally significant species to the Eastern Maar people, along with gannets and Little Penguins (Appendix F3, Section 3.16.1).

During consultation, the cultural significance of marine flora and fauna, such as the Southern Right Whale, Blue Whale, Killer Whale, dolphins, seals, sea lions and kelp, were highlighted, with connections to songlines, totemic value and kinship, and cultural practices. Other coastal resources, such as shell middens, along with waterways, including estuaries, also hold cultural significance. (Appendix F3, Section 3.16.1). The Bonney Upwelling was also identified as having cultural significance with its current bringing cold nutrient-rich waters that support marine species such as phytoplankton, fish, squid, seals, dolphins, whales, penguins, gannets and other sea birds (GMTOAC, 2023).

The National Recovery Plan for the Southern Right Whale (DCCEEW 2024) provides information on the cultural significance of southern right whales to Indigenous Australians. The plan details:

In Victoria, Koontapool (southern right whales) occur along the coastlines of south-west Victoria in Gunditjmara Sea Country to feed and birth. These Koontapool Woorrkngan Yakeen (Whale Birthing Dreaming Sites), are in coastal bay areas from Port Campbell to Portland, including Warrnambool. These places on Gunditjmara Country are known resting and feeding sites for mothers and calves and are directly related to Gunditjmara Neeyn (midwives), explaining why Gunditjmara is a Matrilineal Nation.

4.9 Marine Protected Areas

No marine protected areas are within the Operational Area (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-078 and MAP-REG-EPM-079).

The closest Australian Marine Parks (AMPs) are the Zeehan Marine Park which is ~49 km and the Apollo Marine Park which is ~36 km from the Operational Area (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-078).

The Operational Area is ~6 km from the Victorian Twelve Apostles Marine National Park (Appendix B12 MAP-REG-EPM-079). The Twelve Apostles Marine Park is managed in conjunction with the Arches Marine Sanctuary under the Management Plan for Twelve Apostles Marine National Park and The Arches Marine Sanctuary (Parks Victoria 2006b) and is classified as IUCN II. The Plan describes the key environmental, cultural, and social values as:

- Unique limestone rock formations, including the Twelve Apostles.
- Range of marine habitats representative of the Otway marine bioregion.
- Indigenous culture based on spiritual connection to sea country and a history of marine resource use.
- Wreck of the Loch Ard (shipwreck).
- Underwater limestone formations of arches and canyons.
- Diverse range of encrusting invertebrates.
- Spectacular dive site.

4.10 Marine Industries

Marine industries within the Operational Area that could be impacted by an accidental release of materials or waste are the offshore energy and shipping.

4.10.1 Offshore Energy

Within the Operational Area is the Beach Energy Otway Development consisting of subsea infrastructure and the Thylacine-A unmanned platform and the Cooper Energy Casino Henry Netherby Development consisting of subsea infrastructure. During the Regia MSS design envelope (1 November 2023 to 31 December 2028) there is the potential for exploration and development activities such as infrastructure inspection, maintenance and repairs campaigns, seabed surveys, seismic surveys, drilling, and infrastructure installation to be undertaken with vessels and drill rigs to support the ongoing energy supply of oil and gas and potentially renewables within the Otway Basin.

4.10.2 Shipping

The South East Marine Region is one of the busiest shipping regions in Australia and Bass Strait is one of Australia's busiest shipping routes. Commercial vessels use the route when transiting between ports on the east, south and west coasts of Australia, and there are regular passenger and cargo services between mainland Australia and Tasmania. Ports Australia provide statistics for port operations throughout Australia's main commercial ports. Based on the latest information (2021) the majority of commercial shipping traffic transiting to and from Victorian ports were container (3,682), general cargo (2,663), bulk liquid carriers (2,019), dry bulk (1,715), car carrier (1,342), bulk gas (220), other cargo (47) and livestock (9).

5 Relevant Legislative and Other Requirements

CGG has considered all the relevant legislative requirements, conservation management and recovery plans that apply to an accidental release of materials or waste, (see Appendix B2).

Measures that will be adopted to demonstrate how these requirements will be met are as follows:

- CGG Marine Assurance System to ensure no waste material is disposed of overboard and that vessels meet all legislative requirements including the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.
- CGG Marine Assurance System to ensure no waste material is disposed of overboard and that vessels have a Garbage Management Plans and Garbage Record Book.
- CGG Marine Assurance System to ensure that in the event of an accidental release of materials or waste the support vessels will search for and retrieve the material or waste where possible and safe to do so
- CGG Marine Assurance System to ensure no waste material is disposed of overboard and that vessels have a Garbage Management Plan and Garbage Record Book, and covered containers for waste that has the potential to be blown overboard.

6 Defining Acceptable Levels of Risk

CGG defined acceptable levels of impact and risk as part of its decision-making processes and published them as part of its consultation efforts, inviting relevant persons to comment on their appropriateness. During the preparation of the EP, it became clear that assessment specific statements would be necessary to create a stronger link between the defined acceptable level and the predictions of impacts and risks.

As such, Table D1-2 shows the general acceptable level statements which cover the whole of the activity (which are consistent across all environmental impacts and risks), and the corresponding assessment specific defined acceptable levels established for this assessment. This enables more relevant and targeted comparisons later in this assessment.

Table D1-2 - General and Aspect Specific Defined Acceptable Levels

Category	Defined Acceptable Level (General)	Defined Acceptable Levels (Specific)	Rationale
Principles of ESD	The petroleum activity results in temporary / reversible, small scale, and/or low intensity environmental damage.	Prevent any accidental release of materials or waste overboard. Recover any accidental release of materials or waste overboard.	This acceptable level will ensure no accidental release of waste or materials will also ensure CGG is compliant with the relevant legislation regarding waste management.
	The impact and risk assessment process are based on sufficient information to understand if: Serious/irreversible environmental damage is predicted; or The application of the precautionary principle is applied in the presence of scientific uncertainty.		
	Environmental management of the activity must not be inconsistent with EPBC Act Management Plans and Recovery Plans.		
Biological	Impacts and risks to biological features will be temporary / reversible, small scale, and/or low intensity environmental damage at population levels.		In the unlikely event of an accidental release of materials or waste overboard plans and measures are in place to prevent any injury or death to threatened species and will also ensure CGG is compliant with the relevant legislation regarding waste management.
Ecological	Impacts and risks to ecological features will be temporary / reversible, small scale, and/or low intensity damage to the overall health, diversity, or functioning of the ecosystem.		

Category	Defined Acceptable Level (General)	Defined Acceptable Levels (Specific)	Rationale
Economic	Affected persons will not be worse off because of the activity.	Industries, livelihoods, and ecosystem services remain viable, with no sustained financial or operational consequences resulting from changes in species behaviour, abundance, or access to resources.	For species and sensitivities with social, cultural and/or economic values, if the potential ecological impact or risk is deemed acceptable, it is likely that the corresponding impact on social, cultural and/or economic values will also be considered acceptable, as the physical presence and health of these species are key for maintaining their social, economic and cultural roles. Predicted levels of impact for species that have social, cultural and economic values will be assessed on a receptor level.
Cultural	Impacts and risks to cultural features including cultural values, traditions, or practices, will be temporary / reversible, small scale, and/or low intensity.	Culturally important species, places, and practices can continue without disruption to their role, accessibility, or long-term viability.	
Social	Measures have been adopted based on the consultation process to address relevant objections and claims of relevant persons. The views of public have been considered in the impact and risk assessment.	People and communities can continue engaging with the natural environment, recreational activities, and heritage values without experiencing long-term or irreversible disruption.	
Company	All reasonably practicable measures have been adopted to reduce environmental impacts and risks. Environmental impacts and risks are consistent with the CGG impact and risk assessment process such that for an impact or risk the effect/ consequence rating is medium or below. The implementation strategy includes specific measures to ensure that measures adopted continue to be effective in managing the impact or risk.	As per the general levels.	CGG is a company familiar with managing the effects of seismic sound on the marine environment, and its global operational history supports the reliability of its internal assessment process. The use of CGG's impact and risk matrix, when consistently applied, has not resulted in unacceptable environmental outcomes, which indicates the process produces conservative and realistic assessment outcomes.

7 Consultation Input

CGG carried out the consultations required by the regulations to:

- Improve the predictive quality of this assessment by seeking relevant person input into the preparation of the EP.
- To verify the description of the environment that CGG produced as part of its environmental assessment process through information provided to CGG by relevant persons.
- Receive objections or claims about the adverse effects of the activity on a relevant person's functions, interests, or activities.

The information received from relevant persons can be found in each relevant person consultation report. It has been considered in the preparation of this assessment.

Objections or claims about the adverse of the effects of the activity can also be found in each relevant person's consultation report. They have been assessed for merit and CGG has written a statement of its response to each objection or claim. Any objection or claim relevant to this assessment and subsequently considered in its preparation can be found in Annex 2.

8 Minimisation of Risks Through Activity Design

As part of planning and design of the activity, several activity limitations were considered in accordance with the hierarchy of controls and through the consultation process (see Annex 2). These limitations were evaluated to determine whether the source of risk could be eliminated or substituted through changes in the timing, technology, or design of the activity. As described in Appendix F3, section 3.16.2, due to the interconnection between the tangible and intangible cultural values, all activity limitations are relevant to safeguarding social, economic, and cultural features and values, ensuring protection across all areas.

8.1 Elimination

Elimination involves removing the source of an impact or risk entirely through changes to the activity design. In the context of release of materials or waste overboard, elimination involves removing or reducing the factors that could lead to this loss of materials or waste. No elimination-based activity limitations were required in this case, as other measures applied were sufficient to reduce the identified risk to an acceptable level.

8.2 Substitution

Where elimination is not viable, substitution involves altering the timing, location, or sequencing of the activity to reduce the likelihood or consequence of the risk. No substitution-based activity limitations were required in this case, as other measures applied were sufficient to reduce the identified risk to an acceptable level. One measure was explored as a preventive approach but was not adopted:

Use of biodegradable materials for consumables used offshore

This would reduce long-term harm in the event of accidental loss. However, the feasibility depends on supply chain availability and compatibility with operational requirements. This substitution was not adopted at this time due to uncertainty about its effectiveness and readiness across all vessel types. Biodegradability may help reduce the consequences and it is better to focus efforts on prevention.

9 Predicted Levels of Risk

9.1 Change to physical condition

An accidental release of materials or waste may pose a risk to marine fauna through ingestion and entanglement. Marine fauna such as birds, pinnipeds, sharks, turtles, dolphins and whales can be severely injured or die from entanglement in marine debris, causing restricted mobility, starvation, infection, amputation, drowning and smothering (DoEE 2018). Seabirds entangled in plastic packing straps or other marine debris may lose their ability to move quickly through the water, reducing their ability to catch prey and avoid predators, or they may suffer constricted circulation, leading to asphyxiation and death. In marine mammals and turtles, this debris may lead to infection or the amputation of flippers, tails, or flukes (DoEE 2018).

Fishing gear (ropes and nets made from synthetic fibres), balloons and plastic bags are the biggest entanglement threat to marine fauna, and plastic bags and utensils are the biggest ingestion risk for seabirds, turtles, and marine mammals (Wilcox et al. 2016). Studies published between 1985 and 2012 identified general plastic as the main debris ingested by marine turtles, followed by soft plastic, rope and styrofoam (Schuyler et al. 2014).

Australia is party to Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), which regulates garbage pollution from ships. The discharge of plastic into the sea has been prohibited under MARPOL Annex V since 1988; the discharge of all types of garbage into the sea, with very limited exceptions (not related to plastics), has been prohibited since 2013. All vessels used for the Regia MSS will comply with the MARPOL requirements with no discharge of solid waste to the marine environment (CGG Marine Assurance System). In addition, waste with the potential to be windblown shall be stored in covered containers (CGG Marine Assurance System) reducing the potential for solid waste to be lost overboard.

If a loss of equipment or streamer occurred, they would not result in an entanglement risk to fauna as they are not flexible enough for fauna to become entangled.

The predicted level of consequence to marine fauna from an accidental release of materials or waste is assessed as minor (consequence may occur to an individual but is unlikely to affect species, populations, or ecosystems) with a likelihood of unlikely (event is possible but not expected to occur under normal circumstances) and the predicted level of risk is assessed as medium.

9.2 Changes to the functions, interests, or activities of other users

In the event of an accidental release of equipment or a streamer which cannot be recovered, if the object was buoyant, it may present a navigation or entanglement hazard to commercial fishers and other marine users. In addition, buoyant objects may become non-buoyant overtime and sink to the seabed, where it may present a snagging hazard for commercial trawling activities and create a potential risk to vessel safety and damage fishing equipment or may require commercial fishers to avoid a localised area for a period to avoid interaction.

Shipments to and from the survey vessel will be stored in containers (~ 10ft). These will be lifted onboard the seismic vessel, emptied, and returned to supply vessel. All containers will be secured on deck. In the unlikely event these are lost overboard, closed container will typically float while open top containers will sink. The loss of equipment or streamers could result in entanglement with other marine user's infrastructure or equipment (i.e., fishing gear, propellers) or damage to fishing, shipping, or other marine industry vessels if hit.

In the event of an accidental release of equipment or a streamer which cannot be recovered, the vessel would notify any known vessels in the area and notify Australian Safety Marine Authority who would provide any navigation warnings if required.

Historically there has been a report that a seismic streamer contacted a production platform. This occurred during extreme weather conditions and the vessel was not undertaking acquisition at the

time. As detailed in the Section 4.10.1: Offshore Energy, the Beach Energy Thylacine-A unmanned platform is within the Operational Area. The platform has a 500 m Petroleum Safety Zone which unauthorised vessels cannot enter. In addition, if due to acquisition requirements any equipment is required to enter the 500 m Petroleum Safety Zone a Simultaneous Operations Plan will be implemented.

The predicted level of consequence to the functions, interests, or activities of other users from an accidental release of materials or waste is assessed as minor (consequences would be minor and temporary (days) but vessels or fishing gear may require some level of repair or replacement) with a likelihood of unlikely (event is possible but not expected to occur under normal circumstances) and the predicted level of risk is assessed as medium.

9.3 Change in aesthetic, social and cultural value

An accidental release of materials or waste may result in visual pollution changing the aesthetic, social and cultural values of coastal developments, marine protected areas such as marine parks, Native Title determined areas and sea country. As detailed in the existing environment though there are no coastal developments or marine protected areas within the Operational Area, materials or waste could move from the offshore area to coastal areas or marine protected areas via wind and currents. The Great Ocean Road, Victorian Twelve Apostles Marine National Park and the towns of Port Campbell, Port Fairy and Warrnambool are along the coast adjacent to the Operational Area. These areas are major tourist draw cards and known for their pristine beaches. Adjacent to the operational area are Native Title determinations for Eastern Maar and Gunditjmara. Native title rights and interests include the non-exclusive rights to access, enter and remain on the land and waters, to camp on areas above the high-water mark, to use and enjoy the land and waters, to protect culturally important places, and to take resources from the land and waters. Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for Point Nepean and the Mornington Peninsula, located in the northeastern extent of the Environmental Planning Area. Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation is the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, whose RAP area includes the coastal area from Aireys Inlet to Queenscliff, overlapping with the northeastern extent of the Environmental Planning Area.

As detailed in the assessment of an accidental release of materials or waste to fauna, Australia is party to Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), which regulates garbage pollution from ships. The discharge of plastic into the sea has been prohibited under MARPOL Annex V since 1988; the discharge of all types of garbage into the sea, with very limited exceptions (not related to plastics), has been prohibited since 2013. All vessels used for the Regia MSS will comply with the MARPOL requirements with no discharge of solid waste to the marine environment (CGG Marine Assurance System). In addition, waste with the potential to be windblown shall be stored in covered containers reducing the potential for solid waste to be lost overboard.

It is unlikely that an accidental release of materials or waste would occur and if it did occur it would be a one-off event that is not predicted to pose a risk to the values of the coastal developments, tourism, marine protected areas, Native Title rights and interests, RAP area or sea country.

9.4 Measures Adopted to Manage Environmental Risks

The following measures have been adopted to ensure that the risks associated with potential release of materials or waste overboard from the survey and support vessels will be of an acceptable level.

These measures have been taken through to the ALARP assessment in the next stage of the CGG assessment process. This assessment can be found in Appendix F2.

Measure	Measure Type	Details and Justification
CGG Marine Assurance System	System	The CGG Marine Assurance System ensure compliance of contract vessels with legislative requirements including the Navigation Act, MARPOL, COLREGS and Marine Orders.
Garbage Management System	System	Australia is party to Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), which regulates garbage pollution from ships. The discharge of plastic into the sea has been prohibited under MARPOL Annex V since 1988; the discharge of all types of garbage into the sea, with very limited exceptions (not related to plastics), has been prohibited since 2013.
Garbage Management Plan	Resource	Vessels 100 gross tonnes (or certified for 15 persons on-board) will have a Garbage Management Plan.
Garbage Record Book	Resource	Vessels ≥400 gross tonnes (or certified for 15 persons on-board) will have a garbage record book.
Support Vessel	Item of Equipment	Throughout the seismic survey, at least one support vessel will be in constant attendance. When safe, assist in the recovery of lost equipment or unintentional garbage discharges.
Streamer Recovery Units	Item of Equipment	Streamers will have recovery units fitted to prevent benthic disturbance and injury to marine fauna in the event of loss.
Consultation Management System	System	If any waste or materials are lost overboard then other marine users should be notified.
Petroleum SIMOPS Plan	Resource	A simultaneous operations plan will be developed if the seismic vessels or any equipment will enter the 500 m Petroleum Safety Zone of the Thylacine-A platform.
OVID Style Inspection	Practice	OVID-Style inspections confirm that the seismic vessel has procedures for streamer inspection, maintenance, deployment, and retrieval.

10 Demonstration Risks Will Be of an Acceptable Level

10.1 Discussion on Principles of ESD

Temporary, Reversible, Small Scale and Natural variation

The risk of accidental release of materials or waste overboard from the petroleum activity is mitigated through stringent industry best practices, such as spill response plans, waste management protocols, and containment procedures. Any accidental release would be managed promptly and effectively, ensuring that the environmental impact remains temporary, reversible, small-scale, and low intensity. This aligns with the principle that the activity will not cause lasting environmental harm.

Based on sufficient information

The impact and risk assessment process is informed by relevant industry guidelines, historical data, and scientific studies on material and waste handling at sea. The process ensures that there is a clear understanding of potential risks and that unplanned releases will be addressed in a timely manner. The precautionary principle is applied where uncertainty exists, ensuring that environmental harm is minimised.

Activity not inconsistent with EPBC Act

The risk management strategies implemented by the petroleum activity comply with the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act and its recovery plans for marine environments. The activity's spill response plans and waste management procedures are aligned with these national frameworks, ensuring that no inconsistency arises between the activity and the EPBC Act.

10.2 Biological and Ecological Categories

The release of materials or waste overboard could have potential biological impacts on marine species and ecosystems, such as contamination or disruption of habitat. However, the risk is considered low due to the proactive measures in place to prevent or mitigate such releases. Should an accidental release occur, it is anticipated to cause only temporary and reversible damage at the population level, with no significant disruption to biodiversity or ecosystem health. The containment and recovery protocols will ensure that the environmental impact is small-scale and recoverable.

10.3 Discussion on Economic, Cultural and Social Categories

The accidental release of materials or waste overboard could impact industries reliant on clean marine environments, such as commercial fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism. However, the likelihood of such releases is minimized by robust waste management practices. Furthermore, any potential impacts are expected to be temporary, and mitigation measures ensure that industries, livelihoods, and cultural practices continue without significant disruption. For species with cultural, social, or economic value, the potential impacts of the release are considered low, with no long-term harm anticipated to these key resources or their associated industries.

10.4 Discussion on Consistency with Company Processes

The environmental management strategies adopted by CGG are consistent with the company's internal impact and risk assessment processes. The company has a strong operational history of managing environmental risks, including those related to waste releases. Spill response plans and waste management practices are aligned with national and international standards, ensuring minimal impact on the marine environment. The application of CGG's impact and risk matrix provides a conservative and reliable evaluation of potential risks, ensuring that any risks associated with accidental releases are kept to an acceptable level. The effectiveness of these strategies will continue to be monitored and adjusted to ensure that they remain effective in managing the risks associated with waste disposal.

This risk assessment has demonstrated that an accidental release of materials or waste causing a change to marine fauna and functions, interests, or activities of other users has a:

- **Predicted level of consequence is minor (2).**
- **Likelihood of an event is unlikely (2).**
- **Predicted level of risk is medium (4).**

11 Environmental Performance Outcomes

Defined Acceptable Level (From Section 6)	Environmental Performance Outcome	Rationale
Prevent any accidental release of materials or waste overboard.	No loss of materials or wastes overboard.	Robust waste management protocols and containment procedures reduce the likelihood of any waste entering the marine environment. In the unlikely event of a release, these controls ensure that it is detected and prevented from spreading, thereby avoiding environmental contamination.
Recover any accidental release of materials or waste overboard	No death or injury to fauna, including listed threatened or migratory species, from the activity.	Prompt and effective recovery actions following an accidental release minimise exposure of marine fauna to harmful substances. These measures protect the health and safety of marine species, reducing the potential for physical harm, ingestion, or habitat disruption, particularly for sensitive or threatened species.
Industries, livelihoods, and ecosystem services remain viable, with no sustained financial or operational consequences resulting from changes in species behaviour, abundance, or access to resources.	Social, cultural, and economic features are protected, sustaining their value for people and communities.	Effective control and management of waste releases helps maintain healthy marine ecosystems, which are essential to supporting economic activities, cultural practices, and public use of marine areas.
Culturally important species, places, and practices can continue without disruption to their role, accessibility, or long-term viability.		
People and communities can continue engaging with the natural environment, recreational activities, and heritage values without experiencing long-term or irreversible disruption.		

12 Recommendations

The predicted level of risk is medium and below pre-defined acceptable levels. The mitigation and management measures in place provide a reliable prevention mechanism to ensure confidence in the predicted likelihood levels, thus there are no further recommendations.

13 Document Control

Date	Revision	Update
6 July 2023	A	Draft prepared for initial comment
23 August 2023	B	Update based on comments and relevant person feedback
11 Sept 2023	0	Approved for release on Regia MSS website
20 Dec 2023	1	EP submission to NOPSEMA
14 May 2024	2	Updated following public comment and rerun of the PMST search.
31 October 2024	3	Updated following NOPSEMA assessment.
16 April 2025	4	Updated following NOPSEMA OMR 1 Letter
5 December	5	Updated following NOPSEMA OMR 2 Letter

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Annex 1

Public Comment

The following consultation feedback was received since the beginning of the public comment period starting 25 January 2024. Table D1-3 shows how this feedback has been incorporated into the environmental assessments.

Table D1-3 - Public comment input since the beginning of the public comment period starting 25 January 2024.

Matter	Matter ID	Changes made arising from public comment
Matter: Geographic range and all species need to be defined and considered	I16	CGG has considered these claims and has rerun the PMST reports to ensure that all information on the likely/known presence of relevant species within the area, as well as information on their protection status, Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) and behaviours is up to date. The updated PMST reports are provided in full in EP Appendix B5.
Matter: Lack of detail on EPBC-listed species and enforceable measures	I17	CGG has considered these claims and has rerun the PMST reports to ensure that all information on the likely/known presence of relevant species within the area, as well as information on their protection status, Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) and behaviours is up to date. The updated PMST reports are provided in full in EP Appendix B5.

Annex 2

Objections and Claims Raised from Consultation

During the consultation process relevant persons were invited to raise objections and claims about the adverse effects of the activity. An assessment of merit of each objection or claim has been made by CGG which can be found in the consultation report using the Feedback ID number shown in Table D1-4. If an objection or claim had merit and was relevant to this assessment it has been included in the table below.

Table D1-4 – Objections and Claims raised from consultation.

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4043	Concern about increased rubbish washing up on beaches due to activities at sea.	This risk has been thoroughly assessed in D1 and determined to be of a medium risk. There are a number of measures in place to retain garage onboard and crew training in place to lessen the likelihood of waste being accidentally lost overboard.	832
4354	Uncertainty about the full extent of damage to the marine ecosystem.	Titleholder has undertaken a thorough analysis and assessment of all relevant literature to inform its decisions. The MSS will not impact the marine environment within the area of operation. Mitigation plans are in place to reduce any impacts to as low as practicable.	2831
4356	Concerns about the harm and damage to the marine ecosystem.	Titleholder has undertaken a thorough analysis and assessment of all relevant literature to inform its decisions. The MSS will not impact the marine environment within the area of operation. Mitigation plans are in place to reduce any impacts to as low as practicable.	2831
4069	Concerned about the harm being inflicted on oceans by unnecessary gas exploration.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	1673
4075	Concerns about marine life and ecosystems.	The effects of underwater sound have been extensively assessed based on the latest scientific literature. CGG has committed to a variety of protective measures for various marine fauna (see G1)	2117
4085	Concerns of damage to the marine environment by seismic blasting and gas extraction	All available scientific evidence is used to inform the environmental assessment on seismic impacts. There are no impacts identified that will affect the population stability of any taxa.	825

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4103	Expresses strong opposition to the proposed plans for potential oil spills, highlighting significant concern for environmental risks in the area. The individual identifies as a local resident.	Title holder has undertaken a thorough analysis and assessment of all relevant literature to inform its decisions. This includes an assessment of all risks associated with marine spills. There is a comprehensive Oil Pollution Emergency Plan and management and mitigation plans for accidental release of materials or waste overboard.	1022
4104	Feedback expresses that the proposed drilling is close to a marine park, threatening this area. An oil spill could cause irreversible damage, similar to the harm already experienced along much of the coast.	Title holder has undertaken a thorough analysis and assessment of all relevant literature to inform its decisions. This includes an assessment of all risks associated with marine spills. There is a comprehensive Oil Pollution Emergency Plan and management, and mitigation plans for accidental release of materials or waste overboard. Regia MSS is a seismic program not a drilling one.	1022
4128	Lack of adequate monitoring of species present or likely to be impacted.	Title holder has undertaken a thorough analysis and assessment of all relevant literature to inform its decisions regarding species that may be affected by the Regia MSS. The MSS will not impact the population stability of any taxa within the area of operation. Mitigation plans are in place to reduce any impacts to as low as practicable.	3237
4130	Lasting and unrecoverable damage mentioned.	The titleholder acknowledged the feedback, noting that risks and impacts are assessed in the Environmental Plan (EP) and can be found in D1 to D4 and E1 to E9, and F3. Measures to minimise adverse impacts on marine life are outlined in the EP in G1.	4808
4154	Questions a previous statement that indicated there would be no mortal effects from seismic activities.	The titleholder acknowledged the feedback, noting that impacts and risks to the marine environment are assessed in the Environmental Plan (EP) and can be found in D1 to D4 and E1 to E9, and F3. Measures to minimise adverse impacts on the marine environment are outlined in the EP in G1.	2088
4158	Reference to the destruction and degradation of the marine environment observed during diving trips.	The titleholder acknowledged the feedback, noting that impacts and risks to the marine environment are are assessed in the Environmental Plan (EP) and can be found in D1 to D4 and E1 to E9, and F3. Measures to minimise adverse impacts on the marine environment are outlined in the EP in G1.	2830
4166	Risk to the marine environment with the plan.	Titleholder has conducted a series of thorough risk assessments including the following aspects: Accidentl release of waste (D1), Fauna Interactions (D2), Invasive Marine Species (D3) and Accidental release of fuel (D4), wherin which relevant receptors have been assessed.	2677
4175	Seismic blasting is harmful and disruptive to marine life of many species.	The titleholder acknowledged the feedback, noting that impacts and risks to marine life are assessed in the Environmental Plan (EP) and can be found in D1 to D4 and E1 to E9, and F3. Measures to minimise adverse impacts ont marine life are outlined in the EP in G1.	3343

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4176	Seismic blasting negatively affects not only whales but also crucial marine life, including fish, crustaceans, and zooplankton, all of which play vital roles in the marine ecosystem.	The titleholder acknowledged the feedback, noting that impacts and risks to marine life are are assessed in the Environmental Plan (EP) and can be found in D1 to D4 and E1 to E9, and F3. Measures to minimise adverse impacts ont marine life are outlined in the EP in G1.	2074
4177	Seismic blasting would have a significant negative effect on marine creatures and ecosystems.	The titleholder acknowledged the feedback, noting that impacts and risks to marine life are are assessed in the Environmental Plan (EP) and can be found in D1 to D4 and E1 to E9, and F3. Measures to minimise adverse impacts ont marine life are outlined in the EP in G1.	3343
4186	Stakeholder expressed concern about the destruction and depletion of the ocean due to the activity.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	2963
4187	Stakeholder expressed concern about the potentially devastating impact of seismic testing on ocean marine life.	The titleholder acknowledged the feedback, noting that impacts and risks to marine life are assessed in the Environmental Plan (EP) and can be found in D1 to D4 and E1 to E9, and F3. Measures to minimise adverse impacts to marine life are outlined in the EP in G1.	3209
4189	Stakeholder noted concern for harm being inflicted on our oceans by unnecessary gas exploration.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	1653

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4190	Stakeholder noted concern for harm being inflicted on our oceans by unnecessary gas exploration.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	1655
4191	Stakeholder noted concern for harm being inflicted on our oceans by unnecessary gas exploration.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	1659
4192	Stakeholder noted concern for harm being inflicted on our oceans by unnecessary gas exploration.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	1661
4193	Stakeholder noted concern for harm being inflicted on our oceans by unnecessary gas exploration.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	1662

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4194	Stakeholder noted concern for harm being inflicted on our oceans by unnecessary gas exploration.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	1663
4195	Stakeholder noted concern for harm being inflicted on our oceans by unnecessary gas exploration.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	1665
4196	Stakeholder noted concern for harm being inflicted on our oceans by unnecessary gas exploration.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	1667
4197	Stakeholder noted concern for harm being inflicted on our oceans by unnecessary gas exploration.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	1670

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4200	Stakeholder noted that dolphins use clicks and whistles as a complex form of communication, with observations of bottlenose dolphins using distinctive whistles for individuals within their pod, similar to how humans use names. Claimed that blasts from seismic testing could cause temporary and permanent hearing loss in dolphins and whales, citing instance near Peru, where some 900 long-beaked common dolphins and black porpoises washed up dead along a stretch of beach, shown to have had fractures in their ear bones and signs of bleeding from their middle ears. - LINK provided.	A Preliminary Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment is undertaken during an impact assessment process (our PEIRA is available here). The PEIRA is compiled to identify environmental values and sensitivities, to provide an evaluation of the environmental impacts and risks associated with the project. The PEIRA is then used to inform the environmental assessment documents, and as above, the environmental impact and risk treatments, which are being uploaded in the document library. The draft Environmental Impact Assessments are in the document library now, for review and feedback. For transparency we are uploading the entire documents, however if there is a concern you would like a summary or specific information on, please let us know. Further information on marine mammal treatments is covered below in response to concern 6.	2886
4211	Stakeholder stated they were extremely concerned about the risks, damage and destruction caused by exploration activities in the marine environment.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan.	1049
4253	The possible effects to marine life and ecosystems is my primary concern	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	2117

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4259	The proposed works will harm and damage the climate and ocean life.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	2256
4265	The seismic process is going to affect local marine life, ecosystems, and the climate in the community.	Title holder has undertaken a thorough analysis and assessment of all relevant literature to inform its decisions. The MSS will not impact the population stability of any taxa within the area of operation. Mitigation plans are also in place to reduce any impacts to defined acceptable levels and as low as reasonably practicable.	1259
4267	The Stakeholder also objected to the project on the basis that it would impact every marine creature and sea bird.	Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan. Title holder has undertaken a thorough analysis and assessment of all relevant literature to inform its decisions. The MSS will not impact the population stability of any taxa within the area of operation. Mitigation plans are in place to reduce any impacts to as low as practicable.	2064
4274	The stakeholder claims that seismic exploration poses a significant danger to marine life in general. This claim suggests a strong opposition to the practice due to its perceived harmful effects on the marine ecosystem as a whole.	The titleholder publically responded to this interactive map comment explaining that legislative framework in Australia permits some impact from offshore petroleum if it is managed and of an acceptable level. We believe that responsible development of gas is essential for maintaining the current quality of life we all enjoy and ensuring we pass that quality of life on to future generations. Gas is part of the Labour governments energy transition plan.	2107

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4276	The stakeholder does not accept the blasting activity as beneficial or more important than existing marine life and structures.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	2255
4288	The stakeholder objected to the project on the basis that it would impact the Stakeholder personally and every person in the community who love the ocean. Stakeholder noted that they do not support the activity and find it distressing to even think about the damage that could be caused for thousands of creatures and the future of herself, other people of Port Fairy and the greater community.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan.	2064
4291	The stakeholder raised a significant concern regarding the claimed accumulation of debris, including 3 to 4 tons of seismic tubes and electrical wire left behind over the last 20 years, indicating frustration with the environmental impact of past activities.	CGG has completd an assessment of the risks arising from the loss of waste and materials overboard. CGG has made a commitment to recover streamers that become detached and has streamer recovery units fitted to enable a support vessel to recover the equipment.	5189
4301	The stakeholder stated that the proposed activity is environmentally unsound irrespective of the assessment process and predicted environmental risk.	Petroleum activities do not operate to a no-impact standard. Instead, the Regia MSS is required to define the acceptable levels of impact and risk, and work below those levels. Acceptable levels of impact are established based on relevant up-to-date technical and scientific studies, government advice, and are considerate of the information gathered through the consultation process. This information is used to make predictions of the levels of impact we expect to occur and compares those to the previously defined acceptable levels and is presented in the Environment Plan	1747

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4315	The statement suggest that the significant harm caused by seismic activity to marine life and commercial fisheries, along with the existing natural gas supplies and climate change issues, renders the industrialisation of Port Fairy's coastline unacceptable. It emphasises community disapproval of allowing major oil companies to profit at the expense of the local environment and tourism.	We believe impacts from our activity can be managed to below acceptable levels. Further development of the offshore area would be subject to multiple future approvals. The visual impact from this survey would be temporary and similar to the shipping/fishing activity that already occurs in the region (Event ID 2076).	2076
4358	The stakeholder was concerned about the impacts on flora and fauna being damaged and killed away from the coastline.	Title holder has undertaken a thorough analysis and assessment of all relevant literature to inform its decisions. The MSS will not impact the population stability of any flora or fauna within the area of operation. Mitigation plans are in place to reduce any impacts to as low as practicable.	2821
4362	Concerns about the lack of environmental reviews of seismic surveys at necessary scales to assess, mitigate and monitor impacts.	The titleholder has undertaken a thorough analysis and assessment of all relevant literature to inform its decisions. The titleholder responded providing links to large scale studies on seismic undertaken in Australian waters and offered to provide individual with impact assessments when they became available.	1389
4363	Stakeholder noted opposition to the harmful effects on marine life and the pristine coast.	The titleholder provided information on identifying potential impacts and risks and putting mitigations in place such as, conducting survey during time of year marine mammals are less likely to be in area, reducing sound source to lowest setting and reducing number of times activated, implementing marine mammal and fish monitoring programs, exclusion zones, following strict NOPSEMA guidelines. Provided link to PEIRA and document library on website.	786
4364	Concern about the future of ocean health for children and sea life, including whale children.	Titleholder responded in Event ID: 1416, describing CGG's commitment to safeguarding marine mammals, the assessment process, regulations and measures currently in place. The stakeholder was provided with consultation information and invited to engage.	1410

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4200	Stakeholder noted that dolphins use clicks and whistles as a complex form of communication, with observations of bottlenose dolphins using distinctive whistles for individuals within their pod, similar to how humans use names. Claimed that blasts from seismic testing could cause temporary and permanent hearing loss in dolphins and whales, citing instance near Peru, where some 900 long-beaked common dolphins and black porpoises washed up dead along a stretch of beach, shown to have had fractures in their ear bones and signs of bleeding from their middle ears. - LINK provided.	"A Preliminary Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment is undertaken during an impact assessment process (our PEIRA is available here). The PEIRA is compiled to identify environmental values and sensitivities, to provide an evaluation of the environmental impacts and risks associated with the project. The PEIRA is then used to inform the environmental assessment documents, and as above, the environmental impact and risk treatments, which are being uploaded in the document library. The draft Environmental Impact Assessments are in the document library now, for review and feedback. For transparency we are uploading the entire documents, however if there is a concern you would like a summary or specific information on, please let us know. Further information on marine mammal treatments are covered below in response to concern 6."	2886

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4487	Claims that CGG's proposed activities are inconsistent with the Recovery Plans made under the EPBC Act, the Southern Right Whale Recovery Plan and the Blue Whale Recovery Plan. GMTOAC states that these activities pose known physical and behavioural risks to the Eastern Population of Southern Right Whales and to Pygmy Blue Whales. These risks include impacts from anthropogenic underwater noise, particularly seismic noise, vessel strikes, climate-driven changes in prey availability, and the cumulative effects of these pressures, all of which have the potential to injure or kill individuals and affect populations. GMTOAC notes that under the EPBC Act Program and NOPSEMA's decision-making guidelines, an Environment Plan cannot be accepted if it is inconsistent with a recovery plan. It emphasises that both Recovery Plans contain "Very High" importance actions requiring that Blue Whales and Southern Right Whales must be able to continue using their Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) without auditory impairment, injury, or displacement. The plans also call for preventing disruption and displacement of Karntubul (Southern Right Whales) from BIAs due to anthropogenic noise such as seismic surveys.	CGG maintains that its approach aligns with statutory obligations and industry best practice. It asserts that all regulatory requirements under Regulation 34 have been met, and that its environmental performance outcomes and control measures are grounded in the best available science and tailored to the ecological and cultural sensitivities revealed through consultation. The Regia MSS Environment Plan (EP) was designed to ensure impacts and risks are reduced to As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and to an acceptable level. Regarding whale protection, CGG highlights that the EP includes specific mitigation measures for culturally and ecologically significant marine fauna, including species noted in relevant Recovery Plans. Early correspondence in February 2023 identified Southern Right Whales and Pygmy Blue Whales as key sensitivities, and the EP commits to spatial and temporal avoidance measures, sound-source shutdowns, and exclusion zones to protect them. These measures explicitly consider cultural significance, such as timing restrictions to avoid the Karntubul (Southern Right Whale) birthing period. The whales, Karntubul and Wuuloc, are identified in the EP as sensitive receptors with dedicated protective measures. CGG confirms that these cultural and ecological sensitivities were incorporated into the environmental assessment. The EP acknowledges the sacred cultural status of Koontapool (Southern Right Whale) and Wuuloc (Pygmy Blue Whale) for the Gunditjmara people and includes them in impact and cumulative risk assessments. Appendix F3 references the Nyamat Mirring Plan 2023–2033 and recognises Gunditjmara spiritual connections, including to Karntubul. CGG substantively addresses the relevant issues, including underwater noise, vessel interactions, and cumulative effects. The EP sets out noise-management frameworks, timing restrictions, and cumulative impact analyses consistent with the concerns raised.	EVT352

Feedback ID	Objection or Claim Summary	Titleholder Response	Event ID
4493	Claims that CGG's proposed seismic activities contribute both directly and indirectly to broader threats faced by Southern Right Whales, including industrialisation of the marine environment, climate change, and pollution or contamination from vessel discharges.	Broader threats such as climate change and industrialisation fall outside the scope of the Environment Plan, as outlined in the response to Statements 156–166. The EP assesses only the environmental risks directly associated with the proposed activity. These risks are evaluated in the D Appendices, which demonstrate that any residual risks have been reduced to an acceptable level.	EVT352

Annex 3

EPBC Act Listed Species within the Operational Area Relevant to Release of Materials or Waste Overboard

Common Name	Presence	Threatened Category	Migratory Status	Migratory Category	Marine Status	Biologically Important Area	Management Plan Conservation Advice Listing Advice
Birds - Seabirds							
Antipodean Albatross	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	Foraging Whole South-east Marine Region	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)
Black-browed Albatross	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	Foraging Whole South-east Marine Region	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022) Commonwealth Listing Advice on Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanopris*) (TSSC 2005)
Blue Petrel	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable			Listed	None identified	Conservation Advice *Halobaena caerulea* Blue Petrel (TSS 2015)
Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	Foraging	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)

Common Name	Presence	Threatened Category	Migratory Status	Migratory Category	Marine Status	Biologically Important Area	Management Plan Conservation Advice Listing Advice
Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	Foraging Whole South-east Marine Region	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)
Common Diving-petrel						Foraging: year round Breeding: July – January Buffer around Tasmania and Victoria	None identified
Fairy Prion	Species or species habitat may occur within area				Listed	None identified	Wildlife Conservation Plan for Seabirds (CoA 2020a)
Fairy Prion (southern)	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable				None identified	Conservation Advice *Pachyptila turtur subantarctica* fair y prion (southern) (TSSC 2015e)
Flesh-footed Shearwater, Fleshy-footed Shearwater	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed (as *Puffinus carneipes*)	None identified	Wildlife Conservation Plan for Seabirds (CoA 2020a) Commonwealth Listing Advice on *Ardenna carneipes* (Flesh-footed Shearwater) (TSSC 2014)

Common Name	Presence	Threatened Category	Migratory Status	Migratory Category	Marine Status	Biologically Important Area	Management Plan Conservation Advice Listing Advice
Gould's Petrel, Australian Gould's Petrel	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Endangered				None identified	Gould's Petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera*) Recovery Plan (DEC NSW 2006)
Grey-headed Albatross	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	None identified	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022) Approved Conservation Advice for *Thalassarche chrysostoma* (Grey-headed Albatross) (DEWHA 2009)
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	Foraging Most of the South-east Marine Region	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)
Northern Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Vulnerable			Listed (as *Thalassarche sp. nov.)*	None identified	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)
Northern Giant Petrel	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	None identified	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022) Commonwealth Listing Advice on *Macronectes halli*

Common Name	Presence	Threatened Category	Migratory Status	Migratory Category	Marine Status	Biologically Important Area	Management Plan Conservation Advice Listing Advice
							(Northern Giant-Petrel) (TSSC 2001)
Northern Royal Albatross	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	None identified	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)
Salvin's Albatross	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	None identified	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)
Shy Albatross	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	Foraging Whole South-east Marine Region	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)) Conservation Advice *Thalassarche cauta* Shy Albatross (TSS 2020)
Soft-plumaged Petrel	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable			Listed	None identified	Conservation Advice *Pterodroma Mollis* Soft-plumaged Petrel (TSS 2015a)

Common Name	Presence	Threatened Category	Migratory Status	Migratory Category	Marine Status	Biologically Important Area	Management Plan Conservation Advice Listing Advice
Sooty Albatross	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	None identified	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)
Sooty Shearwater	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed (as *Puffinus griseus*)	None identified	Wildlife Conservation Plan for Seabirds (CoA 2020a) Conservation Advice for *Ardenna grisea* (Sooty Shearwater) (DCCEEW 2023i)
Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	None identified	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022) Commonwealth Listing Advice on *Macronectes giganteus* (Southern Giant-Petrel) (TSSC 2001a)
Southern Royal Albatross	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	None identified	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)

Common Name	Presence	Threatened Category	Migratory Status	Migratory Category	Marine Status	Biologically Important Area	Management Plan Conservation Advice Listing Advice
Wandering Albatross	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	None identified	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)
White-capped Albatross	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour known to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed	None identified	National Recovery Plan for Albatrosses and Petrels (CoA 2022)
Birds - Shorebirds							
Australian Fairy Tern	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	Vulnerable				None identified	Approved Conservation Advice for *Sternula nereis nereis* (Fairy Tern) (DSEWPaC. 2011) National Recovery Plan for the Australian Fairy Tern (*Sternula nereis nereis*) (DAWE 2020)
Brown Skua	Species or species habitat may occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed	None identified	Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds (CoA 2015)
Common Sandpiper	Species or species habitat may occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed	None identified	Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds (CoA 2015)

Common Name	Presence	Threatened Category	Migratory Status	Migratory Category	Marine Status	Biologically Important Area	Management Plan Conservation Advice Listing Advice
Curlew Sandpiper	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Critically Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed - overfly marine area	None identified	Conservation Advice for Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper (DCCEEW 2023m)
Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Critically Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed	None identified	Conservation Advice for *Numenius madagascariensis* (Far Eastern Curlew) (DCCEEW 2023n)
Fork-tailed Swift	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Marine Birds	Listed - overfly marine area	None identified	None identified
Orange-bellied Parrot	Migration route likely to occur within area	Critically Endangered			Listed - overfly marine area	None identified	Commonwealth Listing Advice on *Neophema chrysogaster* (TSSC 2006). National Recovery Plan for the Orange-bellied Parrot, *Neophema chrysogaster* (DEWLP 2016)
Pectoral Sandpiper	Species or species habitat may occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed - overfly marine area	None identified	Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds (CoA 2015)

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Red Knot, Knot	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed - overfly marine area	None identified	Conservation Advice for *Calidris canutus* Red Knot (DCCEEW 2024) Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds (CoA 2015)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Wetlands Species	Listed	None identified	Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds (CoA 2015) Conservation Advice for *Calidris acuminata* (Sharp-tailed Sandpiper) (DCCEEW 2024a)
White-fronted Tern	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area				Listed	None identified	Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds (CoA 2015)
Dolphins							
Bottlenose Dolphin	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified

Common Name	Presence	Threatened Category	Migratory Status	Migratory Category	Marine Status	Biologically Important Area	Management Plan Conservation Advice Listing Advice
Common Dolphin, Short-beaked Common Dolphin	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
Dusky Dolphin	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		None identified	None identified
Indian Ocean Bottlenose Dolphin, Spotted Bottlenose Dolphin	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area					None identified	None identified
Risso's Dolphin, Grampus	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
Southern Right Whale Dolphin	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
Pinnipeds							
Australian Fur-seal, Australo-African Fur-seal	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area				Listed	None identified	None identified
Australian Sea-lion, Australian Sea Lion	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Endangered			Listed	None identified	Conservation Advice *Neophoca cinerea* Australian

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							Sea Lion (TSSC 2020b) Recovery Plan for the Australian Sea Lion (*Neophoca cinerea*) (DSEWPaC. 2013a)
Long-nosed Fur-seal, New Zealand Fur-seal	Species or species habitat may occur within area				Listed	None identified	None identified
Sharks							
Little Gulper Shark	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Conservation Dependent				None identified	Commonwealth Listing Advice on *Centrophorus zeeha* (southern dogfish) (TSSC 2013)
Porbeagle, Mackerel Shark	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		None identified	None identified
School Shark, Eastern School Shark, Snapper Shark, Tope, Soupfin Shark	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Conservation Dependent				None identified	Commonwealth Listing Advice on *Galeorhinus galeus (*TSSC 2009a)
Shortfin Mako, Mako Shark	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		None identified	Listing Advice *Isurus oxyrinchus* shortfin mako shark (TSSC 2014)

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White Shark, Great White Shark	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour known to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		Distribution and foraging	Recovery Plan for the White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*). (DSEWPaC 2013b)
Turtles							
Green Turtle	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Species	Listed	None identified	Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles (DoEE 2017)
Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Marine Species	Listed	None identified	Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles (DoEE 2017) Approved Conservation Advice for *Dermochelys coriacea* (Leatherback Turtle*)* (DEWHA 2008)
Loggerhead Turtle	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Marine Species	Listed	None identified	Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles (DoEE 2017)
Whales							
Andrew's Beaked Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified

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Antarctic Minke Whale, Dark-shoulder Minke Whale	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		None identified	None identified
Arnoux's Beaked Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
Blainville's Beaked Whale, Dense-beaked Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
Blue Whale	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour known to occur within area	Endangered	Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		Foraging (annual high use area)	Conservation Management Plan for the Blue Whale (DoE 2015c)
Cuvier's Beaked Whale, Goose-beaked Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
Dwarf Sperm Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
False Killer Whale	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area					None identified	None identified

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Fin Whale	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour known to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		None identified	Conservation Advice *Balaenoptera physalus* Fin Whale (TSSC 2015b)
Gray's Beaked Whale, Scamperdown Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
Hector's Beaked Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
Humpback Whale	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		None identified	Listing Advice *Megaptera novaeangliae* Humpback Whale (DAWE 2022a)
Killer Whale, Orca	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		None identified	None identified
Long-finned Pilot Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified

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Minke Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
Pygmy Right Whale	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		None identified	None identified
Pygmy Sperm Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
Sei Whale	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour known to occur within area	Vulnerable	Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		None identified	Conservation Advice *Balaenoptera borealis* sei whale (TSSC 2015c)
Short-finned Pilot Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
Southern Right Whale	Breeding known to occur within area	Endangered	Migratory (as Balaena glacialis australis)	Migratory Marine Species		Migration	Conservation Management Plan for the Southern Right Whale (CoA 2012) National Recovery Plan for the Southern Right Whale (DCCEEW 2024)

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Sperm Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area		Migratory	Migratory Marine Species		None identified	None identified
Strap-toothed Beaked Whale, Strap-toothed Whale, Layard's Beaked Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified
True's Beaked Whale	Species or species habitat may occur within area					None identified	None identified