REGIA

Marine Seismic Survey

Information Sessions

Apollo Bay and Port Fairy

June 14 & 16

Agenda

- Introduction to the Regia Marine Seismic Survey (Regia MSS)
- Consultation process and progress
- Q&A

Purpose

To provide access to initial information to assist people determine if they may be affected by the Regia MSS and if they want to enter into the ‘relevant persons’ consultation process.

What is the Regia MSS?

- Regia is the name of a proposed marine seismic survey in the Otway region.
- Seismic surveys are a technique used to explore and map the subsurface of the ocean floor.
- CGG is required to prepare an Environment Plan which mandates consultation with ‘relevant persons’.
- Consultation started on 1 February 2023 and is open until 30 **July** 2023.

Activity Planning Parameter	Detail
Earliest start date	1st November 2023
Latest finish date	31st October 2028
Survey duration	90 days
Maximum acquisition days	60 days



Information Flyers are available at www.regiamss.com.au

Information for the community

Available Information

- Information summaries
  - Consultation processes summary
  - Regia activity overview
  - What is a seismic survey?
- Interactive map

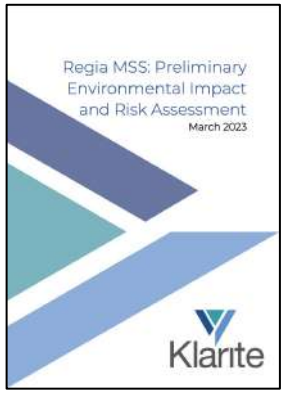
Communication Events

- Community information sessions
  - Warrnambool x2
  - Portland x2
  - Peterborough
  - Port Campbell
  - Apollo Bay
  - Port Fairy x2
- Advertised in print media, on radio, and Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.
- Participated in local radio interviews.
- Newsletters and webinars available.

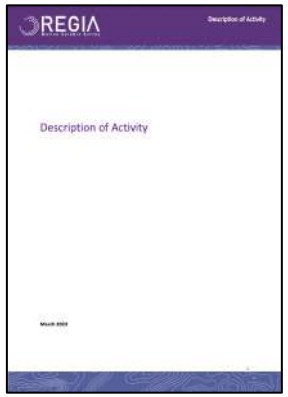
Information for relevant persons

Initial Information

- Community Consultation and Engagement Plan
- Description of Activity
- Preliminary Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment
- Interactive map online







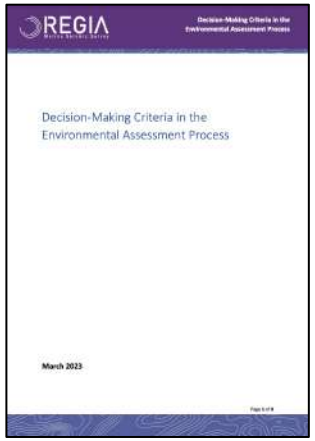
Sufficient Information

- Differs for each person.
- Needs to be in a format suited to each person.
- Written to everyone who registered at the April community sessions seeking to understand people functions, interests, and activities.
- Published our draft environmental assessments
  - Light emissions
  - Accidental release of waste
  - Accidental collisions with fauna
  - Introduction of invasive marine species

Further information available

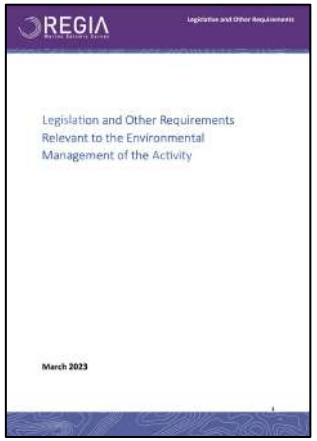
Decision-Making Criteria

- Information about how we make decisions about environmental management.
- Defines and justifies acceptable levels of impact and risk.



Legislative Requirements

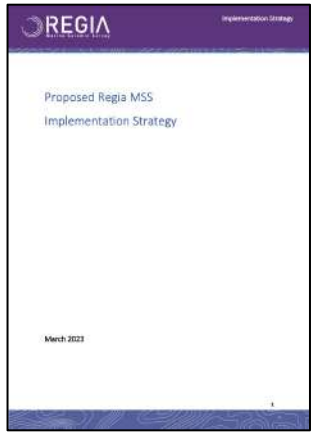
- Input into Decision-making Criteria.
- 114 legislative instruments identified that we must comply with.



Further information available

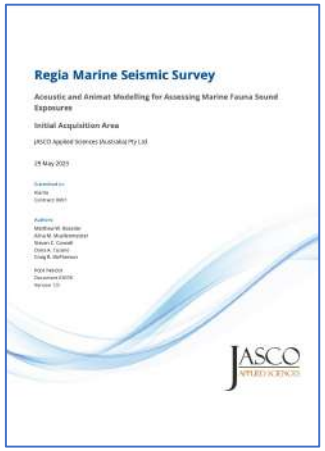
Implementation Strategy

- How we conduct marine seismic surveys.
- Details our environmental management system.
- Details our monitoring and reporting requirements.



Sound Modelling Report

- Initial modelling to inform survey design and impact assessment for elevated levels of sound.
- Demonstrates the threshold distances for various effects to representative marine fauna.
- Identified concerns we have for divers/swimmers in some locations.



Information coming soon

EP Content

- Fisheries assessment report.
- Impact Assessment: Interactions with other marine users.
- Impact Assessment: Elevated underwater sound levels impact.
- Oil Spill Emergency Plan
- Operational and Scientific Monitoring Plan
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- Marine Mammal Adaptive Management Plan

Summaries

- Case studies on long-term effects of seismic surveys on commercial fishing.
- Effects of underwater sound on divers/swimmers.
- Protection of marine mammals.
- Compensation for commercial fishers.

Consultation Process

The consultation process is being extended from 5 months to 6 months.

Have your say at www.regiamss.com.au











Raise Awareness

- Consultation Opens
- Notifying government agencies

Feb (Complete)

Establish Context

- Invite comment
- Notify affected persons
- Provide information

March (Complete)

Environmental Assessment

- Prepare impact assessment
- Prepare risk assessment

April **& May**

Mitigation and Management

- Determine control measures
- Set environmental performance
- Publish full EP

~~May~~ **June**

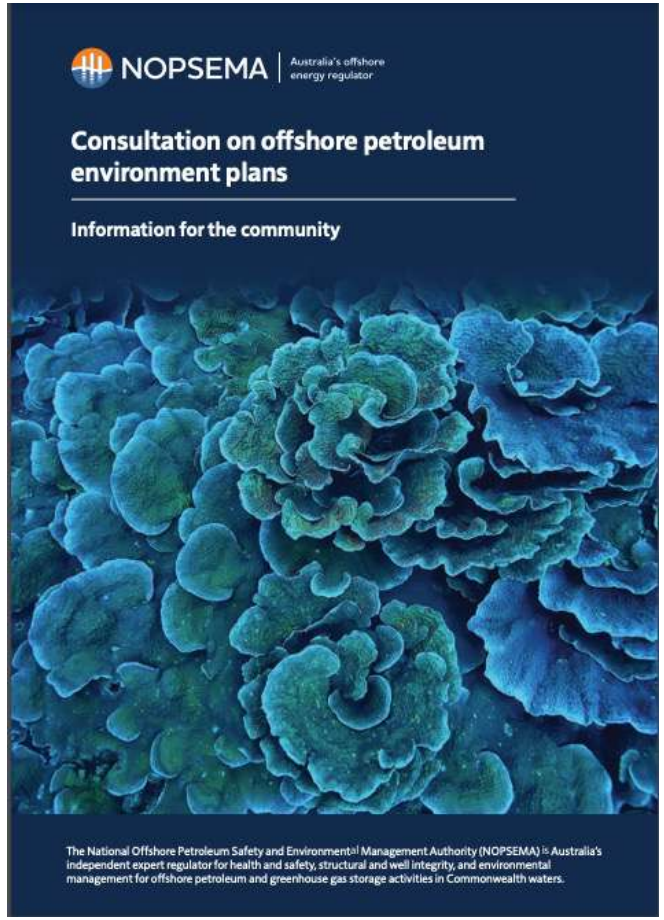
Raise Objections & Claims

- Community engagement
- Listen

~~June~~ **July**

New guidance for relevant persons

- Reminder: Anyone with functions, activities, or interests in the Environment Planning Area may be a relevant person.
- NOPSEMA guidance explains that:
  - Interests that may be affected can include things like cultural and spiritual connections to the sea or interests in the protection of specific marine species.
  - Your interests should be more than a general interest in the environment or offshore petroleum activities.
- Relevant persons will experience a better consultation process if they can be specific about how they may be affected by the Regia MSS.
- Community members may choose not to engage in the relevant persons consultation process and prefer to write directly to NOPSEMA or participate through the public comment process.



https://www.nopsema.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/Consultation%20on%20offshore%20petroleum%20environment%20plans%20brochure.pdf ç

Objections and Claims

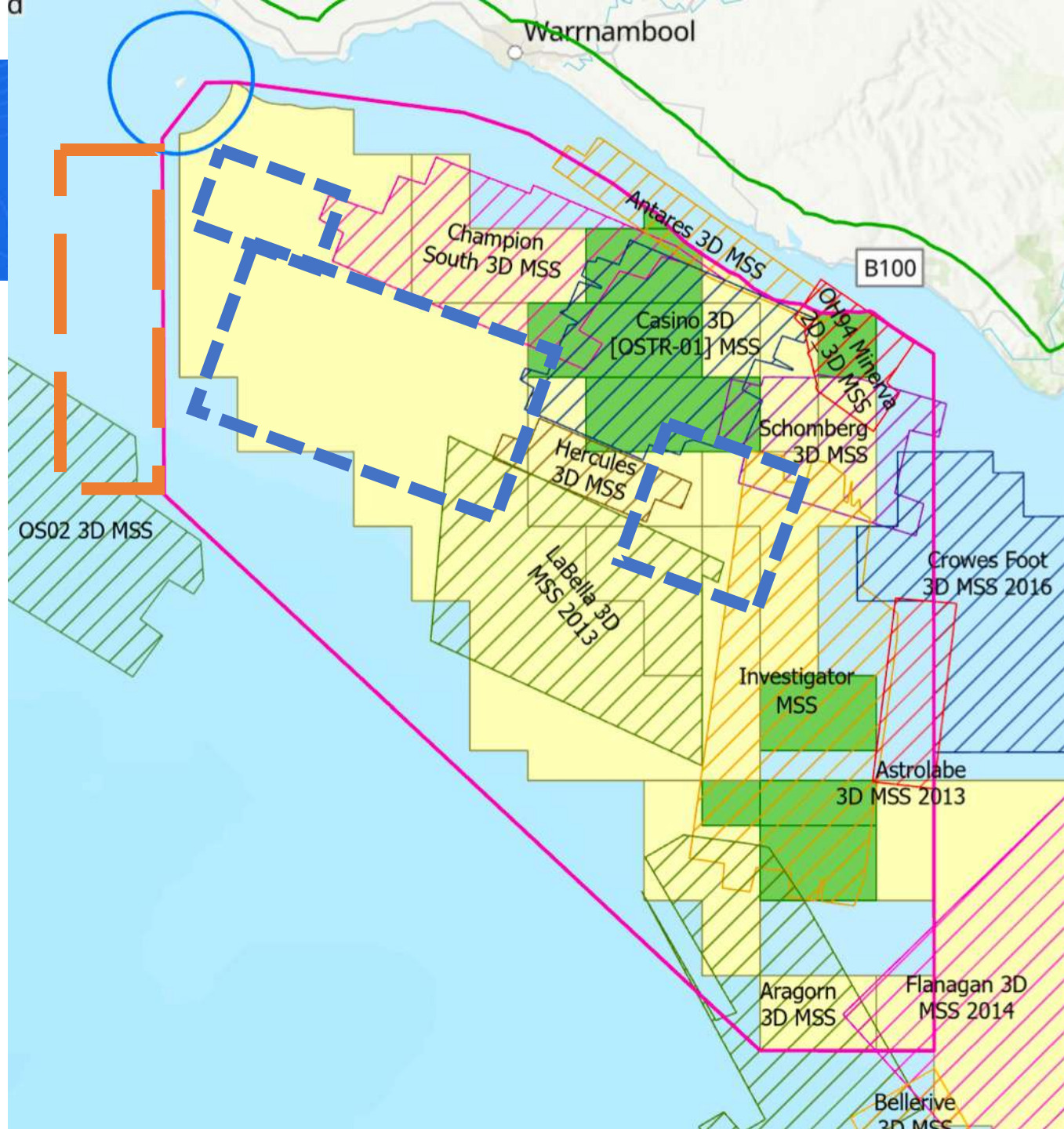
Objection or Claim (What we've heard)	Assessment of Merit (Our view)	Measures Adopted Because of the Consultations
Deen Maar/Lady Julia Percy Island is a significant place for ecological and cultural heritage values and sensitivities.	*Ecological* We have identified protected species on the island and have modelled sound propagation around the area. We agree that ecological values should be protected. *Cultural heritage* We have introductory discussions with Traditional Owners this week. We understand that there may be spiritual values to protect both on the island and between the island and the mainland.	*Ecological* Implemented a 10.3km exclusion around the island which is the behavioral response threshold for marine mammals. *Cultural heritage* As above for a starting point around the island, plus, preparing to put an exclusion zone in place between the island and the mainland. Need validation of appropriateness through consultation.

Objections and Claims

Objection or Claim (What we've heard)	Assessment of Merit (Our view)	Measures Adopted Because of the Consultations
Why are you doing seismic in this area again?	We are targeting areas that have not been surveyed before though there will be some overlap with previous surveys.	Provide maps to the community of previous seismic surveys over the area in the context of the Regia MSS.
The community is fatigued by the consultation for all these petroleum activities.	We understand the burden being placed on relevant persons.	We undertook joint community events to try and reduce the fatigue people may experience.
There is confusion about what activities are planned in this region because you haven't separated the consultation. We care more about the seismic activity and want separate consultation events.	We understand that there may be some confusion arising from our response to claims of consultation fatigue.	Undertook a requested session in Port Fairy. Plan to carry out Regia MSS only community sessions in Apollo Bay and Port Fairy.

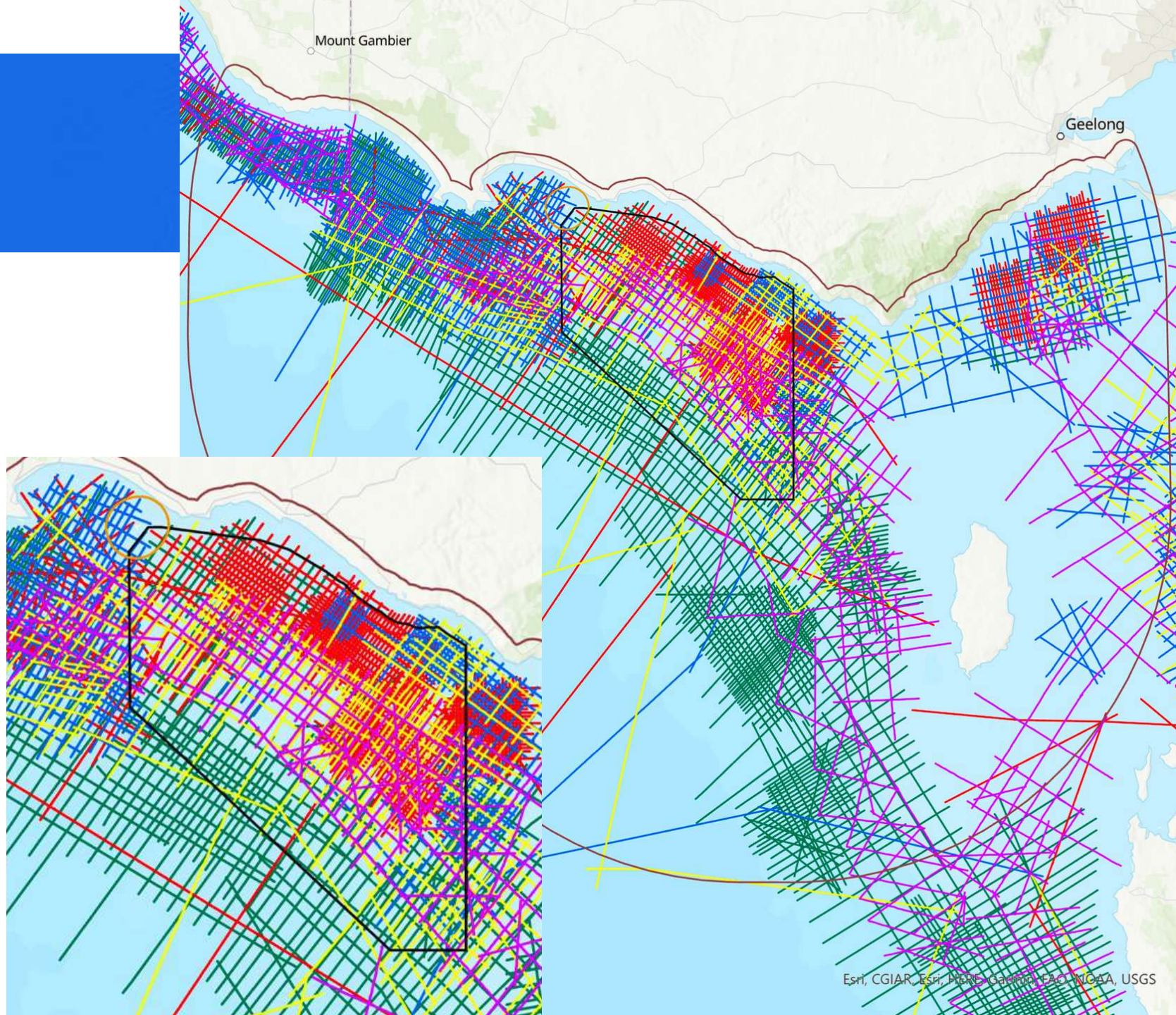
Maps

- Previous 3D Seismic
- Proposed acquisition area
- New activity area
- Possibility of phasing



Maps (2)

- Previous 2D Seismic
- 82 surveys since 1963
- Exploring case studies



Objections and Claims

Objection or Claim (What we've heard)	Assessment of Merit (Our view)	Measures Adopted Because of the Consultations
No impacts from seismic are of an acceptable level.	This is not supported by the literature or the legislation.	Publish our predicted levels of impact and risk.
Seismic surveying is not required given that no new oil or gas should be developed to be consistent with increased temperature increase of 1.5 degrees (the Paris Agreement).	The 'no new oil or gas' statement comes from the IEA WEO 2021, NZE Scenario which is a global analysis predicated on a demand driven decrease in fossil fuel use. It does not explicitly consider that at an Australia level, the AEMO predicts shortfalls of gas as early as 2027 in its Victorian Gas Planning Report (March 2023).	Record instances of the objection and faithfully report those to NOPSEMA. Respond to individuals who raise this objection with references to government documentation supporting the need for new local gas developments.
The community doesn't want oil and gas development here (and called for a vote objecting to the activity).	We understand community opposition to the activity. There is already gas development in the Otway and the government has awarded titles for further exploration.	Share the views of the community with NOPSEMA and accurately record the vote counts from the community sessions.

Objections and Claims

Objection or Claim (What we've heard)	Assessment of Merit (Our view)	Measures Adopted Because of the Consultations
There would be unacceptable impacts to marine mammals and in particular Southern Right Whales (SRW) and Blue Whales (BW).	We recognize the importance and elevated levels of protection afforded to SRW and BW. Temporary threshold shifts to these species are unacceptable. We can have lesser impacts such as some behavioral responses. We must be consistent with the Conservation Management Plans in place for all species and with Policy Statement 2.1 which protects marine fauna interactions with seismic surveys.	No seismic surveying to occur in the SRW reproduction Biologically Important Area while they are present (May-November). Marine Fauna Observers on watch during daylight hours. Passive Acoustic Monitoring during night-time. Shutdown operations for all whales for observations closer than 2000 meters from the seismic survey. + more under consideration

Objections and Claims

Objection or Claim (What we've heard)	Assessment of Merit (Our view)	Measures Adopted Because of the Consultations
Seismic blasts from seismic surveys are over 230-260 decibels and the sound travels for thousands of kilometers every few seconds for months.	We acknowledge that sound propagates through the ocean over long distances (particularly in deeper water) and that the sound levels at the source are high. The more relevant data for impact assessments of elevated underwater sound levels are received levels of sound at specified distances from the sound source and the effect level thresholds for the hearing capabilities of different species. Elevated levels of sound from seismic are limited to the duration of acquisition (60 days) i.e., temporary.	Publish the sound propagation modelling report in full. Share the scientific basis for the: - Propagation calculations - Selected effect level thresholds

Objections and Claims

Objection or Claim (What we've heard)	Assessment of Merit (Our view)	Measures Adopted Because of the Consultations
The effects on fish and fish population are permanent and will damage our commercial fishing industry.	The effects of seismic sound on most species are well understood. There are no mortal effects predicted to any fish or invertebrate species from seismic sound.	Consult with commercial fishers and the VFA to understand the productivity and utilization of commercial fishing resources in the area.
Seismic blasting will kill zooplankton out to 1.2km which have a fundamental role for ecological integrity as food for krill and subsequently krill are food for whales.	The effects of seismic sound from the Regia MSS may have mortal effects on zooplankton out to approximately 220m. Zooplankton are ubiquitous and abundant with natural mortality rates of 20-50% and high levels of recoverability (within days). The Regia MSS will cover 0.2% of the bioregion per day.	Publish the modelling and impact assessment of sound on zooplankton. Carry out the activity within the limits set by the Environment Plan.

Additional Measures Under Assessment

- Avoidance of West Tasmanian Canyons (and others)
- Avoidance of >400m contour for upwelling avoidance (if early summer)
- Testing some new technology:
  - Underwater glider whale monitoring
  - Moored buoy monitoring
  - High frequency elimination/reduction sound source
  - Drones for whale detections
- Phasing survey across 2 or 3 years to reduce impacts given timing sensitivities
- Buffers (distance) from other petroleum activities

Q&A

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