

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: MediaTeam
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 3:49 PM
To: Minister King Media
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) MediaTeam
Subject: DRAFT media release - petroleum exploration acreage release (offshore Victoria and Tasmania)
Attachments: MR 028 - Acreage release.docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: Green Category

Good afternoon.

Please find attached a draft media release announcing nominations for a petroleum exploration acreage release (offshore Victoria and Tasmania).

Please note policy advises media release issue should be delayed until the department has updated some 'operational aspects' of the website. Offshore Resources will coordinate with the office on timing.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Officer

Media & Speechwriting | Communications | Chief Operating Officer
Ngunnawal Country, Industry House, 10 Binara St, GPO Box 2013 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **Mobile** s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **Email** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Acknowledgement of Country**

Our department recognises the First Peoples of this Nation and their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to the lands, waters, seas, skies, and communities.

We Acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Custodians and Lore Keepers of the oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all First Nations Peoples.



s 47C

s 47C

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: MediaTeam
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 12:28 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Minister King Media; MediaTeam
Subject: TPs - petroleum exploration acreage release (offshore Victoria and Tasmania)
 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 2026 Acreage Release - Talking Points.docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: Green Category

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

In addition to the draft media release, please find attached a set of talking points.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Officer

Media & Speechwriting | Communications Branch | Chief Operating Officer
 Department of Industry, Science and Resources
P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M** s 22(1)(a)(ii) | **E** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: MediaTeam
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 3:49 PM
To: Minister King Media <Media.King@resources.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) MediaTeam <MediaTeam@industry.gov.au>
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s 47C

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47C

s 47C

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: MediaTeam
Sent: Monday, 4 May 2026 11:08 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Minister King Media; MediaTeam
Subject: RE: TPs - petroleum exploration acreage release (offshore Victoria and Tasmania) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 2026 Acreage Release - TPs Bass and Gippsland call for nominations.docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: Green Category

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please find attached a revised set of TPs for the petroleum exploration acreage release nominations.

We believe they were also sent to the office on Friday.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)
Media Officer

Media & Speechwriting | Communications Branch | Chief Operating Officer
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii) | E s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: MediaTeam <MediaTeam@industry.gov.au>
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OFFICIAL

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Department of Industry, Science and Resources
P s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii) | E s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

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Calling for nominations: new offshore areas in the Bass and Gippsland Basins (Victoria and Tasmania)

Talking Points:

What is the government doing?

- The Australian Government is asking companies to nominate new offshore areas for release in the Bass and Gippsland Basins off Victoria and Tasmania.
 - Nominations will be open for six weeks.
 - The Bass and Gippsland Basins are in Commonwealth waters.
 - Both the Bass and Gippsland Basins already produce oil and gas.
- The government wants to see if industry is interested in expanding exploration of these areas.
 - This is not an acreage release. In an acreage release, the government invites companies to bid for areas. Instead, this is an “expression of interest” process where the government checks if companies want to explore new areas.
 - My department will carefully assess all nominations before the relevant Joint Authority decides whether to release areas for companies to bid on.
 - If the government releases areas in these basins it would align with the Future Gas Strategy, which aims to make the most of existing discoveries and infrastructure while still working toward net zero.
 - More exploration in these key areas can help manage the drop in output as current fields run down after more than 50 years of production.
 - This process could open up new petroleum resources and help reduce the risk of future gas shortages in Australia.

What if companies have already submitted nominations. Do they need to resubmit again?

- Companies do not need to resubmit nominations they already made after the 2022 Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Release. My department will assess those nominations along with any new ones.

How do nominations progress through to Acreage Release?

- A Joint Authority invites companies to bid for the released areas.
 - For areas offshore Victoria, I am the Joint Authority along with the Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources, the Hon Lily D’Ambrosio.
 - I am the only member of the Joint Authority for areas offshore Tasmania.

Will you consult before acreage is released?

- The call for nominations is an initial step in the process to gauge interest from industry before progressing any future acreage releases.
- My department will consult as part of the broader acreage release process.
- When the Joint Authority makes its decisions, it looks at things like:
 - national security and sea boundaries
 - environment rules and regulations
 - business and commercial interests
 - how close the area is to markets and key infrastructure
 - community interests
 - First Nations peoples' interests
 - ocean industries like fishing, aquaculture and tourism.
 - other ocean users and existing offshore permit holders
 - the government's priorities.
- My department will talk with groups that have an interest in a specific area and can share useful information about exploration.
- We also speak with the relevant state and territory governments, and government agencies.
- The Joint Authorities consider this feedback before deciding whether to grant permits for an area.
- The government is still deciding the timing for consultation and for opening a 2026 Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Release.

s 22

If asked: does this release align with the Future Gas Strategy?

- Yes. The Australian Government's Future Gas Strategy says:
 - we can only reach net zero if homes and businesses can still access affordable gas.

- the east coast will need new gas sources as older fields decline.
- new gas supply can support energy security for Australian households, industry and trading partners over the medium to long term.
- Gas can back up renewable energy when the sun is not shining, or the wind is not blowing. This support helps Australia work toward the target of 82% renewables by 2030.
- The Australian Energy Market Operator and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission have warned that gas shortages could hit from 2027 to 2029 if we do nothing.

If asked: how would a release in these areas support future investment in the resources sector?

- Australia's gas exports can help countries in Asia keep their energy supply steady as they shift to renewable energy and move away from coal-fired power.
- Gas exports support Australia's reputation as a reliable energy partner and can help our trading partners cut emissions.
- In Australia, the government wants a well-supplied gas market. This supports the plan for a Future Made in Australia and helps ease cost-of-living pressures.
- On Australia's east coast, gas supply is falling faster than demand. This is partly because older offshore fields in Victorian Commonwealth waters have produced gas for more than 50 years.
- We need ongoing exploration to find new supplies.
- We will develop Australia's petroleum resources to keep supply steady for Australians and our trading partners, while supporting the shift to net zero.

If asked: When will the first gas be produced?

- At this stage I am calling for nominations, which is an initial step in the process. It is not an approval to undertake any new exploration activities.
- Production will not occur for some time, so it is important to start the process now.
- The relevant Joint Authorities will only award new exploration permits after they have run the acreage release, and the bids and consultation feedback are considered.
- If new areas are eventually awarded, then further approvals are needed, including environmental approvals for on-water activities.

If asked: will any new released areas need new seismic testing?

- The call for nominations does not allow companies to undertake any on-water activities including seismic testing.

- Australia sets strict safety and environmental rules for offshore oil and gas work, including seismic surveys. The offshore regulator, NOPSEMA, ensures that companies follow these rules.
- A company cannot run a seismic survey unless it holds a valid petroleum title and NOPSEMA accepts its environment plan (EP).
 - As part of the EP process, NOPSEMA runs public consultation and requires applicants to consider public feedback.
- The government expects companies to make use of existing survey data wherever possible before any new seismic surveys are undertaken.

If asked: how will the government protect marine parks?

- The Australian Government will make every effort to ensure the integrity of existing protected zones is maintained.
- This is an important factor the Joint Authority considers before releasing acreage for bidding.

If asked: will the government release more areas in other offshore basins?

- The Australian Government will consider future releases in other parts of Australia in line with the Future Gas Strategy.
- It is a matter for the relevant Joint Authority.
- The relevant Joint Authority will consider matters such as demand and the need to release more offshore areas in making its decision on whether to release areas.

If asked: how does this impact the potential need for LNG imports?

- The government's Future Gas Strategy highlights that we could become more reliant on gas transported from northern Australia if new sources of production do now come on line.
- LNG imports to the east coast could be more expensive than locally supplied gas.
- Without future investment in exploration, there are real risks gas will become unaffordable or unavailable to Australian households and industry.
- This is why we need further exploration, acreage release and gas production.

Standard response to questions:***What is the government doing and who have you consulted?***

The Australian Government is taking steps toward opening up new areas for oil and gas exploration in Australia's offshore waters. The focus is on the Gippsland and Bass basins offshore Victoria and Tasmania as these are currently producing basins.

While industry nominations are always open, this six-week call for nominations informs industry that the government is considering a future acreage release.

The call for nominations is an initial step to seek interest. There will be a period for consultation as the acreage release process progresses. Feedback from the consultation is important to help inform any Joint Authority decisions to grant exploration permits in the future.

Why is the government releasing new areas for oil and gas exploration?

The Australian Government's Future Gas Strategy, highlights that new sources of gas will be needed to support medium to long term energy security for Australian households, industry and our trading partners.

To take further action towards securing our energy future, the government is calling for nominations from industry for areas in the Gippsland and Bass basins. These nominations will undergo thorough assessment and consultation as part of the acreage release process.

Encouraging further exploration in Commonwealth waters is a practical next step to unlock new petroleum resources and help alleviate future domestic gas shortages.

You just released new areas in the Otway, why do you also need to release areas in other areas?

The Australian Energy Market Operator and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission forecast gas shortages on the east coast of Australia from 2027-2029. Production in the Bass and Gippsland Basins is declining. New discoveries could help bring more gas to market in these areas. I am taking this step to seek industry interest in further exploration of our existing producing areas that feed into the east coast.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2026 5:26 PM
To: MediaTeam; Minister King Media
Subject: FYI -- Clean Media release for Annie Gas and Acreage, s 22(1)(a) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Amplitude Gas and Acreage release s 22(1)(a) docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

OFFICIAL

FYI.

s 47C

We're hoping to issue this at 9am on Thursday.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 5 May 2026 4:47 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Minister King Media
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Clean Media release for Annie Gas and Acreage, s 22(1)(a) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s 47C

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 5 May 2026 4:40 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Minister King Media
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Clean Media release for Annie Gas and Acreage, s 22(1)(a)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

As discussed, here are clean versions of the media releases for the Annie production and acreage bids, and
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Also attached are the TPS for Annie and Acreage.

s 47C

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Adviser
The Hon Madeleine King MP
Minister for Resources and Northern Australia

M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

E

E media.king@resources.gov.au

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

MS25-001663

To: Minister for Resources (For Decision)

**OFFSHORE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION ACREAGE RELEASE IN THE OTWAY BASIN
- COMMONWEALTH-TASMANIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM JOINT AUTHORITY
COURTESY LETTER**

s 47C

Recommendations: That you

1. **Note** that you previously agreed to make a decision to invite applications for the grant of petroleum exploration permits under section 104 of the OPGGS Act for three release areas in the offshore area of Tasmania (MB25-000657 refers).

Noted / Please discuss

2. **Agree** to advise the Tasmanian Government Minister for Business, Industry and Resources that you intend to invite applications for the grant of petroleum exploration permits in the offshore area of Tasmania.

Agreed / Not agreed

3. **Sign** the letter to the Tasmanian Government Minister for Business, Industry and Resources advising of your intent to invite applications at Attachment A.

Signed / Not signed

Minister:

Comments:

Date:

Clearing Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g General Manager, Offshore Resources Branch Oil and Gas Division	Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob
Contact Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Manager, Offshore Exploration	Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob
For Parliamentary Services' use only. Date Submitted to the Minister's office in PDMS:			2/12/2025

Key Points:

1. On 27 November 2025, you agreed as the Commonwealth-Tasmania Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority to make a decision to invite applications for the grant of petroleum exploration permits under section 104 of the OPGGS Act for three release areas in the offshore area of Tasmania (**MB25-000657** refers).
2. As the sole member of the Commonwealth-Tasmania Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority, you are the decision maker for the release of three areas in the offshore area of Tasmania.
3. **s 47B, s 47C**
- 4.
5. Following discussions with your office, the department recommends that you also write to the Tasmanian Government Minister for Business, Industry and Resources as a courtesy to inform them of your intent to release areas in the offshore area of Tasmania.

Sensitivities and Handling:

6. The OPGGS Act allows you to grant petroleum exploration permits in the offshore area of Tasmania without the need for agreement by the Tasmanian Government.
7. The attached letter provides the Tasmanian Government with notice of your intent to release acreage areas, ahead of the public announcement.

Data referenced: NIL

Consultation with the Partnerships and Projects Division, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts: NIL

8. The matter is not relevant to the Northern Australia portfolio.

Other Consultation: NIL**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A: Letter to TAS Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
- B: **s 47C, s 47B**
- C: **s 47C**



**THE HON MADELEINE KING MP
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES
MINISTER FOR NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**

MS25-001663

The Hon Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Level 5, Salamanca Building
4 Salamanca Place
HOBART TAS 7000

felix.ellis@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister

Felix

The Australian Government's Future Gas Strategy (FGS) released last year, states that new sources of gas will be needed to support medium to long term energy security for Australian households, industry and our trading partners. In delivering on the FGS, the Gas Market Review is currently underway and aims to secure long-term access to affordable gas for domestic users, while preserving our reputation as a reliable LNG exporter to the region.

To take further action towards securing our energy future, I intend to launch an offshore petroleum exploration acreage release in the Otway Basin. Encouraging further exploration in the Otway Basin is a practical next step to unlock new petroleum resources and help alleviate future domestic gas shortages.

I note that the Australian Energy Market Operator and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission forecast gas shortages on the east coast of Australia from 2027-2029. In this context, I am aiming to open the application period for work program bids in December 2025.

I have attached a map of the proposed release areas. All areas are supported by industry nominations.

The three areas located in the offshore of Tasmania are:

Area ID	Basin	Number of Blocks
T25-1	Otway	63
T25-2	Otway	3
T25-3	Otway/Sorell	67

As the Commonwealth-Tasmania Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority (the Joint Authority), I am writing to you to advise that I intend to invite applications for the grant of petroleum exploration permits under section 104 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (Cth) (OPGGGS Act), for three release areas in the offshore area of Tasmania comprised of the graticular blocks listed in **s 47C**

I intend a closing date for work program bidding applications of 30 June 2026.

s 47C, s 47B

Should you have any questions, please contact the Manager of the Offshore Exploration Section in my department, **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** on **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** or email petroleum.exploration@industry.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Madeleine King MP

6/11/2025

Enc (2): Map of 2025 Otway Acreage Release areas
s 47C

CC: Mr Graeme Waters, Titles Administrator, National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator

s 47C, s 47B

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

When preparing a bid and planning exploration, explorers should:

- carefully consider the relevant maritime boundaries and international treaties
- consider all relevant advice to inform decision-making.

Public Consultation Comments

Public consultation on the gazetted areas will occur following the publication of this gazette notice. Applicants are advised to review a summary of comments received for any areas they intend to bid on via the Consultation Hub (<https://consult.industry.gov.au/>) before finalising bids.

Australian Marine Parks, Biologically Important Areas, Key Ecological Features and Heritage

Potential bidders should note that some of the gazetted areas are proximate to Australian Marine Parks, Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) and Key Ecological Features (KEFs). For more information in relation to these areas please refer to the following:

- <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/marine/marine-bioregional-plans/about>
- <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/marine/marine-species/bias>
- <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/>
- <https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/parks/south-east-marine-parks-network/south-east-network-management-plan/>

The Australian Heritage Database provides information on the National Heritage values protected as Matters of National Environmental Significance under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act). The Australian Heritage Database is available at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage/publications/australian-heritage-database>. The Protected Matters Search Tool provides information on what is protected under the EPBC Act and is available at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/protected-matters-search-tool>.

Heritage places are protected under the EPBC Act as Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Any action which has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on MNES requires referral for assessment under the EPBC Act.

Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH)

DCCEEW administers the Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018 (the UCH Act). The requirements of the UCH Act are separate to those of the EPBC Act. Any potential titleholder who is planning to undertake works in the offshore environment should consult heritage@dcceew.gov.au for advice on how to mitigate risks associated with underwater cultural heritage.

The Australasian Underwater Cultural Heritage Database contains historical and environmental information about shipwrecks, sunken aircraft and other types of underwater heritage sites and is available at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage/underwater-heritage/auchd>.

Unexploded ordnance

There is potential for unexploded ordnance (UXO) on or in the sea floor in areas where Defence operates and especially in Air Weapons Range Areas. Proponents should be aware of the risks involved in conducting offshore exploration and development activities. The potential presence of UXO carries with it an associated risk of detonation. Defence takes no responsibility for:

- reporting the location and type of ordnance dropped in the areas of interest to the permit holders
- identification of or removal of any UXO
- any loss or damage suffered or incurred by the company or any third party arising out of, or directly related to, UXO.

Consequently, the Australian Government provides no guarantee or indemnity regarding the safety or whereabouts of UXO.

Defence Practice Areas

Areas may coincide with offshore Defence Restricted Areas and restricted airspace. See the Aeronautical Information Package on the Airservices Australia website for more information on restricted airspaces, available at <https://www.airservicesaustralia.com/aip/aip.asp?pg=10>. See notice to airmen on the National Aeronautical Information Processing System (NAIPS) for current restrictions, available at <https://www.airservicesaustralia.com/naips/documents/about>. See notice to mariners from the Australian Hydrographic Office for current restrictions, available at <http://www.hydro.gov.au/n2m/notices.htm>.

Foreign Investment Review Board

International investors may need to seek approval from the Australian Treasurer. See the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) website (<https://foreigninvestment.gov.au/>) for more information. If FIRB approval is not available at the time of submission, it will need to be provided separately before any new acreage will be awarded.

Seismic survey data

Investors are encouraged to consider all available seismic data to determine if further seismic acquisition is necessary in an area and to form a more targeted work program bid. The National Offshore Petroleum Information Management System (<https://public.neats.nopta.gov.au/nopims>) is available and bidders are strongly encouraged to consider this data to formulate an exploration work program.

Trailing liability

Amendments to the OPGGS Act which implement the Australian Government's expanded trailing liability policy came into effect on 2 March 2022. Provisions and requirements of the Titles Administration Act provide those past titleholders that held a title on or after 1 January 2021, or related persons, may be called back to undertake remedial works in the former title area should issues arise in future.

APPLICATIONS

In accordance with subsection 104(3) of the Act, applications must:

- a. be in the approved form; and
- b. be accompanied by any information or documents required by the form.
- c. be accompanied by the appropriate application fee and evidence of payment.

The approved application form is available for download from the NOPTA website at <http://www.nopta.gov.au/forms/forms.html>.

The approved application form must be executed by all applicants in accordance with NOPTA's factsheet '*How to execute NOPTA forms and instruments*' (*Signatures factsheet*) which outlines the requirements for Australian and foreign companies. The factsheet is available on the NOPTA website at: <https://www.nopta.gov.au/guidelines-and-factsheets/fact-sheets.html>

Applicants should refer to the application fee stated in Schedule 6, Part 1 of the RMA regulations. The schedule of fees and details on how to pay NOPTA fees is available on NOPTA's website at (<https://www.nopta.gov.au/cost-recovery-and-fees.html>)

For further details of the expectations of the Joint Authorities in relation to the content of applications and used as the criteria for ranking of competing applicants in accordance with section

106 of the Act, please refer to the Offshore Petroleum Exploration Guideline: Work-bid available on NOPTA'S website (<https://www.nopta.gov.au/guidelines-and-factsheets/index.html>).

Applicant Suitability

Persons that wish to participate in Australia's offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage regime as a titleholder must satisfy certain suitability requirements. In making a decision to offer the award of an exploration permit the Joint Authority will consider relevant matters from a range of factors including but not limited to financial capacity, technical capability, history of compliance, corporate governance arrangements and any previous liquidation or bankruptcy events. Please refer to the Guideline: Applicant suitability available on NOPTA's website. (<https://www.nopta.gov.au/guidelines-and-factsheets/index.html>)

Fact sheets for additional guidance on applicant suitability may be found on NOPTA's website (<https://www.nopta.gov.au/guidelines-and-factsheets/fact-sheets.html>)

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications are to be submitted to NOPTA in the following manner:

1. By accessing an account in the NEATS Secure Portal on the website of (<https://secure.neats.nopta.gov.au/SignIn>) Download and complete the approved application form from the NOPTA website and uploading the signed form and accompanying documents into the Portal. This is the preferred method of submission.
2. Electronic copy in searchable file format of the application loaded onto a USB sealed and enclosed in a plain covering envelope clearly marked as "**Application for Area [Release Area Number as appropriate] Commercial-in-Confidence**". A hard copy may be provided if desired. The package must be delivered by hand (couriers accepted) to the address stated below.

For more information on submitting an application via the Secure Portal please refer to the NEATS secure portal guide, which is available at (<https://www.nopta.gov.au/neats-info/secure-portal/NEATS-Secure-Portal-Guidance.pdf>) or email titles@nopta.gov.au or phone (08) 6424 5317.

To submit an application in person please make an appointment with the NOPTA by emailing titles@nopta.gov.au or phoning (08) 6424 5317.

Please check the NOPTA website prior to submitting an application for further updates on submissions.

Location	Address	Date
Perth Office	National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator Level 10, Alluvion Building 58 Mounts Bay Road Perth WA 6000 Tel: +61 8 6424 5317	Tuesday 30 June 2026 4:00 pm (AWST)
Melbourne Office	National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator Level 25, 140 William Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Tel: +61 3 8199 0300	Tuesday 30 June 2026 4:00 pm (AEST)

Approved for publication:

Date: _____

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

MS25-001699

To: Minister for Resources (For Decision)

s 47B

ACREAGE RELEASE IN VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

s 47B, s 47C

Recommendation/s:

s 47C

2. **Sign** the letter at Attachment B instructing the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator to proceed with releasing the agreed areas in Victoria and Tasmania and publish the Gazette notice at Attachment A.

Signed / Not signed**Minister:**

Date: 11/12/2025


Comments:

Clearing Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Head of Division, Oil and Gas	Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mo
Contact Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Manager, Offshore Exploration	Ph: Mo
For Parliamentary Services' use only. Date Submitted to the Minister's office in PDMS:			11/12/2025

Key Points:

s 47C, s 47B

Data referenced: Nil

Consultation with the Partnerships and Projects Division, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts: NIL - the matter is not relevant to the Northern Australia portfolio

Other Consultation: NIL

ATTACHMENTS:

- A:** s 47C draft Gazette notice s 47C
- B:** Letter to the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator
- C:** s 47C 2025 Otway Acreage Release Map for Victoria and Tasmania.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006

**NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR WORK PROGRAM PETROLEUM EXPLORATION
PERMIT APPLICATION 2025**

I, **GRAEME ALBERT WATERS**, the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (**NOPTA**), on behalf of the Commonwealth-Tasmania Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority and the Commonwealth-Victoria Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority (**the Joint Authorities**), pursuant to section 104 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (**the Act**), hereby invite applications for the grant of work-bid petroleum exploration permits in respect of the blocks and within the areas described below.

Applications must be received, in the manner prescribed below, by **Tuesday 4:00 pm local time** at the place of submission on **30 June 2026**.

GRATICULAR BLOCK LISTINGS

Release Area V25-1

Otway Basin, Offshore Area of Victoria

Map Sheet SJ54 (Hamilton)

2122 part	2123 part	2124	2125	2194 part	2195	2196	2197
2265 part	2266 part	2267	2268	2269	2336 part	2337 part	2338
2339	2340	2341	2408 part	2409	2410	2411	2412
2413	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2552
2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2623	2624	2625
2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633
2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702
2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2767	2768	2769
2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777
2778	2779	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846
2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2915	2916	2917
2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925
2926	2927	2989	2990	2991	2992	2993	2994
2995	2996	2997	2998	2999	3000	3001	3002
3003	3004 part	3062	3063	3064	3065	3066	3067
3068	3069	3070	3071	3072	3073	3074	3075 part
3076 part	3136	3137	3138	3139	3140	3141	3142
3143	3144	3145	3146 part	3147 part	3210	3211	3212

3213	3214	3215	3216	3217 part	3218 part	3284	3285
3286	3287	3288 part	3289 part	3358	3359 part	3360 part	

Assessed to contain **159 blocks** (includes 140 full blocks and 19 part blocks)

Release Area V25-2

Otway Basin, Offshore Area of Victoria

Map Sheet SJ54 (Hamilton)

2198	2270	2271	2272	2273	2342	2343	2344
2345	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420
2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2486	2487	2488
2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496
2497	2498	2499	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562
2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570
2571	2572	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639
2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2708	2709
2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717
2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787
2788	2789	2790 part	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856
2857	2858	2859	2860	2861 part	2862 part	2928	2929
2930	2931	2932 part	2933 part				

Assessed to contain **100 blocks** (includes 95 full blocks and 5 part blocks)

Release Area T25-1

Otway Basin, Offshore Area of Tasmania

Map Sheet SJ54 (Hamilton)

2863	2934	2935	3005	3006	3007	3077	3078
3079	3080	3148	3149	3150	3151	3152	3219
3220	3221	3222	3223	3224	3225	3290	3291
3292	3293	3294	3295	3296	3297	3361	3362
3363	3364	3365	3366	3367	3368	3432	3433
3434	3435	3436	3437	2790 part	2791 part	2861 part	2862 part
2932 part	2933 part	3004 part	3075 part	3076 part	3146 part	3147 part	3217 part
3218 part	3288 part	3289 part	3359 part	3360 part			

Map Sheet SK54 (King Island)

0049	0050
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Assessed to contain **63 blocks** (includes 46 full blocks and 17 part blocks)

Release Area T25-2**Otway Basin, Offshore Area of Tasmania****Map Sheet SJ54 (Hamilton)**

2539	2940	2941
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Assessed to contain 3 full blocks

Release Area T25-3**Otway and Sorell Basins, Offshore Area of Tasmania****Map Sheet SK54 (King Island)**

0132	0133	0134	0202	0203	0204	0205	0206
0274	0275	0276	0277	0278	0346	0347	0348
0349	0350	0351	0418	0419	0420	0421	0422
0423	0490	0491	0492	0493	0494	0495	0496
0562	0563	0564	0565	0566	0567	0568	0634
0635	0636	0637	0638	0639	0640	0641	0706
0707	0708	0709	0710	0711	0712	0713	0781
0782	0783	0784	0785	0853	0854	0855	0856
0857	0926	0927					

Assessed to contain 67 full blocks

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

When preparing a bid and planning exploration, explorers should:

- carefully consider the relevant maritime boundaries and international treaties
- consider all relevant advice to inform decision-making.

Public Consultation Comments

Public consultation on the gazetted areas will occur following the publication of this gazette notice. Applicants are advised to review a summary of comments received for any areas they intend to bid on via the Consultation Hub (<https://consult.industry.gov.au/>) before finalising bids.

Australian Marine Parks, Biologically Important Areas, Key Ecological Features and Heritage

Potential bidders should note that some of the gazetted areas are proximate to Australian Marine Parks, Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) and Key Ecological Features (KEFs). For more information in relation to these areas please refer to the following:

- <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/marine/marine-bioregional-plans/about>
- <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/marine/marine-species/bias>
- <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/>
- <https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/parks/south-east-marine-parks-network/south-east-network-management-plan/>

The Australian Heritage Database provides information on the National Heritage values protected as Matters of National Environmental Significance under the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#) (the EPBC Act). The Australian Heritage Database is

available at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage/publications/australian-heritage-database>. The Protected Matters Search Tool provides information on what is protected under the EPBC Act and is available at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/protected-matters-search-tool>.

Heritage places are protected under the EPBC Act as Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Any action which has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on MNES requires referral for assessment under the EPBC Act.

Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH)

DCCEEW administers the [Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018](#) (the UCH Act). The requirements of the UCH Act are separate to those of the EPBC Act. Any potential titleholder who is planning to undertake works in the offshore environment should consult heritage@dcceew.gov.au for advice on how to mitigate risks associated with underwater cultural heritage.

The Australasian Underwater Cultural Heritage Database contains historical and environmental information about shipwrecks, sunken aircraft and other types of underwater heritage sites and is available at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage/underwater-heritage/auchd>.

Unexploded ordnance

There is potential for unexploded ordnance (UXO) on or in the sea floor in areas where Defence operates and especially in Air Weapons Range Areas. Proponents should be aware of the risks involved in conducting offshore exploration and development activities. The potential presence of UXO carries with it an associated risk of detonation. Defence takes no responsibility for:

- reporting the location and type of ordnance dropped in the areas of interest to the permit holders
- identification of or removal of any UXO
- any loss or damage suffered or incurred by the company or any third party arising out of, or directly related to, UXO.

Consequently, the Australian Government provides no guarantee or indemnity regarding the safety or whereabouts of UXO.

Defence Practice Areas

Areas may coincide with offshore Defence Restricted Areas and restricted airspace. See the Aeronautical Information Package on the Airservices Australia website for more information on restricted airspaces, available at <https://www.airservicesaustralia.com/aip/aip.asp?pg=10>. See notice to airmen on the National Aeronautical Information Processing System (NAIPS) for current restrictions, available at <https://www.airservicesaustralia.com/naips/documents/about>. See notice to mariners from the Australian Hydrographic Office for current restrictions, available at <http://www.hydro.gov.au/n2m/notices.htm>.

Foreign Investment Review Board

International investors may need to seek approval from the Australian Treasurer. See the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) website (<https://foreigninvestment.gov.au/>) for more information. If FIRB approval is not available at the time of submission, it will need to be provided separately before any new acreage will be awarded.

Seismic survey data

Investors are encouraged to consider all available seismic data to determine if further seismic acquisition is necessary in an area and to form a more targeted work program bid. The National Offshore Petroleum Information Management System (<https://public.neats.nopta.gov.au/nopims>)

is available and bidders are strongly encouraged to consider this data to formulate an exploration work program.

Trailing liability

Amendments to the OPGGS Act which implement the Australian Government's expanded trailing liability policy came into effect on 2 March 2022. Provisions and requirements of the Titles Administration Act provide those past titleholders that held a title on or after 1 January 2021, or related persons, may be called back to undertake remedial works in the former title area should issues arise in future.

APPLICATIONS

In accordance with subsection 104(3) of the Act, applications must:

- a. be in the approved form; and**
- b. be accompanied by any information or documents required by the form.**
- c. be accompanied by the appropriate application fee and evidence of payment.**

The approved application form is available for download from the NOPTA website at <http://www.nopta.gov.au/forms/forms.html>.

The approved application form must be executed by all applicants in accordance with NOPTA's factsheet '*How to execute NOPTA forms and instruments*' (*Signatures factsheet*) which outlines the requirements for Australian and foreign companies. The factsheet is available on the NOPTA website at: <https://www.nopta.gov.au/guidelines-and-factsheets/fact-sheets.html>

Applicants should refer to the application fee stated in Schedule 6, Part 1 of the RMA regulations. The schedule of fees and details on how to pay NOPTA fees is available on NOPTA's website at (<https://www.nopta.gov.au/cost-recovery-and-fees.html>)

For further details of the expectations of the Joint Authorities in relation to the content of applications and used as the criteria for ranking of competing applicants in accordance with section 106 of the Act, please refer to the Offshore Petroleum Exploration Guideline: Work-bid available on NOPTA'S website (<https://www.nopta.gov.au/guidelines-and-factsheets/index.html>).

Applicant Suitability

Persons that wish to participate in Australia's offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage regime as a titleholder must satisfy certain suitability requirements. In making a decision to offer the award of an exploration permit the Joint Authority will consider relevant matters from a range of factors including but not limited to financial capacity, technical capability, history of compliance, corporate governance arrangements and any previous liquidation or bankruptcy events. Please refer to the Guideline: Applicant suitability available on NOPTA's website. (<https://www.nopta.gov.au/guidelines-and-factsheets/index.html>)

Fact sheets for additional guidance on applicant suitability may be found on NOPTA's website (<https://www.nopta.gov.au/guidelines-and-factsheets/fact-sheets.html>)

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications are to be submitted to NOPTA in the following manner:

1. By accessing an account in the NEATS Secure Portal on the website of (<https://secure.neats.nopta.gov.au/SignIn>) Download and complete the approved application form from the NOPTA website and uploading the signed form and accompanying documents into the Portal. This is the preferred method of submission.
2. Electronic copy in searchable file format of the application loaded onto a USB sealed and enclosed in a plain covering envelope clearly marked as “**Application for Area [Release Area Number as appropriate] Commercial-in-Confidence**”. A hard copy may be provided if desired. The package must be delivered by hand (couriers accepted) to the address stated below.

For more information on submitting an application via the Secure Portal please refer to the NEATS secure portal guide, which is available at (<https://www.nopta.gov.au/neats-info/secure-portal/NEATS-Secure-Portal-Guidance.pdf>) or email titles@nopta.gov.au or phone (08) 6424 5317.

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Please check the NOPTA website prior to submitting an application for further updates on submissions.

Location	Address	Date
Perth Office	National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator Level 10, Alluvion Building 58 Mounts Bay Road Perth WA 6000 Tel: +61 8 6424 5317	Tuesday 30 June 2026 4:00 pm (AWST)
Melbourne Office	National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator Level 25, 140 William Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Tel: +61 3 8199 0300	Tuesday 30 June 2026 4:00 pm (AEST)

Approved for publication:

Date: _____

FOI 300508

Archived: Sunday, 24 May 2026 4:16:52 PM

From: [Minister King](#)

Sent: Thu, 11 Dec 2025 05:51:57

To: [Waters, Graeme](#) titles@nopta.gov.au

Cc: [Minister King](#)

Subject: Correspondence from the Hon Madeleine King MP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Attachments:

[MS25-001699 - King to Waters.pdf](#); [Draft Gazette Notice.pdf](#);

\ri100OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Waters

Please see the attached correspondence from Minister King.

Thank you

\sb100Office of the Hon Madeleine King MP

\sb100Minister for Resources

\sb100Minister for Northern Australia

\sb100Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

\sb100T: s 22(1)(a)(ii) E: minister.king@industry.gov.au

\ri100\s b100OFFICIAL

]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 47C, s 47B

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- <https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/parks/south-east-marine-parks-network/south-east-network-management-plan/>

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(<https://www.nopta.gov.au/guidelines-and-factsheets/index.html>)

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Please check the NOPTA website prior to submitting an application for further updates on submissions.

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Location	Address	Date
Perth Office	National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator Level 10, Alluvion Building 58 Mounts Bay Road Perth WA 6000 Tel: +61 8 6424 5317	Tuesday 30 June 2026 4:00 pm (AWST)
Melbourne Office	National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator Level 25, 140 William Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Tel: +61 3 8199 0300	Tuesday 30 June 2026 4:00 pm (AEST)

Approved for publication:

Date: _____

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DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

MS26-000303

To: Minister for Resources (For Decision)

2025 OTWAY OFFSHORE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION ACREAGE RELEASE - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Timing: 16 March 2026 – to allow time for applicants to review consultation comments before submitting their bids.

s 47C

Minister:		Date: 26-3-26	
Comments:		Please publish public submittals a 2 April.	
Clearing Officer:	Cliff Weeks	General Manager, Offshore Resources Branch	Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mol
Contact Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Manager, Offshore Exploration Section	Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mot
For Parliamentary Services' use only. Date Submitted to the Minister's office in PDMS:			13/03/2026

Key Points:

s 47C

2. Approximately 3,700 submissions were received through the consultation.
3. The department has made redactions for personal privacy and inappropriate language where needed and is ready to publish approximately 3,100 submissions on Consultation Hub.
 - a. 571 submissions are marked as 'private' and cannot be published.
 - b. 11 submissions were received outside of Consultation Hub and cannot be published.
4. The department is currently preparing a consultation summary report which will be shared with your office prior to publication.
 - a. The department expects to publish this on Consultation Hub after the individual public comments are published.

Sensitivities and Handling:

5. Large submissions were received from Greenpeace and the Wilderness Society and these will be published with redactions:
 - a. The Greenpeace submission was endorsed by 696 individuals with names listed in an annex to the submission.
 - b. The Wilderness Society submission was accompanied by a list of over 21,000 individuals who supported the submission.

s 42

s 47C

Data Referenced:

7. Nil

Consultation with the Partnerships and Projects Division, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts:

8. This matter is not relevant to the Northern Australia portfolio.

Other Consultation: YES

9. Digital branch and legal branch.

ATTACHMENTS:

A: Background

Background

1. On 11 December 2025, you released new areas in the Otway Basin offshore Victoria and Tasmania in Commonwealth waters for competitive work program bidding. At the same time, you also opened public consultation on the release areas (**MB25-000657** refers).
2. The Gazette notice was published on 11 December 2025 with the agreement of the relevant Joint Authority. This is the formal instrument that invites applications for the grant of exploration permits over released areas.
 - a. The Gazette notice advised bidders to review a summary of comments received before finalising bids.
 - b. Publication of the comments and a summary report will allow bidders to meet the expectations set out in the Gazette notice.
3. Public consultation was scheduled to close on 8 February 2026. You decided to extend public consultation by two weeks to close on 20 February 2026.

Next Steps:

4. In line with the Gazette notice, bids close on 30 June 2026.
5. The department expects to publish the consultation summary report by the end of March. This will give bidders time to consider the report's findings.
6. In line with the usual process, the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA) will assess all bids after closing and advise the Joint Authorities. The relevant Joint Authority will then make its decision on whether to offer to grant any permits over release areas.

QB26-000086

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT

Issue

There are calls to explore for oil and gas in the Great Australian Bight in offshore South Australia to secure fuel supply and combat high fuel prices.

Key Talking Points

- The Australian Government acknowledges concerns raised by gas users in recent years regarding gas prices and reliable supply.
- Government is taking action to address market structures and improve supply availability.
- Following the Gas Market Review, government has announced fundamental reform of our gas markets, including through the introduction of a domestic gas reservation scheme, which will secure domestic supply and put downward pressure on prices over the long-term.
- The government is continuing to look at new opportunities for future supply of oil and gas through acreage releases.
- The *Future Gas Strategy* lays out the government's approach to meeting Australia's future gas needs and acknowledges the role of gas in the energy transition.

Contact:

Cleared by:

Min ID: QB26-000086
Division: Oil and Gas
Created: 20 March 2026
Updated: 5/24/2026 4:27 PM

Page 1 of 4

QB26-000086

- The government will focus offshore exploration on optimising existing discoveries and infrastructure and aligning with our net zero targets.
- On 11 December 2025, the government announced the release of five new areas for work-program bidding in the Otway Basin in Commonwealth waters.
 - If permits are eventually awarded through this process, the agreed program of work may lead to a future discovery, and secure more supply.
- Australia has a robust offshore regulatory regime which ensures that oil and gas activities are undertaken safely and are environmentally responsible.
- The Australian Government will consider future acreage releases in consultation with the relevant states and territories and in line with the Future Gas Strategy.

Contact: s 22(1)(a)
Cleared by: Cliff Weeks

Min ID: QB26-000086
Division: Oil and Gas
Created: 20 March 2026
Updated: 5/24/2026 4:27:00 PM

OFFICIAL

Background

- On 20 March 2026 Senator Matt Canavan wrote an op-ed in The Advertiser calling for the government to drill for new oil and gas in the Great Australian Bight in offshore South Australia.
 - Senator Canavan noted that he has been advocating for new exploration in the Bight since 2017.
 - He notes that this is Australia's most prospective area.
 - He notes that previous explorers had abandoned exploration due to environmental activist opposition.
 - He notes that a Bight oil industry would create 2000 jobs for South Australia, raise billions in tax revenue, and secure fuel supply.
- Senator Canavan has made various media appearances on the topic, and this has been picked up by various outlets.
- The Great Australian Bight is one of the largest under-explored basins in Australia, and is considered by many in the petroleum industry to be one of the most prospective new basins in the world.
- Since the 1960s, approximately 50 seismic surveys and 13 exploratory wells have been completed in the Bight, the last in 2003.
- It is a frontier exploration region, and there is limited existing support infrastructure for exploration or development in South Australia.
- Between 2016 and 2020 a number of companies announced that they would not progress with planned exploration efforts in the Bight, including BP, Chevron and Equinor.
 - The South Australian Wilderness Society, through the NSW Environmental Defenders Office, had filed action in the Federal

Contact: s 22(1)(a)
Cleared by: Cliff Weeks

Min ID: QB26-000086
Division: Oil and Gas
Created: 20 March 2026
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QB26-000086

Court challenging NOPSEMA's acceptance of Equinor's environment plan.

- In 2020 Equinor announced it would discontinue its exploration program, stating that the project is not commercially competitive compared with other exploration opportunities for the company.
- On 11 February 2025, the Greens introduced the *Great Australian Bight (World Heritage Protection) Bill 2025*.
 - It seeks to prohibit mining and requires the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment to submit the Great Australian Bight for consideration as a World Heritage Site.
 - The bill was restored to the Notice Paper on 23 July 2025.

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QB26-000045

OFFSHORE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

Issue

Environmental groups have raised concerns that continued offshore petroleum exploration, including the recently announced Otway Basin acreage release, is inconsistent with the government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.

Key Talking Points

- The *Future Gas Strategy* lays out the government's approach to meeting Australia's future gas needs and acknowledges the role of gas in the energy transition.
- The government will focus offshore exploration on optimising existing discoveries and infrastructure and aligning with our net zero targets.
- Investment in the petroleum sector is important for the economy and to secure future energy supplies for Australia.
- On 7 May 2026, the government called for nominations for petroleum exploration in the Gippsland and Bass basins, offshore Victoria and Tasmania.
 - This round is open until 19 June 2026.
 - All nominations will be considered before any decisions to progress to an acreage release and consultation.
- On 11 December 2025, the government announced the release of five new areas for work-program bidding in the Otway Basin in Commonwealth waters.

Contact: s 22(1)(a) Manager, Offshore Exploration
PH: s 22(1)(a)
Cleared by: Cliff Weeks, General Manager, Offshore Resources
PH: s 22(1)(a)

Min ID: QB26-000045
Division: Oil and Gas
Created: 14 January 2026
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QB26-000045

- This includes three areas offshore Tasmania and two areas offshore Victoria.
 - The areas have been shaped to protect neighbouring marine parks with buffer zones.
 - Public consultation was open for 10 weeks, until 20 February 2026.
 - This is longer than for other recent offshore petroleum acreage releases.
 - We listened to community requests and extended it to give more time for people to have their say.
 - Bids close on 30 June 2026.
- If permits are eventually awarded, the agreed program of work may lead to a future discovery.
 - The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) are forecasting structural gas shortfalls from 2027-2029
 - If exploration permits are awarded, separate and extensive safety and environmental approvals will be required through Australia's independent National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority.
 - The Australian Government will consider future acreage releases in consultation with the relevant states and territories and in line with the *Future Gas Strategy*.

Contact: s 22(1)(a) Manager, Offshore Exploration
PH: s 22(1)(a)
Cleared by: Cliff Weeks, General Manager, Offshore Resources
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Min ID: QB26-000045
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Background

Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Release

- The Department of Industry, Science and Resources continues to accept nominations for future Offshore Acreage Releases.
- In 2024, three permits were granted from the 2022 acreage release and two permits were granted from the 2021 acreage release.

Offshore Petroleum Exploration Permits

- As at 27 February 2026 there are 57 active offshore petroleum exploration permits in Commonwealth waters.

If asked: Why are you releasing exploration acreage now?

- The Australian Energy Market Operator is forecasting gas shortfalls from 2027-2029. Releasing new acreage is a positive step in addressing the shortfalls.

If asked: Why did the government hold consultation at the same time as the Otway bidding process?

- This time the government undertook public consultation during the bidding period to improve efficiency of the process.
- The Joint Authorities will take this feedback into account when deciding whether to offer exploration permits.

s 47C

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PH: s 22(1)(a)
Cleared by: Cliff Weeks, General Manager, Offshore Resources
PH: s 22(1)(a)

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Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Releases – from 2016

Year	Nominations	Released areas	Bids	Awarded
2016	100	25 work-bid 3 cash-bid	16 work-bid 1 cash-bid	7 work-bid 1 cash-bid
2017	97	20 work-bid 1 cash-bid	13 work-bid 0 cash-bid	7 work-bid 0 cash-bid
2018	76	16 work-bid 5 cash-bid	23 work-bid 8 cash-bid	10 work-bid 3 cash-bid
2019	76	64 work-bid	30 work-bid	14 work-bid
2020	76	42 work-bid	15 work-bid	5 work-bid
2021	58	21 work-bid	10 work-bid	2 work-bid
2022	28	10 work-bid	3 work-bid	3 work-bid
2025	12	5 work-bid	In progress	In progress

Attachments: Attachment A - Minister's media release – Opening new areas for offshore gas exploration

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s 47C



s 47C

B: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

C:

D:

E: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

F: s 47C

G:

s 47C

s 47C

s 47C

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s 47C

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2026 2:55 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Weeks, Cliff
Cc: Chard, Sam; DLO King; Jeremenko, Robert; Laucher, Norelle
Subject: RE: Acreage Releases [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 6:34 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Weeks, Cliff <Cliff.Weeks@industry.gov.au>
Cc: Chard, Sam <Sam.Chard@industry.gov.au>; DLO King <DLOKing@resources.gov.au>; Jeremenko, Robert <Robert.Jeremenko@industry.gov.au>; Laucher, Norelle <Norelle.Laucher@industry.gov.au>; P s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Acreage Releases [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Thanks for the chat earlier today and the AR announcement update below.

Please see the attached talking points which include standard responses to queries on the last page.

I have attached maps for the Gippsland and Bass Basins. Please use these if being shared in any public forum – the maps from the decision brief (MS26-000489) include non-public facing information such as existing nominations. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47C

The department is progressing updates to the relevant website pages. These will be up to date ready for an announcement next week.

I am working with our comms team around a brief Australian Resources News article and website article to run after the Minister's announcement. This can be handled DISR side and won't hold up any announcement.

Hope this helps and feel free to reach out to discuss.

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii) (he/him)

Manager, Offshore Exploration & Offshore CCS | Offshore Resources Branch
Oil and Gas Division
 Ngannawal Country, 10 Binara Street, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia



Acknowledgement of Country

Our department recognises the First Peoples of this nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 1 May 2026 9:15 AM
To: Weeks, Cliff <Cliff.Weeks@industry.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Chard, Sam <Sam.Chard@industry.gov.au>; DLO King <DLOKing@resources.gov.au>
Subject: Acreage Releases [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi Cliff & s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We're looking to progress the Bass and Gippsland acreage release next week. Thanks for your work on the media release, can I please get some additional products to support this?

- Talking points which cover both areas and the nominations process
- Maps for the regions (I know these were in the brief but wanted to check that we can use/share these)
- Standard response on queries particularly around consultation process for the nominations

I suspect you will be able to draw off the Otway release late last year. Also happy for you to suggest anything else that might be useful.

Could we get these on Monday?

Happy to chat further if needed.

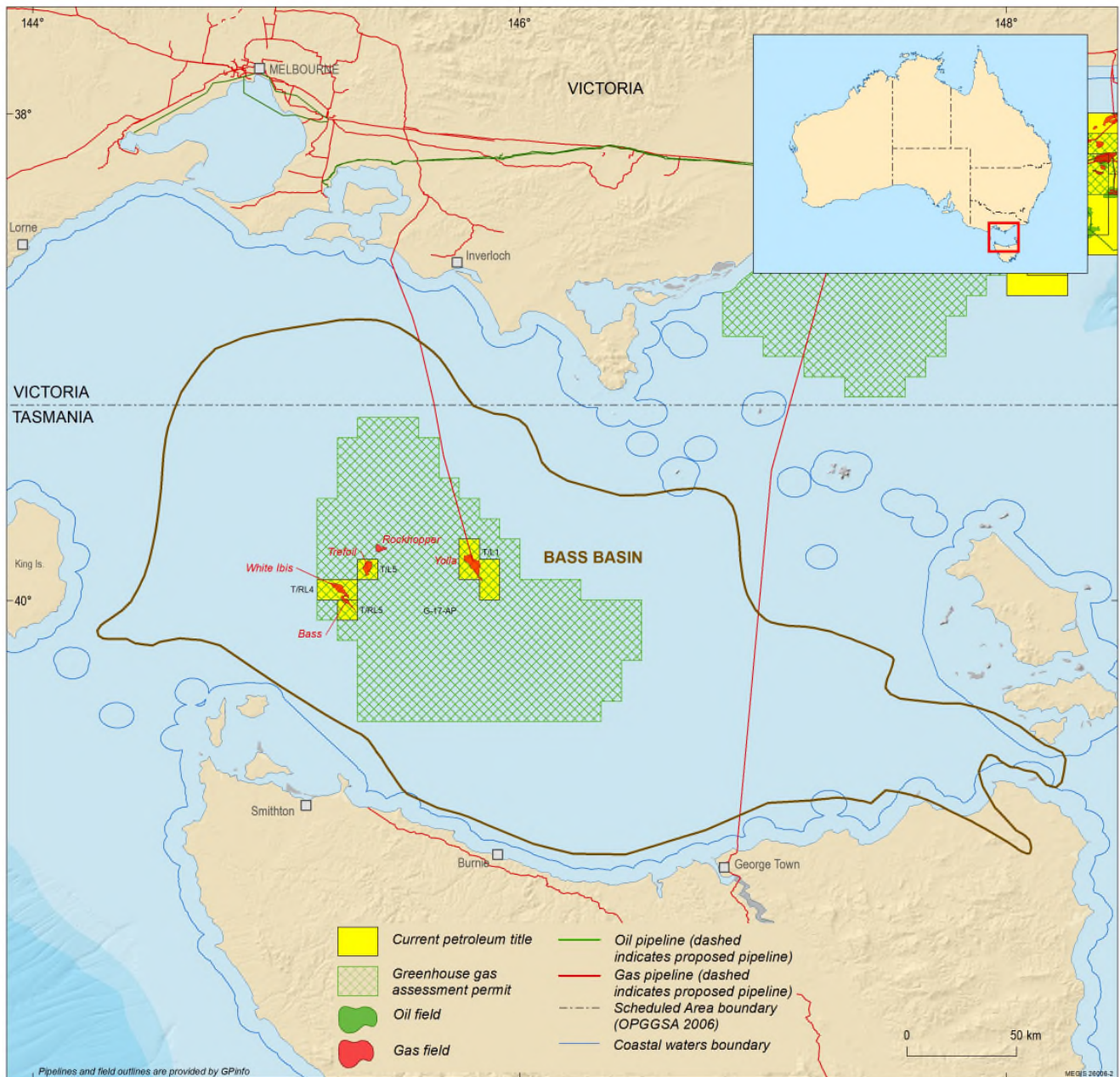
Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon Madeleine King MP
Minister for Resources
Minister for Northern Australia

M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL



MS Teams – Correspondence related to Gippsland Basin, Bass Basin, Bight Basin acreage release 1 Jan 2026 – 8 May 2026.

Friday, 17 April

17/04 2:24 pm

Hi s 22(1)(a)(i) Hoping to have a quick chat RE the next acreage release. Are you free for a call?

s 22(1)(a)(ii) 17/04 3:07 pm

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii) happy to chat before 3:30

Friday, 24 April

24/04 4:17 pm

Afternoon s 22(1)(a)(i) It would be good to give you an update on our progress on the acreage release. I'm happy to chat this afternoon, but appreciate it's getting on, so if you'd prefer we could chat next week.

Friday, 1 May

1/05 12:28 pm

Hi s 22(1)(a)(i) Do you have a sec for a call on 2026 AR?

1/05 12:35 pm

btw. I'll reply to your email so that my exec is in the loop.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) 1/05 12:36 pm

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Understood, thanks s 22(1)(a)(i) Always appreciate the chat!



s 22(1)(a)(ii)