



ExxonMobil



CONSULTATION

Bass Strait Operations

Victorian State Waters – Pipeline Operations

INFORMATION BULLETIN
October 2024

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

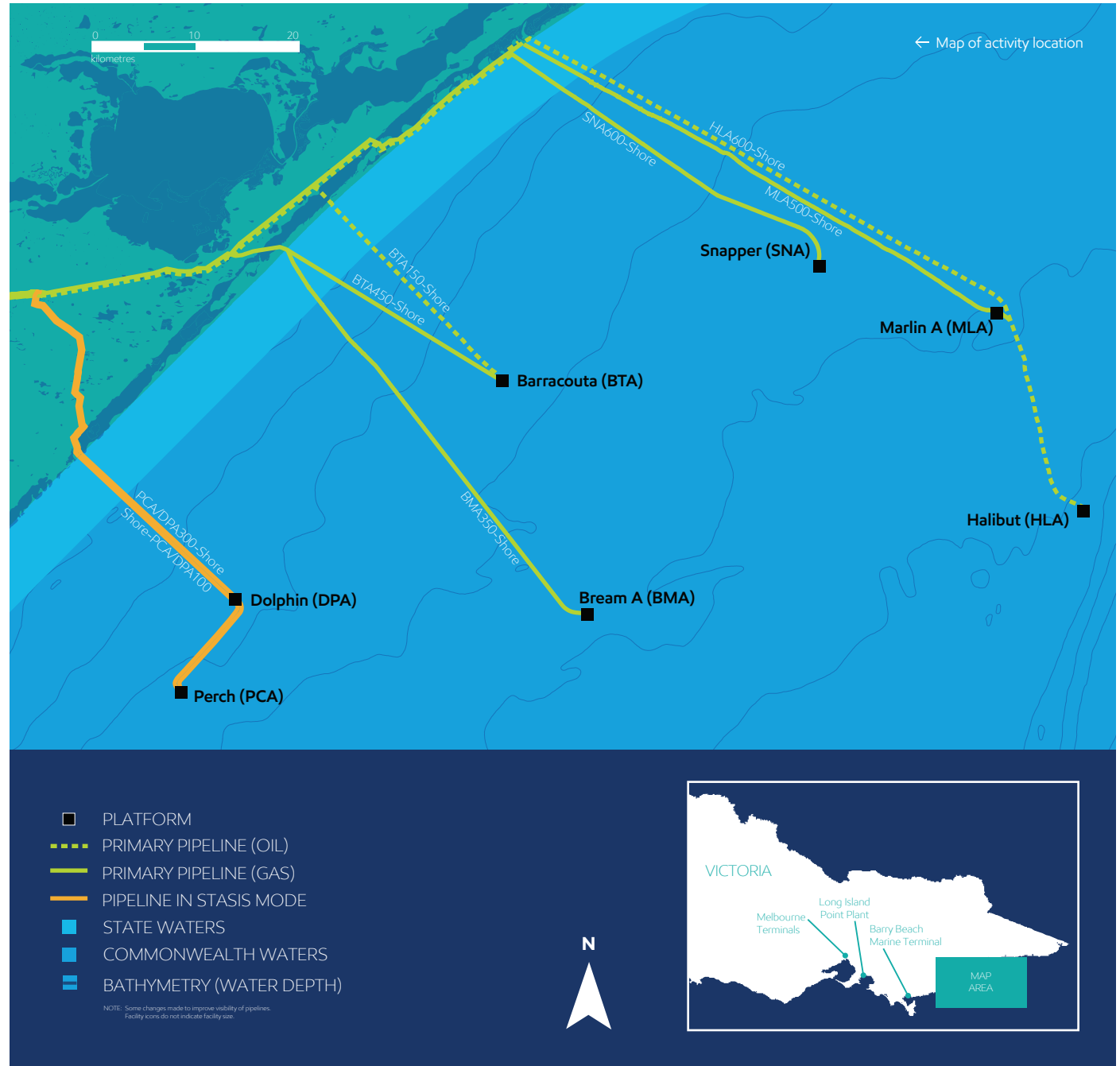
Overview

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

Esso is planning to undertake a five yearly variation of our Bass Strait State Waters Environment Plan for the operations of pipelines in State waters (3 nautical miles seaward of Victorian shoreline) as required under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Regulations 2021 (Vic) (Environment Regulations). For a variation of an Environment Plan (EP), Esso must undertake consultation with relevant persons whose functions, interests or activities may be impacted by the activities to be carried out under the EP.

Esso operates eight shore-crossing pipelines to convey petroleum products between platforms in the Bass Strait and Longford Plants. Two of the eight pipelines, Shore-PCA/DPA100 and PCA/DPA300-Shore, are not in use and are in a stasis mode. These two pipelines have been cleaned of hydrocarbon content and filled with inhibited water to preserve their integrity.

This bulletin provides information on the activities that may be carried out during pipeline operations so that relevant persons can make an informed assessment of the possible consequences of the activity on their functions, interests or activities.



Activity timing

Activities associated with pipeline operations are conducted on a 24/7 basis to convey petroleum products from production platforms in the Bass Strait to Longford Plants and then into the southeast Australia gas market.

Consultation will be conducted with relevant persons prior to the variation of the EP.

Activity description

Esso carries out a variety of inspection and maintenance programs on the pipelines at periodic intervals. The goal of these programs is to monitor and maintain pipeline integrity. Examples of inspection and maintenance programs are:

- general visual inspection
- pipeline anode inspection
- pigging/intelligent pigging
- injection of corrosion inhibitor/hydrate inhibitor/biocide.

Inspection programs are essential for Esso to detect potential pipeline integrity defects and to repair them in a timely manner. Esso's approach to repair of any identified defects is dependent on the nature and severity of the defect. Examples of repair activities that may be conducted by Esso include:

- removal and reapplication of pipeline coating
- placing grout bags to remediate pipeline free span
- replacement of pipeline anode
- installation of clamps/wraps on pipeline.

All subsea activities are carried out by remote operated vehicles (ROV) or divers and are supported by vessels. Vessels may also be used for specialised services such as environmental monitoring.

Activity location

Esso has eight shore-crossing pipelines that connect platforms in the Bass Strait and Longford Plants. The section of pipelines in State waters are located between Seaspray and Loch Sport.

Area To Be Avoided and scheduled subsea activity notification

All pipelines apart from PCA/DPA300-Shore and Shore100-PCA/DPA are located within the Area to be Avoided as defined in Schedule 2 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (Cth) (OPGGGS Act).

Scheduled subsea pipeline activities are communicated to stakeholders each quarter and again one week prior to commencement of activities, and to other marine vessels via AUSCOAST warnings issued by Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Interaction with commercial fishing

The activity locations are located within existing Victorian fisheries that may be used by commercial fishers. The impacts to commercial fishing should be minimal as scheduled subsea activities are communicated to relevant fishing and seafood associations.



ENVIRONMENT PLAN

Under the Victorian Environment Regulations, before any petroleum-related activities in State waters can commence, an EP must be accepted by the Minister for Energy and Resources (the Minister). The EP is only valid for five years upon acceptance by the Minister. After five years, Esso is required to propose a new variation to the EP to the Minister. This information bulletin has been prepared for the proposed new variation to the EP.

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

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

Oil Pollution Emergency Plan

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

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

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

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

Potential impacts, consequences and control measures

Esso's aim is to minimise environmental and social impacts associated with the proposed pipeline operations activities.

As such, Esso has undertaken an assessment to identify potential impacts and consequences to the environment resulting from the proposed activities, considering timing, duration, location, values and sensitivities.

For each potential impact, Esso has developed the control measures outlined in the table below to assist relevant persons in making an informed assessment of possible impacts to their functions, interests or activities.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES	CONTROL MEASURES
Unplanned loss of containment of pipeline	Injury and death of species such as fish, marine reptiles, seabirds and cetaceans. Socioeconomic impacts to fishing and tourism industries. Pollution of shoreline habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA)-accepted Safety Case in place. Activity specific operating guidelines for vessel-supported activities. Pipeline corrosion control, inspection and maintenance programs in place. Navigational chart AUS357 detailing location of pipelines. Helicopter pilots' overhead observation during flights between Longford heliport to platforms in Bass Strait. Emergency response preparedness including OPEP and Operational and Scientific Monitoring Plan.
Discharge from pipeline activities (inspection, maintenance or repair)	Temporary and localised reduction in water quality. Smothering of benthic habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned chemical discharges assessed and confirmed consistent with the Esso chemical assessment procedure prior to use.
Radioactive source for pipeline radiography	Exposure of marine fauna to radioactive source.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radioactive source stored in shielded and secure casing. Handling of radioactive source restricted to licenced and qualified contractors only.
Pipelines and vessels/ROV physical presence	Change to functions, interest or activities of other marine users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication to stakeholders of scheduled subsea pipeline activities.
ROV operation	Temporary and localised reduction in water quality (hydraulic fluid spills). Temporary and localised seabed disturbance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interaction with seabed is avoided when possible. Pre and post ROV dive checks. ROV uses biodegradable hydraulic fluid. ROV installation standard audit.



POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES	CONTROL MEASURES
Unplanned discharge to marine environment: sewage, food waste, general waste, deck drainage and bilge	Temporary and localised reduction in water quality. Temporary and localised increase in nutrients in marine environment. Injury or death of marine fauna through ingestion, entanglement or suffocation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vessels comply with International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL) requirements, discharge of waste to marine environment is prohibited within 3 nautical miles of shore.
Unplanned introduction of invasive marine species	Displacement of native species and habitat domination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vessels will have a Ballast Water Management Plan and associated certificate. Vessels will comply with Australian Ballast Water Management requirements. Biofouling risk assessment shows low risk of invasive marine species introduction.
Unplanned interaction with marine fauna (vessel strike)	Injury or death of marine fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vessels will comply with Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (Cth) Part 8 Division 8.1 interacting with cetaceans.
Unplanned release of marine diesel or other hazardous or noxious substances (vessel collision with another vessel)	Injury and death of species such as fish, marine reptiles, seabirds and cetaceans. Socioeconomic impacts to fishing and tourism industries. Pollution of shoreline habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication to stakeholders of scheduled subsea pipeline activities. Activity specific operating guidelines for vessel-supported activities. Vessels have Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plan.
Air emissions	Temporary and localised reduction in air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine engines are routinely maintained, and air emissions will meet MARPOL requirements.
Sound emission	Temporary displacement of sound sensitive fauna around active vessels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vessels will comply with Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (Cth) Part 8 Division 8.1 interacting with cetaceans. During specific months, additional noise control to be implemented when cetaceans are observed.

↑ Weedy sea dragon (*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*) near the BMA350-Shore pipeline



Environment that may be affected

The Environment that may be affected (EMBA) is the largest spatial extent where the activities could potentially have an environmental consequence (direct or indirect impact). For this activity, the broadest extent of the EMBA takes into consideration planned and unplanned activities and is determined by a highly unlikely release of light crude from a loss of containment of pipeline at seabed.

The EMBA represents the total area that could be exposed to hydrocarbon, including trace concentrations of oil in the water column, as a result of any spill from this activity. This area takes into account the merged area of many possible paths a highly unlikely hydrocarbon release could travel depending on the weather and ocean conditions at the time of the release. This means in the highly unlikely event a hydrocarbon release does occur, the entire EMBA will not be affected and the specific and minimal part of the EMBA that is affected will only be known at the time of the release.

For this activity, Esso has defined the EMBA on the furthest feasible extent (lowest exposure zone) from the

release location of all modelled scenarios where hydrocarbon thresholds, including surface, entrained and dissolved aromatic hydrocarbons could be exceeded.

Consultation

Esso is committed to ongoing engagement with the communities where we operate. Your functions, interests and activities may mean you, your business or your organisation are a relevant person for these activities. Your participation will help Esso to better understand the impacts and risks that may arise from the activities. As such, we are seeking your feedback as we develop the EP. Please note that your feedback and our response will be included in our EP for the proposed activities, which will be

submitted to the Minister for acceptance in accordance with the Victorian Environment Regulations.

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

If you would like to comment on the proposed activities outlined in this information bulletin, or would like additional information, please contact us.

ExxonMobil

How to contact us

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

T: +61 3 9261 0000

E: consultation@exxonmobil.com

W: www.exxonmobil.com.au



Scan to access the
Consultation Hub and
Esso Consultation Questionnaire

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Acknowledgement of traditional owners



Esso Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country, the Gunaikurnai Peoples, and the land and sea upon which our operations are located.

We recognise the Gunaikurnai Peoples' continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.