

s 47F

From: Media - Industry
Sent: Wednesday, 21 October 2020 12:37 PM
To: Peter Milne; Media - Industry
Subject: RE: media query - Northern Endeavour [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Categories: s 47F

Hi Peter,

Thanks for your enquiry.

Please find our response below.

//

Attributable to a spokesperson for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

- The Government remains committed to keeping the Northern Endeavour facility and the surrounding marine environment safe and secure. The safety of offshore workers and protection of the marine environment remains the Government's number one priority.
- The Government has contracted Upstream Production Solutions to continue to operate the Northern Endeavour facility and associated subsea facilities and wells until a longer term solution to the facility and associated oil fields can be found. Details regarding this arrangement will continue to be published on AusTender.
- The Government is also seeking advice on a range of options for a longer-term solution, including costs and timeframes.
- It is anticipated a revised framework will be released for public consultation prior to the end of this year.

//

Media Team
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Ph: 02 6213 6308

Email: media@industry.gov.au

Internet: www.industry.gov.au

UNOFFICIAL

From: Peter Milne [mailto:peter.milne@boilingcold.com.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 5:26 PM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: media query - Northern Endeavour [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi,

The AusTender site shows that the contract with Upstream Production Solutions to operate the Northern Endeavour has been extended one month for an additional cost of \$10.34 million:

<https://www.tenders.gov.au/Cn/Show/0b53a4ea-8065-4ad8-ab46-7fd3b5fad23>

My questions are:

- Is this \$10.34 million indicative of the ongoing monthly cost going forward? If not, what will be monthly cost be going forward?
- Is the Government any closer to making a decision on the future of the Northern Endeavour? When can an announcement be expected?
- Is the Government still pursuing opportunities to recover costs?

- Has the Minister for Resources received the revised decommissioning framework? If not, when is this expected? Will the review be made public? Ref: <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/offshore-oil-and-gas-decommissioning-framework-review>

Please respond by 1PM Wednesday (Canberra time).

Thanks for your help.

Regards
Pete

Peter Milne
Journalist
Boiling Cold : Energy • Industry • Climate • Western Australia

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From: Peter Milne
Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2020 2:24 PM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: media query - Northern Endeavour [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Thanks ^{s 47F}

From: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2020 1:55 PM
To: Peter Milne <peter.milne@boilingcold.com.au>; Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: media query - Northern Endeavour [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi Peter,

Thanks for your query to the media team at the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. We have the following response for you, from a spokesperson for the Department.

- The Australian Government has taken action to ensure the safety and security of the Northern Endeavour floating production storage and offtake facility, to protect the environment and keep workers safe.
- The Government has contracted Upstream Production Solutions to operate and maintain the facility in lighthouse mode (no production) and undertake critical works. Upstream PS is a respected and reliable operator in the offshore sector.
- The Government has also ensured the necessary insurances and oil spill memberships are in place.
- The Government is seeking advice on a range of options for a longer-term solution to the Northern Endeavour and associated fields, including costs and timeframes. This includes advice from Woodside Energy on a possible decommissioning project, and due diligence of the options by Gaffney Cline (<https://www.tenders.gov.au/Cn/Show/?Id=7deb093d-0e13-4a27-8431-43247a6221af>).
- The Government is also considering opportunities to recover costs.

- This effort is ongoing and further updates will be provided as work progresses.

ENDS

Regards,

s 47F

Assistant Manager Media and Speechwriting
Communications
Corporate Network

s 47F

s 47F [@industry.gov.au](mailto:industry.gov.au)

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources | www.industry.gov.au

UNOFFICIAL

From: Peter Milne [<mailto:peter.milne@boilingcold.com.au>]

Sent: Monday, 24 August 2020 5:12 PM

To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>

Subject: media query - Northern Endeavour

Hi,

I am writing a story on the mounting costs to the Government of the Northern Endeavour.

FYI, from Austender:

Operations and Maintenance Services Agreement, Upstream Production Solutions

Contract Period:13-Feb-2020 to 30-Apr-2020

Contract Value (AUD):\$12,136,412.01

Contract Period:1-May-2020 to 31-Oct-2020

Contract Value (AUD):\$35,440,240.00 (\$194,000 a day)

Insurance, Arthur J Gallagher and Co

Contract Period:2-Mar-2020 to 15-Oct-2020

Contract Value (AUD): \$6,915,864.32 (30,000 a day)

Professional Advice, Woodside

Contract Period:24-Jun-2020 to 23-Jan-2021

Contract Value (AUD):\$8,800,000.00 (\$41,000 a day)

Total of three contracts: \$265,000 a day

My questions for Minister Pitt are:

- Is the Australian Government incurring any other costs related to the Northern Endeavour (apart from those above)? If so, with who and how much?
- UPS is charging an annual rate of \$71 million to keep the Northern Endeavor in lighthouse mode. In the 18-19 financial year UPS had revenue of \$88.4 million (ref annual report of UPS owner GR Engineering) from

looking after the Northern Endeavor in the more complex operations mode and onshore and offshore work for four other companies.

- What action has the Government taken to ensure UPS is not charging an excessive amount?
- Does the Government have a rough cost estimate of the total cost of dealing with the Northern Endeavour? If so, what is it?
- When will the Government decide to either decommission the facility or place it back into operation?
- Minister Pitt said on 7 February he would “limit any costs to Australian taxpayers as a result of the NOGA liquidation.”
 - What action does the Minister propose to see that costs to date and future costs are borne by someone other than the taxpayer?

Please provide answers by 5PM Tuesday Canberra time.

Give me a call if you have any questions.

Regards

Pete

Peter Milne

Journalist

Boiling Cold : Energy • Industry • Climate • Western Australia

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s 47F

From: Media - Industry
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 3:53 PM
To: s 47F ; Media - Industry
Subject: RE: Media Request - s 47F [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Categories: s 47F

Hi s 47F

We have the following comments for you, from a spokesperson for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

RESPONSE:

In April 2018, Australia and Timor-Leste agreed that Timor-Leste would offer a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) to NOGA for the portion of its existing title area that moved to Timor-Leste jurisdiction.

Further, it was agreed that it would negotiate such a PSC noting the principle of 'conditions equivalent' [to previous licences].

NOGA negotiated a new PSC with Timor-Leste for the transferred portions of its title area. That PSC was agreed to by NOGA on 28 August 2019.

ENDS

Regards,

Media Team**Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources**

Ph: 02-6213 6308

Email: media@industry.gov.auInternet: www.industry.gov.au**UNOFFICIAL**

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 6:18 PM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media Request - s 47F [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

I've just got a follow up question on this relating to the redrawing of the maritime boundaries.

In particular, ANNEX D, Article 1, para 1, which states:

"Pursuant to the terms of Article 22 of the Timor Sea Treaty and Article 27 of the International Unitisation Agreement, the Parties agree that any Petroleum Activities entered into under the terms of the Timor Sea Treaty or the International Unitisation Agreement shall continue under conditions or terms equivalent to

those in place under those agreements as applicable.”

- Were all titleholders affected by the boundary re-draw were offered “terms equivalent”?
- Was TSOGA offered “terms equivalent”?

I require a response on this by COB tomorrow (Tuesday).

Please don't hesitate to contact me on the mobile if you have any questions.

Thanks in advance,

s 47F

From: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 1:40 PM

To: s 47F

Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Media Request - s 47F

[SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

Thanks for your query to the Department's media team.

We have the following response for you, which you can attribute to a spokesperson for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

Regards,

s 47F

RESPONSE, from a spokesperson for the Department of Industry, Science, energy and Resources

- The *Treaty Between Australia And The Democratic Republic Of Timor-Leste Establishing Their Maritime Boundaries In The Timor Sea* (the Treaty) came into force on 30 August 2019, following completion of the relevant domestic ratification process by both Australia and Timor-Leste.
- In Australia, ratification included the passage of legislation through the Australian Parliament to implement the Treaty. This included alterations to a number of offshore petroleum title areas, including portions of WA-18-L and AC/L5 then held by Northern Oil and Gas Australia (NOGA).
- Prior to the boundary change WA-18-L was about 32km² and AC/L5 was about 135km². After the boundary change WA-18-L was about 9km² and AC/L5 was about 127km².
- NOGA was a party to the negotiations for the Treaty, signing a production sharing contract with Timor-Leste on 28 August 2019. Questions as to the detail of that contract are confidential to the parties.

ENDS

UNOFFICIAL

From: s 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 11:43 AM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: Media Request - s 47F

Hello s 47F

s 47F here from the s 47F

Thanks for the chat just now.

As discussed, I'm putting together a story about the Northern Endeavor, and trying to get to the bottom of a boundary redraw around the Timor Leste / Australia Maritime boundary and its impact on a tenement in the area.

Can you please confirm:

- when was this boundary was redrawn?
- What was its impact on tenement WA-18-L?

Attached is a map provided to me by NOGA that shows WA-18-L lost 71.5% of its area after the boundary redraw. Can you please confirm if this is correct?

I'm up against a deadline on this at the moment, and would like a response by COB today.

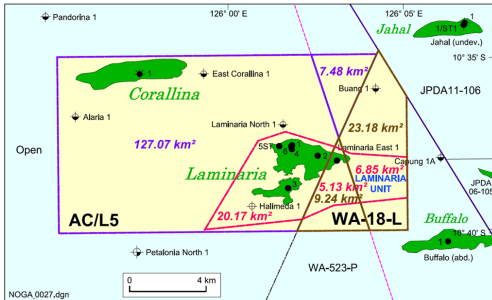
Please advise as soon as you can if this is not possible.

Thanks in advance.

s 47F

s 47F

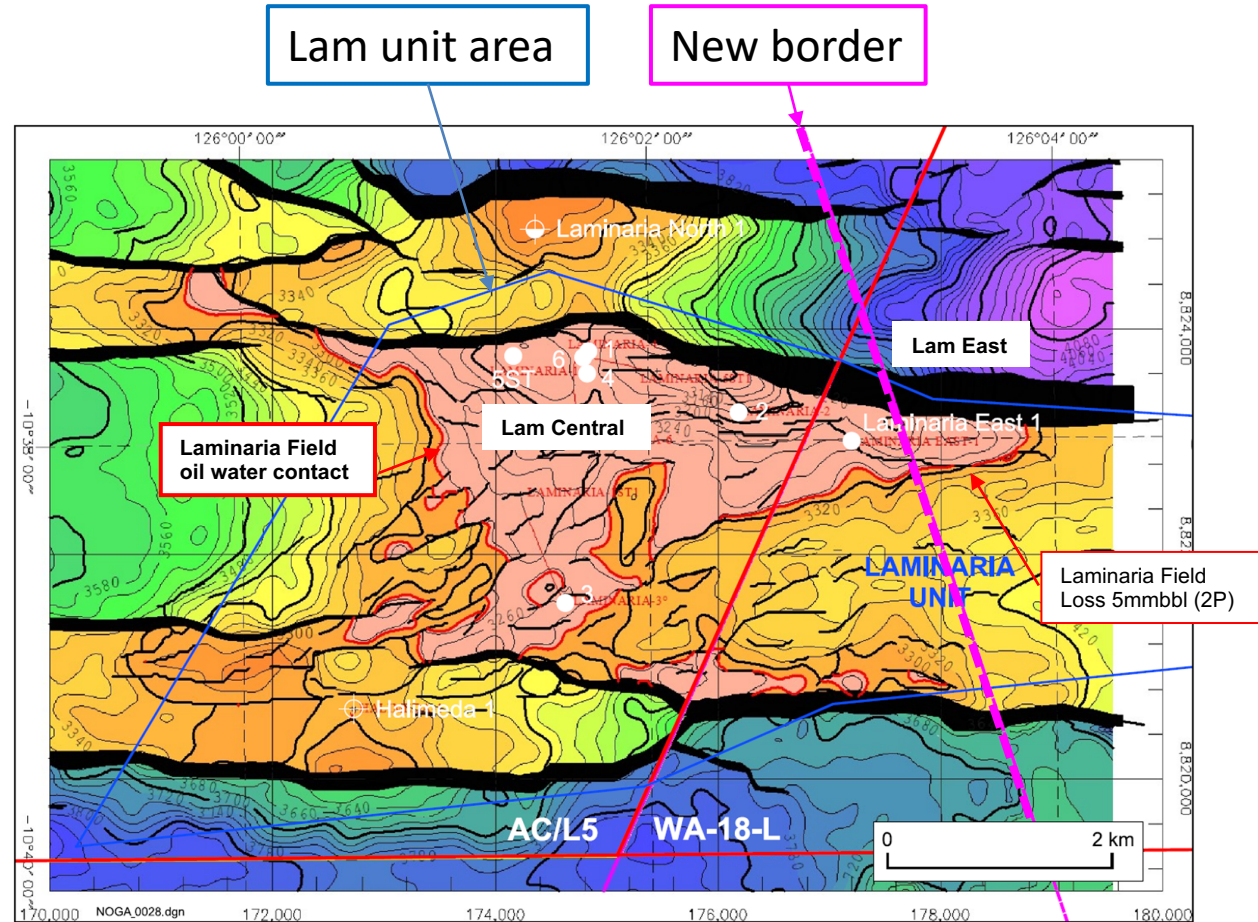
Laminaria Field Development Plan Map



	Total Area (Km2)	Area lost (Km2)	Area lost (%)
AC/L5	134.55	7.48	5.6
WA-18-L	32.42	23.18	71.5
Total	166.97	30.66	18.4

	Total Area (Km2)	Area lost (Km2)	Area lost (%)
Laminaria Unit area	32.15	6.85	21.3
Laminaria Unit area In WA-18-L	11.98	6.85	57.2

Volume Calculation (MMbbls)	Full field	Total in WA-18-L	Total lost oil
FDP Full Field STOIIP	198.50	19.85	7.9
FDP Reserves (2P)	132.00	13.20	5.3



s 47F

From: Media - Industry
Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2019 5:28 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: Media - Industry
Subject: Media queries on Timor Leste treaty issues [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Categories: s 47F
Security Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Dear s 47F and s 47F

Thank you for your queries and apologies for late reply. We have the following responses to your queries. You can quote a spokesperson for the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

Please note, the replies also address s 47F query to Minister Canavan's office.

Regards,

s 47F

1 - If an oil and gas operator holds an interest in a field that spans across both Timor Leste waters and Australian commonwealth waters, are they able to produce from both sides of the permit using the same infrastructure ie FPSO?

A - *The Treaty Between Australia and The Democratic Republic Of Timor-Leste Establishing Their Maritime Boundaries In The Timor Sea* (the Treaty) considers the possibility of a straddling deposit. Article 8 of the Treaty notes that in the case of a petroleum deposit extending across the continental shelf boundary (defined in the Treaty), Australia and Timor-Leste shall work expeditiously and in good faith to reach agreement as to the manner in which that deposit is to be most effectively exploited and equitably shared.

2 - Is there any legislation that forbids an operator/titleholder from producing from two permits, one on each side of the border?

A - Offshore oil and gas production in Australia (Commonwealth waters) is governed and regulated by the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGSA). Among other things, the OPGGSA requires approved regulatory and permissioning documentation (approved by the relevant Joint Authority, the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA), and/or the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA), as applicable) for appropriate resource management, environmental, safety and well integrity activities. Petroleum activities that obtain such approvals are permissible. Petroleum activities in Timor-Leste waters are governed and regulated by the relevant legislation and regulatory authorities of Timor-Leste.

3 - Could you confirm if allegations that you "passed" details of NOPSEMA's prohibition order on NOGA are true and if so in what context given it is public information?

A - Australia was in negotiations with Timor-Leste and companies affected by the Maritime Boundaries Treaty, including Northern Oil and Gas Australia, for about 16 months. Over the

course of that time all parties shared material relevant to the discussions. Australia shared publically available information, including providing links to websites, where that information would be of interest to Timor-Leste. That included information on decisions made by NOPSEMA.

4 - Can you confirm that since the Maritime Border Treaty was signed in Dili August 30 71.5% of NOGA's WA-18-L permit has been moved into Timor-Leste's jurisdiction?

A - The Maritime Boundaries Treaty was signed by Australia and Timor-Leste on 6 March 2018 and came into force on 30 August 2019. To enable the Treaty to come into force, both countries needed to finalise their domestic requirements including implementing transitional arrangements for the affected titles. For Australia this included relevant legislative change. The legislation was passed by Parliament on 29 July 2019 and assented to on 7 August 2019. The legislation includes provisions for the "alteration of permit areas and licence areas to reflect new continental shelf boundary". This section includes changes to WA-18-L and AC/L5 (Northern Oil and Gas Australia's titles), as well as WA-523-P. The legislation makes it clear that the licence continues in force. The effect of the new continental shelf boundary places part of the licence in Timor-Leste jurisdiction.

5 - Is it true that you told NOGA they could not move the Northern Endeavour into TL's waters and still produce oil from the Australian share of the permit?

A - The Department cannot comment on discussions held with titleholders. Offshore oil and gas production in Australia (Commonwealth waters) is governed and regulated by the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGSA). Among other things, the OPGGSA requires approved regulatory and permissioning documentation (approved by the relevant Joint Authority, the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA), and/or the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA), as applicable) for appropriate resource management, environmental, safety and well integrity activities. Petroleum activities that obtain such approvals are permissible.

6 - Do you know if TL's authorities reverted NOGA's production license in the permit back into an EP?

A Timor-Leste operates a production sharing regime for the management and exploitation of its offshore oil and gas resources. As such, companies with projects in Timor-Leste operate under Production Sharing Contracts, rather than permits/licences for particular activities as exists in Australia. Questions about the details of the contract should be directed to Timor-Leste and/or the company.

7 - Is it also true that you told the TL authorities not to authorise NOGA's 25% farmin to the Kitan field and if so why? If yes was it the ANPM you spoke with?

A - Prior to the Maritime Boundaries Treaty coming into force, the Kitan field was located in the Timor Sea Treaty Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA). As such, consideration of changes to contractors/projects would have been done by the Timor Sea Treaty Joint Commission, of which Australia was a member. The Joint Commission was advised that negotiations were underway in relation to changes with Kitan but no decision request was put to the Joint Commission before the Maritime Boundaries Treaty entered into force. The Timor Sea Treaty ceased to have effect when the Maritime Boundaries Treaty entered into force and therefore there is no longer the JPDA or the Joint Commission. Any changes to contracts/projects in Timor-Leste waters are a matter for Timor-Leste.

ENDS

Media Team

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

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Internet: www.industry.gov.au

UNCLASSIFIED

s 47F

From: Media - Industry
Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 2020 2:22 PM
To: Peter Milne
Cc: Media - Industry
Subject: RE: media query - Northern Endeavor [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Categories: s 47F
Security Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Peter,

Our response is below.

Many thanks.

s 47F

The Government remains committed to ensuring the immediate safety and security of the Northern Endeavour FPSO and the protection of the surrounding marine environment.

The Government is working with industry to undertake the necessary planning on a longer term solution for the Northern Endeavour FPSO and Laminaria-Corallina fields, including costs and timeframes. This work remains ongoing.

Under the Northern Endeavour Temporary Operations Program, Upstream Production Solutions has been contracted to maintain the Northern Endeavour facility in 'lighthouse mode' until longer term arrangements are settled. No petroleum production can occur in lighthouse mode.

Mr Steve Walker conducted an independent review of the circumstances which led to the administration and subsequent liquidation of the NOGA group of companies. Mr Walker provided his Review to the Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia, the Hon Keith Pitt MP in June 2020. The Review is currently with the Minister for consideration.

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Peter Milne [mailto:peter.milne@boilingcold.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2020 2:12 PM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: media query - Northern Endeavor

Hi,

I am writing a story on the status of the Northern Endeavour.

Please answer the following questions by close of business Tuesday 21 July:

- When did Mr Walker submit his report?
- Does the Government expect to need to keep UPS on contract after October?

- Has the Government now got a cost estimate for decommissioning the Northern Endeavor vessel and associated subsea facilities and wells?
- What is the Government's plan to deal with the Northern Endeavor?
- What does the Government estimate the total cost of the Northern Endeavour incident to taxpayers will be?

Note:

- Minister Pitt in April appointed Steve Walker to report on how the Northern Endeavor situation arose and report back by the end of May (<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/pitt/media-releases/government-ensures-safety-and-security-northern-endeavour>).
- GR Engineering subsidiary Upstream Production Solutions is being paid \$32 million up to the end of October to keep the vessel in lighthouse mode (<https://www.asx.com.au/asxpdf/20200515/pdf/44hvcyhphpmzf7.pdf>).
- Testimony to Senate Economics Committee 4 March (<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;db=COMMITTEES;id=committees%2Festimate%2F93344a90-e14d-4d1a-8d9c-11d80857bebf%2F0011;query=id%3A%22committees%2Festimate%2F93344a90-e14d-4d1a-8d9c-11d80857bebf%2F0000%22>).
 - Ms Schofield : The government is currently considering options for the long-term future of the Northern Endeavour—
 - Mr Lawson : We're working with industry and we simply don't have an answer at this stage, even a rough order of magnitude of the likely cost, but I will say that we're also working with industry on who pays—can we find a better solution than, as you've characterised it, falling on the taxpayer?

Thanks for your help.

Regards
Pete

From: Peter Milne
Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2020 2:02 PM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: media query - NOPTA management of decommissioning risk [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 47F

FYI, the story is up.
<https://www.boilingcold.com.au/western-gas-micro-oil-gas-player-with-a-us100-million-clean-up-bill/>
Regards
Pete

From: Peter Milne
Sent: Thursday, 2 July 2020 1:40 PM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: media query - NOPTA management of decommissioning risk [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s 47F

Thanks, much appreciated.
Regards
Pete

From: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 July 2020 1:38 PM
To: Peter Milne <peter.milne@boilingcold.com.au>
Cc: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: media query - NOPTA management of decommissioning risk [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Peter,

Apologies for the delay in getting you this response.

Note, 27 wells were drilled by Hess, with 22 plugged and abandoned and 5 suspended. All 5 suspended wells are in WA-70-R (these figures are reiterated in the response to Q5)

We understand that Western Gas remains committed to developing the Equus project with both LNG exports and domestic gas supply options despite the current challenging circumstances. This is a project at the beginning of its development life with gas reserves in place.

Questions:

- 1. What due diligence, if any, did NOPTA or the Department do on the financial capability of the Western Gas group to plug and abandon the wells if their plans to develop an LNG project or otherwise sell the gas are not successful?**

The *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (the OPGGSA) provides for NOPTA to undertake an assessment of the financial capacity of a company at the time of a transfer of title or the award of an exploration permit. As the transaction referred to in your email occurred at the company level, there was no transfer of title under Part 4.3 of the OPGGSA. As the name of the entity was updated as a result of the transaction, requests were made to NOPTA in relation to updating the company name as per the administrative process outlined in Part 4.5 of the OPGGSA.

- 2. Why does the change of control of a company not trigger an investigation by NOPTA or the Department to protect the Australian taxpayer from another cost like the Northern Endeavour?**

As mentioned above, the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (the OPGGSA) provides for NOPTA to undertake an assessment of the financial capacity of a company at the time of a transfer of title or the award of an exploration permit.

The Department is currently undertaking a review of the current policy and legislation in relation decommissioning of offshore oil and gas infrastructure including ensuring there is sufficient coverage for all decommissioning activity including the plugging and abandoning of wells and providing ongoing monitoring of the financial health of companies. A revised decommissioning framework will be released in coming months.

- 3. Does NOPTA or the Department have an estimate of the cost of plugging and abandoning the wells? If not, why not? If yes, how much?**

NOPTA and the Department do not have an estimate of the cost of plugging and abandoning the wells. All wells have different cost parameters given water depth, distance, pressures and other geological features of where any particular well may have been drilled.

- 4. Does NOPTA and or the Department monitor the financial strength of companies holding titles to ensure their obligations can be met?**

Commonwealth legislation places a duty on all titleholders to maintain sufficient financial assurance to meet the costs associated with and arising out of undertaking a petroleum activity. These matters are within scope of the review mentioned above. Also, NOPTA regularly meets with titleholders in relation to the progress and performance of projects. The Department also works with NOPTA and NOPSEMA to keep itself informed on matters impacting on projects.

- 5. Given the well-known state of the industry what action is NOPTA or the Department taking to protect the interests of Australian taxpayers from bearing the cost of plugging and abandoning the wells if Western Gas are not successful in developing a project and left devoid of an income.**

The wells in the Western Gas titles have been plugged and abandoned or are subject to WOMPS overseen by NOPSEMA. Of the 27 wells and sidetracks drilled by Hess, 22 have been plugged and abandoned in accordance with regulations and 5 have been suspended as potential future producers. Western Gas is actively seeking development

Decommissioning obligations, including the plugging and abandonment of wells, are the responsibility of the registered holder of the title, it must ensure its obligations and liabilities are met. Failure to comply with the property removal, maintenance or repair obligations may attract a criminal or civil penalties.

Thanks

s 47F

Media Team

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

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Email: media@industry.gov.au

Internet: www.industry.gov.au

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Peter Milne [<mailto:peter.milne@boilingcold.com.au>]

Sent: Monday, 29 June 2020 12:09 PM

To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>

Subject: media query - NOPTA management of decommissioning risk

Hi,

I write for Boiling Cold, a news site that covers energy, industry and climate in WA.

Background:

In late 2017 the large American multi-national oil and gas company Hess sold its companies that owned acreage in the Equus fields off WA to a small newly-formed WA company called Western Gas:

[https://www.westerngas.com.au/sites/default/files/Media Release - Western Australian Customers to Benefit from New Gas Supply.pdf](https://www.westerngas.com.au/sites/default/files/Media%20Release%20-%20Western%20Australian%20Customers%20to%20Benefit%20from%20New%20Gas%20Supply.pdf)

These are the titles:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Title Type</u>	<u>Offshore Area</u>	<u>Title Holder</u>	<u>Basin</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Expiry Date</u>
WA-474-P	Exploration Permit	WA	Western Gas (474 P) Pty Ltd	Northern Carnarvon Basin	Snapshot	Active	6/08/2018	5/08/2023
WA-70-R	Retention Lease	WA	Western Gas (70 R) Pty Ltd	Northern Carnarvon Basin	Equus	Active	30/03/2016	29/03/2021
WA-518-P	Exploration Permit	WA	Western Gas (518 P) Pty Ltd	Northern Carnarvon Basin		Active	18/09/2015	17/09/2023

WA-519-P	Exploration Permit	WA	Western Gas (519 P) Pty Ltd	Northern Carnarvon Basin	Active	18/09/2015	17/09/2021
WA-390-P	Exploration Permit	WA	Western Gas (70 R) Pty Ltd	Northern Carnarvon Basin	Active	9/03/2017	8/03/2023

The titles came under new ownership by sale of the following companies:

Hess Exploration Australia Pty Ltd
 HESS AUSTRALIA (KARRATHA) PTY LTD
 HESS AUSTRALIA (PILBARA) PTY LTD
 HESS AUSTRALIA (OFFSHORE) PTY LTD

The only involvement of NOPTA in the transaction that is shown on the NEATS database is the approval of the change in company names to:

WESTERN GAS (70 R) PTY LTD
 WESTERN GAS (518 P) PTY LTD
 WESTERN GAS (519 P) PTY LTD
 WESTERN GAS (474 P) PTY LTD

All four companies are owned by WESTERN GAS CORPORATION PTY LTD, ACN 622 203 794

WGCPCL executive directors Will Barker and Andrew Leibovitch own 32.5% of the company each, with the remainder owned by a swag of smaller investors.

Hess spent \$US1.5 billion (\$2.2 billion) and drilled 17 exploration wells and 4 appraisal wells:

<https://www.westerngas.com.au/sites/default/files/Western%20Gas%20-%20AOG%20FINAL.pdf>

The difficult situation of oil and gas industry at the moment is causing even established companies like Woodside to defer LNG projects, and in the case of Browse the deferral is indefinite.

WGCPCL and its seven subsidiaries companies have not lodged any accounts with ASIC since the Hess sold out.

Questions:

1. What due diligence, if any, did NOPTA or the Department do on the financial capability of the Western Gas group to plug and abandon the wells if their plans to develop an LNG project or otherwise sell the gas are not successful?
2. Why does the change of control of a company not trigger an investigation by NOPTA or the Department to protect the Australian taxpayer from another cost like the Northern Endeavour?
3. Does NOPTA or the Department have an estimate of the cost of plugging and abandoning the wells?
4. If not, why not? If yes, how much?
5. Does NOPTA and or the Department monitor the financial strength of companies holding titles to ensure their obligations can be met?
6. Given the well-known state of the industry what action is NOPTA or the Department taking to protect the interests of Australian taxpayers from bearing the cost of plugging and abandoning the wells if Western Gas are not successful in developing a project and left devoid of an income.

Please provide answers by 6PM Tuesday 30 June.

Give me a call if you have any questions.

Thanks for your help.

Regards
 Pete

Peter Milne

Journalist

Boiling Cold : Energy • Industry • Climate • Western Australia

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[Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

s 47F

From: Media - Industry
Sent: Monday, 5 July 2021 12:02 PM
To: s 47F ; Media - Industry
Subject: RE: Northern Endeavour image request [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Attachments: NE_silhouette_cropped.jpg

Categories: s 47F

Hi s 47F

Apologies for the delay.

Please find attached an image of the northern Endeavour, as requested on Friday.

Regards,

Media Team

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Ph: 02-6213 6308

Email: media@industry.gov.au

Internet: www.industry.gov.au

UNOFFICIAL

From: s 47F
Sent: Friday, 2 July 2021 5:24 PM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Northern Endeavour image request

To whom it may concern,

I am a Journalist contacting the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources' Media Team on behalf of s 47F as we are planning to cover the announcement that the Department is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to complete Phase 1 of the decommissioning of the Northern Endeavour FPSO facility and associated oil fields, for Petroleum Australia online.

We were just wondering if there were any images of the Northern Endeavour available which we could possibly use alongside our article. We would credit any images used correctly.

Thanks and hope to hear from someone soon.

Sincerely,

s 47F

s 47F

s 47F



s 47F

From: s 47F @thomsonreuters.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 September 2021 12:38 PM
To: Media - Industry
Subject: RE: Northern Endeavour [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Categories: s 47F

Understand. Thanks for getting back to me, s 47F
s 47F

From: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 September 2021 12:24 PM
To: s 47F |@thomsonreuters.com>
Subject: [EXT] RE: Northern Endeavour [SEC=OFFICIAL]

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

s 47F

Unfortunately, we do not have a date for this photograph.

Regards

s 47F

Media Team
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Ph: +61 2 6213 6308
Email: media@industry.gov.au
Internet: www.industry.gov.au
ABN 74 599 608 295

Supporting economic growth and job creation for all Australians

OFFICIAL

From: s 47F @thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 September 2021 10:58 AM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Cc: s 47F @thomsonreuters.com>
Subject: RE: Northern Endeavour [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F ,
One more question: Do you have a date when the Northern Endeavour picture was taken?
Our pictures desk has noted the "not for archive resale" in your waiver agreement below.
Kind regards,
s 47F

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 September 2021 4:15 PM
To: ^{s 47F} Media@industry.gov.au <Media@industry.gov.au>
Cc: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: [EXT] RE: Northern Endeavour [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi ^{s 47F}

Please find attached a photo of the Northern Endeavour.

Regards

Media Team
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Ph: +61 2 6213 6308

Email: media@industry.gov.au

Internet: www.industry.gov.au

ABN 74 599 608 295

Supporting economic growth and job creation for all Australians

UNOFFICIAL

From: ^{s 47F} @thomsonreuters.com

Sent: Friday, 3 September 2021 11:15 AM

To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Northern Endeavour [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Thanks.

Kind regards,

^{s 47F}

From: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 3 September 2021 11:13 AM

To: ^{s 47F} @thomsonreuters.com>

Cc: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>

Subject: [EXT] RE: Northern Endeavour [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi ^{s 47F}

We are looking into this and will get back to you soon.

Regards

Media Team

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Ph: +61 2 6213 6308

Email: media@industry.gov.au

Internet: www.industry.gov.au

ABN 74 599 608 295

Supporting economic growth and job creation for all Australians

UNOFFICIAL

From: ^{s 47F} @thomsonreuters.com

Sent: Thursday, 2 September 2021 3:10 PM

To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>

Subject: Northern Endeavour

Hi DISER team,

I'm trying to get hold of a photo of the Northern Endeavour for a story we're doing on decommissioning issues. Would you be able to supply one or two? Or could you point me in the right direction on where I could obtain pix? I would need these by Monday.

Kind regards,

^{s 47F}

s 47F

Energy Correspondent

Thomson Reuters

s 47F

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s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, 7 November 2022 7:21 AM
To: Media - Industry
Subject: Re: inquiry from s 47F re Nthn Endeavour [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Categories: For Info

That's ok. Thanks very much anyway, Media Team.

s 47F

From: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 November 2022 6:28 pm
To: s 47F Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: inquiry from s 47F re Nthn Endeavour [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

Apologies with the delay non this one. We have the following response, from a spokesperson for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

RESPONSE

The Department of Industry, Science and Resources can confirm that it is not currently undertaking a sales process for the Northern Endeavour FPSO.

Arrangements for the FPSO following disconnection are still being determined. Experienced contractors are undertaking operations and maintenance, and preparing the FPSO for disconnection. The Department is unable to comment on possible future uses for the FPSO.

Disconnection of the FPSO is expected to occur in late 2023.

Further information on the decommissioning process is available at <https://www.industry.gov.au/mining-oil-and-gas/oil-and-gas/offshore-oil-and-gas/decommissioning-northern-endeavour>

ENDS

Regards,

Media Team

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Ph: 02-6213 6308

Email: media@industry.gov.au

Internet: www.industry.gov.au

UNOFFICIAL

From: s 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 1 November 2022 9:28 AM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: inquiry from s 47F re Nthn Endeavour

Good morning Media team,

I'm s 47F a journalist with s 47F . Your NE/NT branch referred me to you.

We have been following the saga of the FPSO Northern Endeavour, and have recently been informed by market sources that the FPSO is available for purchase.

1. Could you confirm that a sales process is under way, and whether there have been any expressions of interest from potential buyers?
2. Is the FPSO still usable as an FPSO, or is it more suitable for a scrap yard ?
3. Is there a target date for the FPSO to depart its current location following decommissioning ?

A reply today would be great, if possible.

With thanks and regards.

s 47F

s 47F

From: Media - Industry
Sent: Friday, 26 May 2023 10:08 AM
To: s 47F ; Media - Industry
Subject: RE: Northern Endeavour decommissioning [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: s 47F

UNOFFICIAL

Hi s 47F

Thanks for your query. We have the following response, from a spokesperson for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

RESPONSE

The Department referred the Phase 1 decommissioning works for approval under the EPBC Act. The Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, is the relevant decision maker.

Castleton Commodities Merchant Asia Co. Ltd is the secured creditor.

ENDS.

Media Team**Department of Industry, Science and Resources**

Ph: 02-6213 6308

Email: media@industry.gov.au

Internet: www.industry.gov.au

UNOFFICIAL

From: s 47F @abc.net.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 May 2023 5:32 PM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Subject: Northern Endeavour decommissioning

Hi,

I'm with the s 47F . I'm working on a story about the decommissioning of the Northern Endeavour.

I've been having a look through the attached document, referring the NE's disconnection under the EPBC Act.

First of all, I'm a bit unclear about the process for approval that this is going through. So, the details about phase 1 have been referred...who will be assessing and approving the action? Is that the Minister for Environment?

Also, on page 4 of the attached document, it states:

Following the voluntary administration of NOGA, a settlement agreement between the NE FPSO's secured creditor and the Commonwealth determined that the Commonwealth would undertake all work necessary to disconnect the NE FPSO and prepare it for towing to the Delivery Point to the secured creditor or its nominated entity.

Can you please confirm that Castleton Commodities Merchant Asia is the secured creditor?

If you can get back to me by midday CST tomorrow, that would be appreciated.

Thanks

s 47F

s 47F

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From: MediaTeam
Sent: Tuesday, 11 July 2023 5:56 PM
To: s 47F ; MediaTeam
Subject: RE: Query re Northern Endeavour decommissioning [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Final response

Hi s 47F

Thanks for your query We have the following response, from a spokesperson for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

RESPONSE:

Xodus has been engaged to provide technical and project support services for Phase 1 of the decommissioning of the Northern Endeavour Floating Production Storage and Offtake facility. This includes the provision of project assurance related services which are being managed and overseen by the Commonwealth.

Xodus has been engaged to replace Wood, who's contract with the Commonwealth ended at the end of May 2023.

On 29 June 2023 the Australian Government launched the procurement process for Phases 2 and 3 of the decommissioning of the Northern Endeavour. The total costs of decommissioning will not be known until the procurement process is completed. All costs will be recovered by an industry levy.

The Commonwealth has committed to decommission the Northern Endeavour and supporting infrastructure in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

ENDS

Regards,

Media Team

Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Ph: 02-6213 6308
Email: media@industry.gov.au
Internet: www.industry.gov.au

UNOFFICIAL

From: s 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 11 July 2023 12:07 PM
To: MediaTeam <MediaTeam@industry.gov.au>
Subject: Query re Northern Endeavour decommissioning

Hi media team,
I've been sent the following media release from energy consultancy Xodus and would like to get a bit mor context around this.

It quotes a spokesperson for the Department of Industry, Science, and Resources (DISR) Phase 1 NE Decom Project Management Team saying Xodus has officially joined as our “assurance team”. Can you elaborate on what that term means? I don’t need huge detail, just 2-3 sentences should be okay.

Can you clarify how Xodus’ role fits with that of engineering firm Wood, which in July last year was awarded the role of Owner’s Team by the Australian Government, with responsibility for overseeing the first phase of the decommissioning. That sounds similar to “assurance” so keen to get some more clarity.

Petrofac was awarded the main decommissioning contract last year. Can you provide an update on the timing of their work? My understanding is they were due to finish in the second half of 2023, is that correct?

Finally, can you disclose the total expected cost of the decommissioning? I know this is covered by an industry levy rather than taxpayers but still keen to clarify.

I’m writing an article on this today so I’m seeking a response by 3.30pm Perth time.

s 47F

s 47F

s 47F

s 47F s 47F

s 47F

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47F

From: Media - Industry
Sent: Monday, 5 July 2021 12:01 PM
To: s 47F ; Media - Industry
Subject: RE: Media Request; Offshore Network [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Attachments: NE_silhouette_cropped.jpg

Categories: s 47F

Hi s 47F

Apologies for the delay in responding.

Please find attached a photo of the Northern Endeavour, as requested.

I hope this helps.

Regards,

Media Team

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Ph: 02-6213 6308

Email: media@industry.gov.au

Internet: www.industry.gov.au

UNOFFICIAL

From: s 47F
Sent: Friday, 2 July 2021 10:56 PM
To: Media - Industry <Media@industry.gov.au>
Cc: communications@questacon.edu.au
Subject: Media Request; Offshore Network

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing from s 47F . For our news portal we have been covering the decommissioning of the Northern Endeavour FPSO and am planning on putting up a story relating to the release of REOI for Phase 1 works.

To accompany this article, I am emailing to ask if you have any pictures of the FPSO which could be made available to me.

We would, of course, provide image credit for this.

Thank you very much,
 Kind Regards,

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s 47F

s 47F

s 47F

