

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

MS24-000944

To: Minister for Industry and Science (For Decision)

NEXT STEPS FOR PETROLEUM EXPLORATION PERMIT 11 APPLICATION

Timing: Routine

s42, s47C

Clearing Officer:	Will Tan	Acting Head of Division, Oil and Gas	Ph: s22 Mob: s22
Contact Officer:	s22	Acting General Manager, Offshore Strategy Branch	Ph: s22 Mob: s22
For Parliamentary Services' use only. Date Submitted to the Minister's office in PDMS:			04/07/2024

ATTACHMENT:

s42, s47C



**THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS24-000944

s47C

s47C

s42, s47C

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

MS24-000792

To: Minister for Industry and Science (For Decision)

s47C

Clearing Officer:	Norelle Laucher	General Manager, Offshore Strategy Branch	Ph: s22 Mob: s22
Contact Officer:	s22	Manager, Regulatory Reform Section	Ph: s22
For Parliamentary Services' use only. Date Submitted to the Minister's office in PDMS:			25/6/2024

s42, s47C

s42, s47C

ATTACHMENT:

s47C



**THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS24-000792

s47C

s47C

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

MS24-000603

To: Minister for Resources (For Decision)

PEP-11 CHANGE OF DECISION MAKER

Timing: Urgent – by 22 April 2024 – to ensure the Prime Minister is notified before any public announcement is made.

Recommendation:

1. That you **sign** the letter to the Prime Minister (see Attachment A) to inform him that you have recused yourself from future decisions with respect to petroleum exploration permit 11 (PEP-11).

Signed / Not signed

Minister:

Date:

Comments:

Clearing Officer:	Norelle Laucher	General Manager, Offshore Strategy Branch	Ph: s22 Mob: s22
Contact Officer:	s22	Manager, Regulatory Reform Section	Ph: s22 Mob: s22
For Parliamentary Services' use only. Date Submitted to the Minister's office in PDMS:			22/4/2024

Key Points:

1. The Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science, has agreed to be the Commonwealth decision-maker for PEP-11 following your recusal (**MS23-001802** refers).
2. Prior to publicly announcing the change in the Commonwealth decision-maker, a letter has been drafted at Attachment A for you to inform the Prime Minister of actions.
3. **s42, s47C, s47E(d)**

Sensitivities and Handling:

4. The letter is to be sent before any public announcement regarding the change in decision-maker is made.

Consultation with the Cities and Northern Australia Division, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts: NIL

Other Consultation: YES

5. Legal Branch, Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

ATTACHMEN:

A: Letter to the Prime Minister



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

MS24-000603

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I write to inform you that I have chosen to recuse myself from future decision-making on petroleum exploration permit 11 (PEP-11). **s42**

The Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science, has agreed to make future decisions in relation to PEP-11 as the responsible Commonwealth Minister of the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority. As the Minister for Industry and Science, Minister Husic has responsibility for administering legislation dealt with by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources under the Administrative Arrangements Order of 13 October 2022. As such, Minister Husic may make decisions under the OPGGS Act, including in relation to PEP-11.

s47C, s47E(d)

I have copied the **s47C** and Secretary Quinn to this correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Madeleine King MP

/ /2024

CC: **s47C**
The Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry & Science
Ms Meghan Quinn PSM, Secretary, Department of Industry, Science & Resources

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

MS24-000348

To: Minister for Industry and Science (For Decision)

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION PERMIT-11 (PEP-11) DECISION MAKER

Timing: Routine

Recommendations: That you

1. **Agree** to be decision maker on the PEP-11 applications, in the event the Minister for Resources recuses herself.

Agreed / Not agreed

2. s47C

3. s42,47C

4. **Sign** the letter to the Minister for Resources at Attachment E agreeing to be the responsible Commonwealth Minister for the PEP-11 applications with the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority

Signed / Not signed

Minister:

Date:

Comments:

Clearing Officer:	Robert Jeremenko	Head of Division, Oil and Gas	Ph: s22 Mob: s22
Contact Officer:	s22	Manager, Offshore Exploration	Ph: s22 Mob: s22
For Parliamentary Services' use only. Date Submitted to the Minister's office in PDMS:			08/04/2024

Key Points:

1. The *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (the Act) governs offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage activities in Commonwealth waters and creates a regime that spans exploration through to production and decommissioning.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive Legal privilege

2. The Act establishes a Joint Authority for each offshore area, comprising the responsible Commonwealth Minister (currently the Minister for Resources) and the relevant state or Northern Territory Minister.
3. In the case of the PEP-11, the Commonwealth-NSW Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority (Joint Authority) is constituted by 'the responsible State Minister' and 'the responsible Commonwealth Minister'.
4. PEP-11 is a Petroleum Exploration Permit located in Commonwealth waters, offshore of New South Wales adjacent to Newcastle and Sydney. Further background on the PEP-11 permit is at Attachment B.
5. There are two applications before the Joint Authority.
 - i. a secondary work program variation, suspension and extension application submitted on 23 January 2020; and
 - ii. a suspension and extension application submitted on 4 February 2021.
6. **s42**
7. On 4 April 2024, the Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia wrote to you in her capacity as the responsible Commonwealth Minister of the Joint Authority requesting you consider taking future decisions on the two applications relating to PEP-11. The letter is at Attachment D.
8. Should you agree to be the decision maker, the Minister for Resources has indicated she will recuse herself from future decisions with respect to PEP-11 upon receipt of your reply. A reply letter (reviewed by Legal Branch) is at Attachment E should you agree to take on decisions for the PEP-11 applications.
9. While in practice Ministerial responsibilities are divided for the administration of Acts, a Minister that is appointed to a portfolio is capable of administering the Acts within that portfolio's remit as set out in the *Administrative Arrangements Orders*.
10. As a Minister appointed to the Industry, Science and Resources portfolio, you have authority under the Act to consider and decide the PEP-11 applications as the responsible Commonwealth Minister, should the Minister for Resources recuse herself.
11. Should you agree to be the decision maker, the department will support your role as Commonwealth member of the Joint Authority and will brief you in due course on the offshore petroleum regime, the decision-making process and the specifics of the PEP-11 decisions.
12. Background on decision making under the Act is at Attachment C.

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Sensitivities and Handling:

13. The most recent decision regarding PEP-11 was quashed by the Federal Court and remitted to the Joint Authority to be remade on the grounds that it was affected by reasonable apprehension of bias.
14. PEP-11 is subject to high levels of media and political scrutiny. Should you agree to be the decision maker, it is likely your role will attract significant public attention.

Data referenced: Nil.

Consultation: YES

s42

ATTACHMENTS

- A:** s42
- B:** PEP-11 background
- C:** *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* background
- D:** Incoming letter from the Minister for Resources
- E:** Draft letter to the Minister for Resources

Background information – decision making on certain title applications under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*

- The *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (the Act) governs offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage activities in Commonwealth waters and creates a regime that spans exploration through to production and decommissioning.
- The Act established a Joint Authority for each offshore area, comprising the responsible Commonwealth Minister (currently the Minister for Resources) and the relevant state or Northern Territory Minister.
- Joint Authority Ministers may delegate any or all of their functions and powers to appropriate Commonwealth and State/Territory officials within their respective Departments. There cannot be a shared Ministerial-Delegate decision; if one part of the Joint Authority decision is made by a Minister, the other part must be a Minister and cannot be delegated to an official.
- An exploration permit authorises the titleholder to explore within the permit area. Exploration activities, such as seismic and exploration drilling, can occur subject to relevant regulatory approvals.
- When bidding for a permit, proponents must propose a work program that furthers the exploration of the bid area. When awarded, the work program forms conditions on the permit.
- The Joint Authority acknowledges elements of an exploration work program or its timing may need to change as:
 - Geological or technical knowledge is gained, requiring additional work i.e., technical grounds; or
 - If the timing of an activity is impacted by *force majeure* circumstances.
- The Act allows for a variation, suspension and/or exemption from compliance with work program conditions. Where warranted, the Joint Authority may also grant an extension to the permit term where a condition has been suspended.
- Titleholders can apply to suspend or vary permit conditions, and extend the permit, under section 264 of the Act. The Joint Authority decides on these under sections 264 (with regards to suspending or varying conditions) and 265 (with regards to extending the permit term).
- The *Offshore Petroleum Exploration Guideline: Work-bid* describes the considerations Joint Authorities make when reviewing suspension, extension and variation applications. This includes the circumstances that don't constitute *force majeure*, the acknowledgment of technical grounds for suspending and/or extending a permit, and changing circumstances based on geological knowledge progressing.
- The National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator interacts with the titleholder on behalf of the Joint Authority, and provides assessment and recommendations regarding applications to the Joint Authority.

OFFICIAL

- The State or Northern Territory Member, following consideration of NOPTA's advice and other matters, will inform the Commonwealth Minister of their opinion regarding the application. The Commonwealth Minister will then respond with their opinion. If they agree, this will form the final decision (allowing for a procedural fairness process in the event of a refusal decision). If there is a disagreement, the Commonwealth Minister can make the final decision.
- In any situation, the Joint Authority will consider the applications on their merits and consider the same matters.



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

MS23-001802

The Hon Ed Husic MP
Minister for Industry and Science
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am writing to you in my capacity as the responsible Commonwealth Minister of the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority (the Joint Authority), as established by the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*, regarding petroleum exploration permit 11 (PEP-11).

PEP-11 is subject to two applications requiring a decision by the Joint Authority. I intend to recuse myself as the responsible Commonwealth Minister of the Joint Authority in relation to these applications.

In your role as a portfolio minister for Industry, Science and Resources under the Administrative Arrangements Order of 23 June 2022, I request that you consider taking future decisions on the two applications relating to PEP-11 as the responsible Commonwealth Minister of the Joint Authority. Should you agree, I will recuse myself from future decisions with respect to PEP-11 upon receipt of your reply.

Yours sincerely

s22

Madeleine King MP

04/04/2024



**THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS24-000348

The Hon Madeleine King MP
Minister for Resources
Minister for Northern Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 4 April 2024 regarding decision-making on the petroleum exploration permit PEP-11 under the *Offshore Petroleum Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*.

I agree to be the responsible Commonwealth Minister for the two current applications before the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority regarding PEP-11. In doing so, I emphasise my commitment to considering the applications impartially and in line with the relevant legislation and guidelines.

Yours sincerely

Ed Husic MP

s22

From: DLO Husic
Sent: Monday, 15 April 2024 6:26 PM
To: DLO King
Cc: DLO Husic
Subject: Letter from the Hon Ed Husic - MS24-000348 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]
Attachments: Letter from the Hon Ed Husic MP - MS24-000348.pdf

Good evening DLOs

Please see attached letter from the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science regarding decision-making on the petroleum exploration permit PEP-11.

No hardcopy to follow.

Kind regards,

s22

Departmental Liaison Officer | Office of the Hon Ed Husic MP

s22 | DLOHusic@industry.gov.au

OFFICIAL: Sensitive
Legal privilege



**THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS24-000348

The Hon Madeleine King MP
Minister for Resources
Minister for Northern Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

15 APR 2024

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 4 April 2024 regarding decision-making on the petroleum exploration permit PEP-11 under the *Offshore Petroleum Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*.

I agree to be the responsible Commonwealth Minister for the two current applications before the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority regarding PEP-11. In doing so, I emphasise my commitment to considering the applications impartially and in line with the relevant legislation and guidelines.

s22

Ed Husic MP

OFFICIAL**QB24-000019****PEP-11****Issue**

The Court made orders quashing the decision of the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority in relation to PEP-11 and the application has been remitted to the Joint Authority. PEP-11 is subject to high levels of media and political scrutiny.

Key Talking Points

- The titleholders commenced judicial review proceedings in June 2022 against the Joint Authority for a decision to refuse a suspension, extension and variation application.
 - On 14 February 2023 the Federal Court of Australia made orders to quash the Joint Authority decision in relation to PEP-11 on the ground that it was affected by reasonable apprehension of bias.
 - Asset Energy's application has now been remitted to the Joint Authority for decision.
- The Commonwealth will consider the matter once the NSW member of the Joint Authority has considered the matter.
- The decision is a matter for the Joint Authority and will be determined after fair and impartial consideration of the application.
- I am not going to provide an ongoing commentary on future decisions before the Joint Authority in relation to PEP-11.

Contact: s22, Manager, Offshore Exploration Section s22
Cleared by: Cliff Weeks, General Manager, Offshore Resources Branch s22

Min ID: QB24-000019
Division: Oil and Gas
Created: 22 January 2024
Updated: 3/18/2024 10:25 AM

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QB24-000019

If asked

- On 4 February 2021, Asset Energy submitted a second application for a 24-month suspension of work program conditions and extension to the permit term.
 - The application is currently under consideration by the Joint Authority.
- The permit term expired in February 2021, however there is a provision in the legislation (the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006) to allow the permit to continue in force until a decision has been made on any pending application.
- Prior to any activity occurring within the permit area, key permissioning documents, such as an environment plan, must be accepted by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).
 - Asset Energy has not yet submitted an environment plan for any activity to NOPSEMA.

• The Commonwealth is aware of the passage of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Sea Bed Mining and Exploration) Bill 2024 in New South Wales, and notes that it does not apply to Commonwealth waters.

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OFFICIAL**QB24-000019****Background**

- PEP-11 was granted on 24 June 1999. Two seismic surveys (in 2010 and 2018) and one exploration well (New Seaclem-1 in 2011) have occurred within the PEP-11 title area to date.

Application

- In January 2020, Asset Energy applied to the Joint Authority for a suspension and variation to the conditions of the permit to allow additional time to drill an exploration well and remove the requirement for 500 km² 3D seismic acquisition.
- On 30 March 2022, Asset Energy was advised of the Joint Authority's decision to refuse its application.

Titleholders' promotion of prospectivity

- Asset Energy has been publicly promoting the potential prospectivity within PEP-11 and continues to progress their exploration plans.
- In October 2022, Asset Energy advised it had received a draft Environment Plan in relation to the exploration well drilling program for their review from Xodus Group.
- In September 2023, multiple media outlets reported that Asset Energy would receive a majority of \$1.5 million from capital raising for PEP-11.
 - The total work program value published on the National Electronic Approvals Tracking Systems is \$21.1 million.

Contact: s22, Manager, Offshore Exploration Section s22
Cleared by: Cliff Weeks, General Manager, Offshore Resources Branch s22

Min ID: QB24-000019
Division: Oil and Gas
Created: 22 January 2024
Updated: 3/18/2024 10:25:00 AM

OFFICIAL**QB24-000019**

- It has been reported in the media on multiple occasions that Asset Energy and Joint Venture partner Bounty Oil & Gas NL are continuing to investigate the potential contract of a mobile offshore drilling rig to drill the proposed Seablue-1 well on the Baleen prospect in 2024.
- The company has publicly stated the importance of PEP-11 to securing Australia's energy supply.

NSW legislation**Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Sea Bed Mining and Exploration) Bill 2024**

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- On 6 February 2024, the NSW Government introduced a Bill that would prohibit the carrying out of sea bed petroleum and mineral exploration and recovery and related development in state waters.
- The New South Wales Parliament passed the Bill with amendments on Thursday 14 March.

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~~Minerals Legislation Amendment (Offshore Drilling and Associated Infrastructure Prohibition) Bill 2023~~

- ~~On 1 June 2023 the NSW opposition introduced a Bill that aims to block access to the NSW shore, potentially affecting~~

Contact: s22, Manager, Offshore Exploration Section s22
 Cleared by: Cliff Weeks, General Manager, Offshore Resources Branch s22

Min ID: QB24-000019
 Division: Oil and Gas
 Created: 22 January 2024
 Updated: 3/18/2024 10:25:00 AM

OFFICIAL

QB24-000019

~~the viability of offshore exploration projects in Commonwealth waters.~~

- ~~On 29 June 2023, the Bill was referred to the NSW Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Environment and Planning.~~

~~On 21 November 2023 the Committee tabled its report which found that key aspects of the Bill may be constitutionally invalid or have unintended consequences.~~

~~The report recommendeds the Legislative Assembly not pass the Bill. The NSW Government response is due 21 May 2024.~~

~~The Bill has some similarities to that passed by the NSW Parliament on 14 March, excepting for exemption regulations contained in the Government Bill.~~

Contact: s22, Manager, Offshore Exploration Section s22
Cleared by: Cliff Weeks, General Manager, Offshore Resources Branch s22

Min ID: QB24-000019
Division: Oil and Gas
Created: 22 January 2024
Updated: 3/18/2024 10:25:00 AM

PEP-11

Headline Statement

- In February 2023, the Federal Court of Australia made orders to quash the Joint Authority's decision in relation to the offshore petroleum exploration permit 11 (PEP-11). Asset Energy's applications have been remitted to the Joint Authority for reconsideration.

Key Points

Minister for Resources' recusal from decision-making

- On 23 April 2024 the Hon Madeleine King MP announced that she had recused herself from future decisions on PEP-11 and that Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ed Husic MP, would take future decisions on PEP-11.
- Minister Husic was appointed to administer the Department of Industry, Science and Resources upon swearing in as a portfolio Minister on 1 June 2022 and has legal authority to make decisions on PEP-11.

Status and timeframe for the decision

- The applications and assessment of the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA) are with the Joint Authority.
- There is no set timeframe in the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGGS Act) for the Joint Authority to make its decisions on applications.
- The Government will not be commenting on NOPTA's assessment or the possible outcome of Asset Energy's applications.

Background

- PEP-11 is a petroleum exploration permit located offshore NSW in Commonwealth waters. The 4,575 km² area extends from offshore Newcastle in the north, and south towards Sydney.

Contact Officer:

Name: Norelle Laucher
Division: Oil & Gas
Telephone: [s22](#)
Last updated: 21/05/2024 3:10:00 PM

- Asset Energy has two applications with the Joint Authority in relation to the PEP-11 permit.
 - The Joint Authority is constituted by the responsible Commonwealth Minister and the responsible State Minister. The current New South Wales member is the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC, Minister for Natural Resources.
- The first application submitted January 2020 seeks to suspend work program conditions, extend the permit timeframe and vary the work program to remove the requirement for a seismic survey and allow additional time to drill a well.
 - The work program is a condition of the permit and includes an exploration well and a seismic survey.
 - These activities cannot occur without approval of an environmental plan by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority.
- A second application was submitted February 2021 to suspend conditions and extend the permit timeframe.
 - While the permit term has expired, the OPGGS Act includes a provision allowing the permit to continue in force until a decision is made on pending applications.
- The Joint Authority refused the first application on 26 March 2022. On 1 June 2022, Asset Energy filed an application to the Federal Court of Australia for judicial review of the decision.
- On 14 February 2023 the Federal Court of Australia made orders to quash the decision on the grounds that it was affected by a reasonable apprehension of bias. The application was returned to the Joint Authority for reconsideration.
- NOPTA provided its advice on the applications to the Joint Authority on 18 October 2023.

**The Hon Ed Husic MP**

Minister for Industry and Science

Statement on PEP-11

31 May 2024

The Minister for Industry and Science, the Honourable Ed Husic MP, will take on decision-making functions as the Responsible Commonwealth Minister regarding offshore petroleum exploration permit PEP-11 (PEP-11).

The decisions are a responsibility of the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006. As a Minister appointed to administer the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, Minister Husic has the legal authority to take future decisions on PEP-11 as part of the Joint Authority.

The Australian Government has been consistent in its position that it will not provide a running commentary on PEP-11, and this remains the case.

s22

From: Laucher, Norelle
Sent: Wednesday, 3 April 2024 5:32 PM
To: s22
Cc: Jeremenko, Robert; Urquhart, Jane; s22
Subject: PEP-11: Exchange of letters (MS24-000348) [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]
Attachments: DRAFT Husic to King letter.docx

OFFICIAL: Sensitive//Legal-Privilege

Good afternoon s22

As requested, please find a letter in relation to PDMS item MS24-00048. The attached letter has been cleared through the department's legal branch.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss.

Kind regards,

Norelle

Norelle Laucher
General Manager

Oil and Gas Division | Offshore Strategy Branch
Ngunnawal Country, L5 Industry House, 10 Binara St (GPO Box 2013) Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
s22

Pronouns: She/Her

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Legal privilege



**THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS24-000348

The Hon Ed Husic MP
Minister for Industry and Science
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of [X April] 2024 regarding decision-making on the petroleum exploration permit PEP-11 under the *Offshore Petroleum Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*.

I agree to be the responsible Commonwealth Minister for the two current applications before the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority regarding PEP-11. In doing so, I emphasize my commitment to considering the applications impartially and in line with the relevant legislation and guidelines.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

Ed Husic MP

/ /2024

s22

From: Laucher, Norelle
Sent: Thursday, 4 April 2024 1:10 PM
To: DLO Husic
Subject: FW: PEP-11: Exchange of letters (MS24-000348) [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]
Attachments: DRAFT Husic to King letter.docx

Hi s22

As requested, please find a copy of the letter. It is also attached to the referenced PDMS item.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Norelle

OFFICIAL: Sensitive
Legal privilege

From: Laucher, Norelle
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 5:32 PM
To: s22
Cc: Jeremenko, Robert s22 ; Urquhart, Jane s22 ;
s22
Subject: PEP-11: Exchange of letters (MS24-000348) [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Legal-Privilege]

Good afternoon s22 ,

As requested, please find a letter in relation to PDMS item MS24-00048. The attached letter has been cleared through the department's legal branch.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss.

Kind regards,

Norelle

Norelle Laucher
General Manager

Oil and Gas Division | Offshore Strategy Branch
Ngunnawal Country, L5 Industry House, 10 Binara St (GPO Box 2013) Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Department of Industry, Science and Resources

s22

Pronouns: She/Her

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**THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS24-000348

The Hon Ed Husic MP
Minister for Industry and Science
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of [X April] 2024 regarding decision-making on the petroleum exploration permit PEP-11 under the *Offshore Petroleum Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*.

I agree to be the responsible Commonwealth Minister for the two current applications before the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority regarding PEP-11. In doing so, I emphasize my commitment to considering the applications impartially and in line with the relevant legislation and guidelines.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

Ed Husic MP

/ /2024

s22

From: Laucher, Norelle
Sent: Wednesday, 3 April 2024 5:19 PM
To: s22
Cc: Urquhart, Jane; Jeremenko, Robert; s22
Subject: PEP-11: Exchange of letters (MS23-001802) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: DRAFT King to Husic letter.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s22

As requested, please find a letter in relation to PDMS item MS23-001802.

Kind regards,

Norelle

Norelle Laucher
General Manager

Oil and Gas Division | Offshore Strategy Branch
Ngunnawal Country, L5 Industry House, 10 Binara St (GPO Box 2013) Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
s22

Pronouns: She/Her

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

MS23-001802

The Hon Ed Husic MP
Minister for Industry and Science
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am writing to you in my capacity as the responsible Commonwealth Minister of the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority (the Joint Authority) as established by the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*, regarding the offshore petroleum exploration permit PEP-11 located in Commonwealth waters in the offshore area of New South Wales.

Petroleum exploration permit PEP-11 is currently subject to two applications requiring a decision by the Joint Authority. I intend to recuse myself as the responsible Commonwealth Minister of the Joint Authority in relation to these applications.

In your role as a portfolio minister for Industry, Science and Resources under the Administrative Arrangements Order of 23 June 2022, I respectfully request that you consider taking on the role of responsible Commonwealth Minister of the Joint Authority on these applications. If you agree, I will recuse myself from the decisions upon receipt of your reply.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely

Madeleine King MP

/ /2024

Minister for Resources | Snapshot 11 - 22 March 2024

Key Issues

s22

- PEP 11: Joint Authority decisions on PEP-11 applications (MS23-001802).

s22

Upcoming Meetings

s22

Major external events, speeches, presentations

s22

Appointments

s22

Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22

Upcoming International commitments

s22

Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation

Minister for Resources | Snapshot 18 - 29 March 2024

Key Issues

s22

Upcoming Meetings

s22

Major external events, speeches, presentations

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Appointments

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- PEP 11: Joint Authority decisions on PEP-11 applications (MS23-001802).

s22

Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22

Upcoming International commitments

s22

Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation

Minister for Industry and Science | Snapshot 25 March – 5 April 2024

Key Issues

s22

- PEP-11: Joint Authority decisions on Petroleum Exploration Permit 11 (MS24-000348).

s22

Upcoming Meetings

s22

Major external events, speeches, presentations

s22

Appointments

s22

Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22

Upcoming International commitments

s22

Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation

Minister for Resources | Snapshot 25 March – 5 April 2024

Key Issues

s22

- PEP 11: Joint Authority decisions on PEP-11 applications (MS23-001802).

s22

Upcoming International commitments

s22

Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation

Upcoming Meetings

s22

Major external events, speeches, presentations

s22

Appointments

s22

Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22

Minister for Industry and Science | Snapshot 1 – 12 April 2024

Key Issues

s22

Upcoming Meetings

s22

Major external events, speeches, presentations

s22

Appointments

s22

- PEP-11: Joint Authority decisions on Petroleum Exploration Permit 11 (MS24-000348).

s22

Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22

Upcoming International commitments

Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation

s22

Minister for Resources | Snapshot 1 – 12 April 2024

Key Issues

s22

Upcoming Meetings

s22

Major external events, speeches, presentations

s22

Appointments

s22

Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22

- PEP 11: Joint Authority decisions on PEP-11 applications (MS23-001802). Drafting correspondence to confirm arrangements.

s22

Upcoming International commitments

s22

Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation

Minister for Resources | Snapshot 8 – 19 April 2024

Key Issues

s22

- PEP 11: Joint Authority decisions on PEP-11 applications (MS23-001802), including correspondence to confirm arrangements.

s22

Upcoming International commitments

s22

Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation

Upcoming Meetings

s22

Major external events, speeches, presentations

s22

Appointments

s22

Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

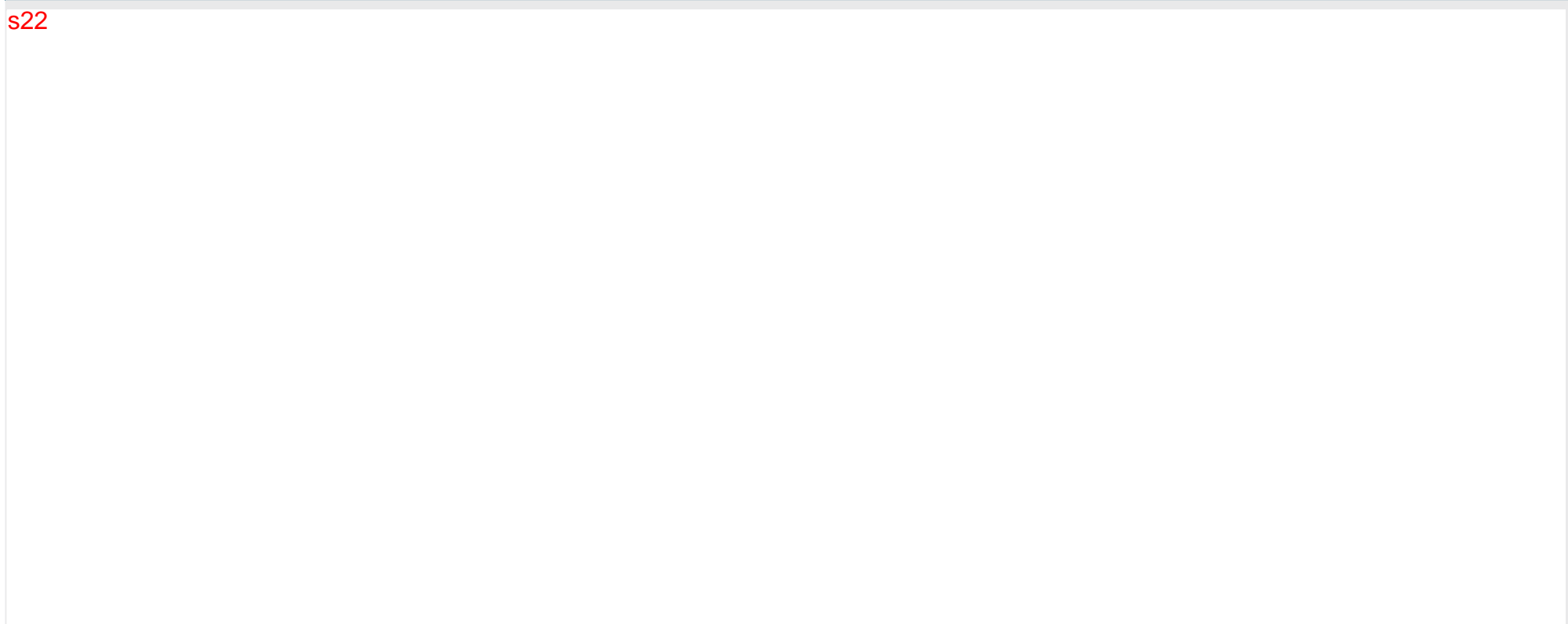
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Minister for Industry and Science | Snapshot 8 – 19 April 2024

Key Issues

s22

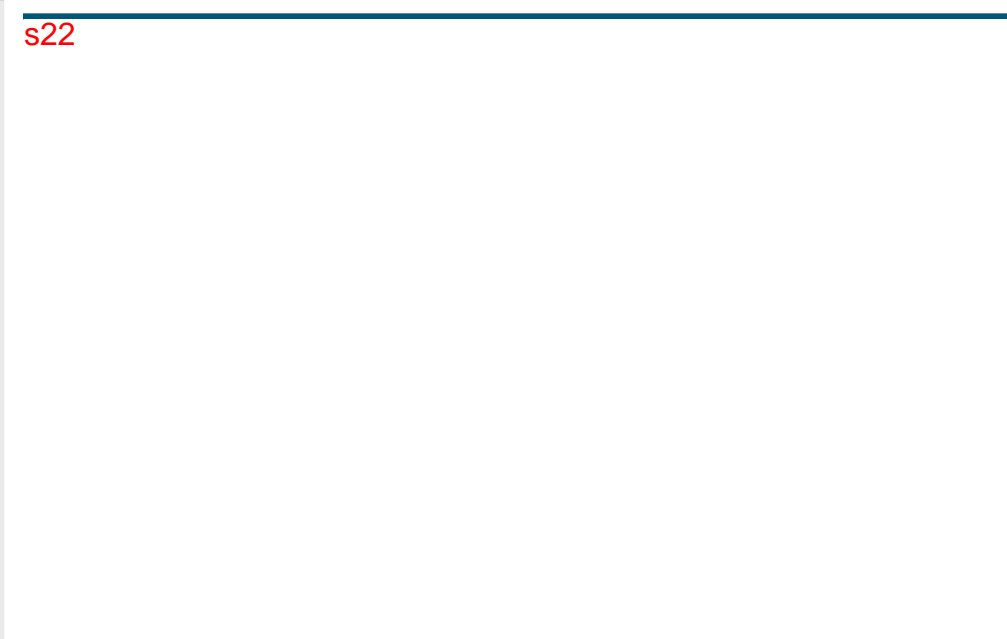


- PEP-11: Joint Authority decisions on Petroleum Exploration Permit 11 (MS24-000348), including correspondence to confirm arrangements.

s22

Upcoming Meetings

s22



Major external events, speeches, presentations

s22



Appointments

s22



Upcoming International commitments

s22



Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation

Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22



Minister for Resources | Snapshot 15 – 26 April 2024

Key Issues

s22

- PEP 11: awaiting response from Minister Husic to your letter on the Joint Authority decisions on PEP-11 applications (MS23-001802).

s22

Upcoming International commitments

s22

Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation

Upcoming Meetings

s22

Major external events, speeches, presentations

s22

Appointments

s22

Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22



Minister for Industry and Science | Snapshot 15 – 26 April 2024

Key Issues

s22

- PEP-11: Joint Authority decisions on Petroleum Exploration Permit 11 (MS24-000348), including correspondence to confirm arrangements.

s22



Upcoming Meetings

s22



Appointments

s22

Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22



Upcoming International commitments

s22



Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation

Minister for Industry and Science | Snapshot 1 - 12 July 2024

Key Issues

s22

Upcoming Meetings

s22

Appointments

s22

- PEP-11: s47C (MS24-000792).

s22

Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22

Upcoming International commitments

s22

Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation



Minister for Industry and Science | Snapshot 8 – 19 July 2024

Key Issues

s22

- PEP-11: s47C

s22

(MS24-000944).



Upcoming Meetings

s22



Major external events, speeches, presentations

s22



Appointments

s22



Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22



Upcoming International commitments

s22



Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation



Minister for Industry and Science | Snapshot 22 July – 2 August 2024

Key Issues

s22

- PEP-11: Next steps for application (MS24-000944).

s22



Upcoming Meetings

s22



Major external events, speeches, presentations

s22



Appointments

s22



Upcoming International commitments

s22



Upcoming Parliamentary commitments/Legislation



Upcoming reports, publications and information releases

s22