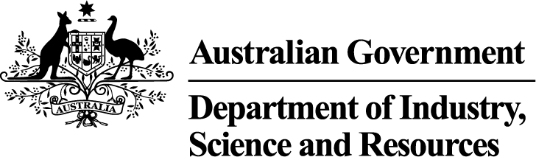
**OFFICIAL**





Northern Endeavour Phase 1 Decommissioning (EPBC 2022/09327)

2024 Annual Compliance Report

1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024

Our purpose is to help the government build a better future for all Australians through enabling a productive, resilient and sustainable economy, enriched by science and technology.

| **industry.**gov.au

## Copyright

**© Commonwealth of Australia 2024**

**Ownership of intellectual property rights**

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights, if any) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia.

****

[**Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence CC BY 4.0**](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

All material in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence, with the exception of:

* the Commonwealth Coat of Arms
* content supplied by third parties
* logos
* any material protected by trademark or otherwise noted in this publication.

Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence is a standard form licence agreement that allows you to copy, distribute, transmit and adapt this publication provided you attribute the work. A summary of the licence terms is available from <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>. The full licence terms are available from <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>.

Content contained herein should be attributed as *Northern Endeavour Decommissioning Phase 1 [2022/09327] Annual Compliance report – 24 October 2024, Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources*.

This notice excludes the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, any logos and any material protected by trademark or otherwise noted in the publication, from the application of the Creative Commons licence. These are all forms of property which the Commonwealth cannot or usually would not licence others to use.

## Disclaimer

The purpose of this publication is to meet Condition 20 of the [*Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*](https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00485/latest/versions)Approval 2022/09327 Northern Endeavour Phase 1 Decommissioning which requires the approval holder, the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, to provide an Annual Compliance Report.

The Commonwealth as represented by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources has exercised due care and skill in the preparation and compilation of the information in this publication.

The Commonwealth does not guarantee the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information contained in this publication. Interested parties should make their own independent inquires and obtain their own independent professional advice prior to relying on, or making any decisions in relation to, the information provided in this publication.

The Commonwealth accepts no responsibility or liability for any damage, loss or expense incurred as a result of the reliance on information contained in this publication. This publication does not indicate commitment by the Commonwealth to a particular course of action.

**ISSN: 2982-1851**

Contents

[Northern Endeavour Phase 1 Decommissioning (EPBC 2022/09327) i](#_Toc180504203)

[Copyright ii](#_Toc180504204)

[Disclaimer ii](#_Toc180504205)

[1. Declaration of accuracy 3](#_Toc180504206)

[2. Approval holder details 3](#_Toc180504207)

[3. Glossary 4](#_Toc180504208)

[4. Introduction 5](#_Toc180504209)

[4.1. Foreword 5](#_Toc180504210)

[4.2. Purpose 5](#_Toc180504211)

[4.3. Background and location 5](#_Toc180504212)

[4.4. Regulatory environment 7](#_Toc180504213)

[4.5. Description of activities 7](#_Toc180504214)

[4.6. Variation to conditions 8](#_Toc180504215)

[5. Approval conditions 8](#_Toc180504216)

[5.1. Part A – Conditions specific to the action 8](#_Toc180504217)

[5.1.1. Management plans – condition 1 8](#_Toc180504218)

[5.1.2. Discharge management – conditions 2 and 3 10](#_Toc180504219)

[5.1.3. Invasive marine species management – condition 4 10](#_Toc180504220)

[5.1.4. Hazardous waste management – conditions 10 - 12 10](#_Toc180504221)

[5.2. Part B - Administrative conditions 10](#_Toc180504222)

[5.2.1. Notification of date of commencement of the Action – conditions 13 and 14 10](#_Toc180504223)

[5.2.2. Compliance records – Conditions 15 - 19 10](#_Toc180504224)

[5.2.3. Annual compliance reporting – conditions 20 - 23 10](#_Toc180504225)

[5.2.4. Notifications – conditions 24 - 26 11](#_Toc180504226)

[6. Attachment A - Conditions approved on 1 August 2023 12](#_Toc180504227)

[6.1. Approved action 12](#_Toc180504228)

[7. Attachment B - Conditions as varied on 5 April 2024 13](#_Toc180504229)

[7.1. Approved action 13](#_Toc180504230)

[8. Attachment C – Detail of compliance with conditions of approval. 14](#_Toc180504231)

[8.1. Management plans 14](#_Toc180504232)

[8.2. Discharge management 16](#_Toc180504233)

[8.3. Invasive marine species management 18](#_Toc180504234)

[8.4. Well management 20](#_Toc180504235)

[8.5. Hazardous waste management 22](#_Toc180504236)

[8.6. Notification of date of commencement of the Action 24](#_Toc180504237)

[8.7. Compliance records 24](#_Toc180504238)

[8.8. Annual compliance reporting 26](#_Toc180504239)

[8.9. Reporting non-compliance 28](#_Toc180504240)

[8.10. Independent audit 30](#_Toc180504241)

[8.11. Completion of the Action 31](#_Toc180504242)

## 

## Declaration of accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the [*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*](https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00485/latest/versions) (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

**Signed:** Shane McWhinney (digitally signed 22/10/2024 @3:17pm ADST)

**Full name:** Shane McWhinney

**Position:** General Manager, Northern Endeavour Branch, Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**Organisation:** Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**ABN:** 74 599 608 295

**Date**: 22/10/2024

## Approval holder details

**Approval Holder:** The Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**ABN:** 74 599 608 295

**Contact email:** [NEProjectPlanning@industry.gov.au](mailto:NEProjectPlanning@industry.gov.au)

**Address:** National office: Industry House, 10 Binara Street, Canberra, ACT 2601

## Glossary

| Abbreviation | Description |
| --- | --- |
| AMMF | Adaptive Monitoring and Management Framework |
| AMMP | Adaptive Monitoring and Management Plan |
| CMT | Crisis Management Team |
| DCCEEW | Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water |
| DISR | Department of Industry, Science and Resources |
| EPBC Act | [*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*](https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00485/latest/versions) |
| ERCP | Emergency Response and Communications Plan |
| ERMP | Environment Risk Management Plan |
| ERP | Emergency Response Plan |
| FPSO | floating production storage and offtake vessel |
| IHM | inventory of hazardous material |
| IMT | Incident Management Team |
| MBRA | Marine Biosecurity Risk Assessment |
| NATA | National Association of Testing Authorities |
| NOPSEMA | National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority |
| NORM | Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials |
| OPEP | Oil Pollution Emergency Plan |
| OPGGSA | [*Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*](https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2006A00014/latest/versions) |
| Reporting period | The year beginning from commencement of the action, or this report, 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 |
| ROV | Remotely Operated Vehicle |
| SCERP | Source Control Emergency Response Plan |
| SURF | Subsea umbilical, riser and flowline |
| WMP | Waste Management Plan |

## Introduction

### Foreword

The Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) has made significant progress on the Northern Endeavour decommissioning program. Phase 1 decommissioning work is underway and focuses on disconnecting the floating production storage and offtake vessel (FPSO) from the subsea infrastructure and disposal of the vessel. This includes maintaining and operating the facility in non-production (lighthouse) mode, and work to decommission the facility and prepare for the disconnection of the FPSO. Petrofac Facilities Management Limited (Petrofac) is the registered operator and lead contractor delivering Phase 1 decommissioning activities for DISR.

DISR is compliant with the [*Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*](https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00485/latest/versions)(EPBC Act) [approval 2022/09327](https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/project-decision/?id=d6164cfd-8b6f-ed11-81ac-00224818a55a&) Northern Endeavour Phase 1 Decommissioning (the approval) for the reporting period. Petrofac implemented the management plans and complied with the conditions throughout. DISR has taken a pro-active approach in maintaining compliance with the approval conditions and completing all reporting. DISR has applied and maintained rigorous internal measures of review to ensure the success of the Northern Endeavour Phase 1 decommissioning work.

During the reporting period DISR sought a variation to approval conditions to ensure ongoing compliance with the conditions of approval. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) approved the variation as detailed in [Section 4.6](#_Variation_to_conditions) of this report. There were no non-compliances recorded against the conditions of approval during the reporting period.

DISR and Petrofac developed a series of detailed management plans to be activated if an incident, non-compliance, or emergency occurs. The Northern Endeavour Branch has a Crisis Management Team (CMT), along with Petrofac’s Incident Management Team (IMT) that are ready to activate in case of an emergency.

### Purpose

On 1 August 2023, DCCEEW gave EPBC Act approval of the Northern Endeavour Phase 1 Decommissioning to DISR, subject to 34 conditions (the conditions).

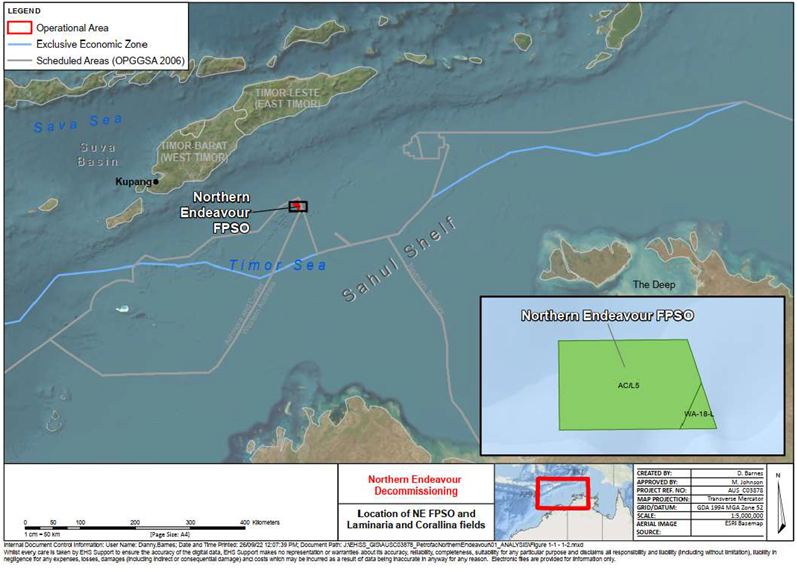
Condition 20 of the approval states that the approval holder (DISR) must provide an Annual Compliance Report. This report covers DISR’s compliance with all conditions of approval for the reporting period. This reporting period runs from the commencement of the action on 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024. This report has been prepared by DISR to meet the DCCEEW 2023, [Annual Compliance Report Guidelines](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications/annual-compliance-report-guidelines) (condition 21).

The Commonwealth of Australia is the approval holder for [EPBC 2022/09327](https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/project-decision/?id=d6164cfd-8b6f-ed11-81ac-00224818a55a&) as represented by DISR (ABN 74 599 608 295).

### Background and location

The Northern Endeavour is a 274 m long FPSO facility. It is permanently moored between the Laminaria and Corallina oil fields, about 550 km northwest of Darwin in the Timor Sea.

Figure 1: Location of the Northern Endeavour operational area, licence area and treaty areas.



The [Laminaria and Corallina Decommissioning Cost Recovery Levy](https://www.industry.gov.au/mining-oil-and-gas/oil-and-gas/offshore-oil-and-gas/decommissioning-northern-endeavour/offshore-petroleum-cost-recovery-levy) (the levy) recovers the costs of decommissioning the facility from the oil and gas industry.

Decommissioning is a standard ‘end of life’ practice in the offshore petroleum industry. The Commonwealth took responsibility for the Northern Endeavour in 2020 and began planning its decommissioning. DISR aims to complete the decommissioning work efficiently and safely, ensuring value for money and protecting the surrounding environment.

DISR is managing the decommissioning program across 3 phases:

* Phase 1: Temporary suspension of the oil wells and disconnection of the FPSO from the subsea equipment to allow un-crewed towing.
* Phase 2: Permanently plug and abandon the oil wells.
* Phase 3: Remove subsea infrastructure and remediate the Laminaria and Corallina fields.

Petrofac is the lead contractor undertaking the work on the FPSO that is required for Phase 1 of the decommissioning program.

The Commonwealth of Australia, represented by DISR, submitted a referral under the EPBC Act to DCCEEW on 8 August 2022 for routine operations and maintenance operations and Phase 1 decommissioning activities. The delegate to the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, decided that the action was a Controlled Action requiring assessment under the EPBC Act on 24 November 2022.

The following provisions of the EPBC Act were used to determine the action was a controlled action:

* S18 and 18A – listed threatened species and communities.
* S20 and 20A – listed migratory species.
* S28 – Commonwealth actions.

On 1 August 2023, the delegate issued an approval with 34 conditions for the action, under the title ‘Northern Endeavour Phase 1 Decommissioning' ([EPBC 2022/09327](https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/project-decision/?id=d6164cfd-8b6f-ed11-81ac-00224818a55a&)).

### Regulatory environment

The regulatory environment for the Northern Endeavour Phase 1 Decommissioning Program (the Program) is different to typical industry decommissioning activities. Oil and gas companies are the titleholders responsible for decommissioning offshore facilities. The titleholders are regulated by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). However, as the Commonwealth is not a titleholder, DCCEEW are the regulator of the EPBC Act and environmental approvals for the program. This change in the regulatory environment means that names, and in some cases content, of reports and management plans are different to oil and gas industry norms.

### Description of activities

This approval allows DISR ‘*to undertake routine operations and maintenance operations (lighthouse operations and short-term well injections) and Phase 1 decommissioning activities of the Northern Endeavour FPSO and its associated Laminaria and Corallina resource fields to enable un-crewed towing*.’

To date, DISR has made significant progress decommissioning the Northern Endeavour facility and remediating the associated Laminaria-Corallina oil fields. The following is an outline of some key activities from this reporting period:

* Operations and maintenance of ageing and often obsolete equipment.
* Classification surveys and structural related works in tanks to comply with class rules.
* Put in place a remediation plan for structural integrity (topsides) and prevention of dropped objects.
* Equipment for FPSO disconnection (hardware) manufactured or procured and installed.
* Safely operated the facility with no serious injuries or environmental incidents.
* Carried out the annual inspection, maintenance and repair campaign of the subsea infrastructure.
* Gave specific training and conducted emergency response exercises to test and ensure appropriate resources are available if needed.
* Undertook topsides cleaning and decontamination.
* Commenced subsea umbilical riser and flowline (SURF) flushing.
* Commenced preparation of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM).
* Prepared for the tow of the floating hose to Darwin.
* Completed 2 emergency management exercises to test and improve DISR’s response to any potential oil spill incidents.

All current activities have taken place in an operational area of 5,219 hectares by Petrofac.

### Variation to conditions

DISR requested a variation to the definition ‘Default guideline value(s)’ as specified in conditions 2 and 3 for Discharge Management. The variation to the condition of approval was to ensure that DISR could give demonstratable evidence of compliance with the condition. The variation also provided the chance to improve compliance with water quality levels that were set for 3 toxicants under conditions 2 and 3 for Discharge Management. The 3 toxicants were copper, cobalt, and zinc. Australian accredited laboratories are unable to test cobalt to the level originally outlined in the condition. For copper and zinc, the levels in the surrounding marine environment were already higher than the water quality levels in the original approval.

The variation proposed by DISR had no new or increased impact on the environment. It also reflected DISR’s intent to give demonstratable evidence to support compliance with the conditions.

DCCEEW approved the variation to these conditions on 5 April 2024 based on data given by DISR. Detail of the variation is included at [Attachment B](https://auc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=en-US&rs=en-AU&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fausgov.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FSTRATUS-D6770-PPT-NET%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2F86abe14e4e1d46859b47e797917260e2&wdpid=3a6c72c8&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=5BB459A1-E028-3000-DDB7-568336106F3D.0&uih=sharepointcom&wdlcid=en-US&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=1e3fb3d6-dcbf-4c07-c92d-6072a4fb2c63&usid=1e3fb3d6-dcbf-4c07-c92d-6072a4fb2c63&newsession=1&sftc=1&uihit=docaspx&muv=1&cac=1&sams=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&sdp=1&hch=1&hwfh=1&dchat=1&sc=%7B%22pmo%22%3A%22https%3A%2F%2Fausgov.sharepoint.com%22%2C%22pmshare%22%3Atrue%7D&ctp=LeastProtected&rct=Normal&wdorigin=BrowserReload&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush#_Attachments).

DCCEEW also made updates to the guidelines for condition 21 in the Annual Compliance Report Guidelines. DISR continues to apply and meet conditions 2 and 3 on Discharge Management in line with the new definition. This report aligns with the 2023 [Annual Compliance Report Guidelines](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications/annual-compliance-report-guidelines).

## Approval conditions

DISR has complied with the conditions of approval throughout the reporting period. The following provides further information to the compliance table at [Attachment C](#_Attachment_C_-), which outlines DISR’s compliance with each condition.

### Part A – Conditions specific to the action

#### Management plans – condition 1

DISR, through its lead contractor Petrofac, applied the following management plans throughout the reporting period, complying with condition 1.

##### Environment Risk Management Plan

The Environment Risk Management Plan (ERMP) describes the management controls and processes that DISR’s lead contractor Petrofac follows to reduce environmental impacts and risks. Applying the management controls and processes in the ERMP ensures that risks are properly managed.

##### Waste Management Plan

The Waste Management Plan (WMP) outlines procedures followed by Petrofac for managing wastes from the offshore petroleum activities of the FPSO and its support vessels. This includes the handling, storage and disposal of general and hazardous waste at licensed facilities.

##### FPSO Riser and Mooring Disconnection Methodology

The FPSO Riser and Mooring Disconnection Methodology outlines the proposed methodology by Petrofac for disconnecting the Northern Endeavour risers and moorings.

##### Chemical Management Procedure

Petrofac’s Chemical Management Procedure details the management processes for all chemical products used for regular maintenance and decommissioning of the Northern Endeavour. It includes how products will be selected, used and managed.

##### Oil Pollution Emergency Plan

The Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) supports the decommissioning of the Northern Endeavour in the unlikely event of an oil pollution emergency. The OPEP outlines both DISR and Petrofac’s readiness and response arrangements for worst-case spill scenarios.

##### Three decommissioning project emergency response plans

These 3 decommissioning project emergency response plans are only activated by Petrofac and DISR in an incident or emergency.

###### Emergency Response and Communications Plan

The Emergency Response and Communications Plan (ERCP) gives Petrofac’s IMT and DISR’s CMT with all the information for managing incidents or business interruptions.

###### Emergency Response Plan

The Emergency Response Plan (ERP) details facility specific procedures for managing and responding to emergencies on the Northern Endeavour FPSO. The ERP outlines the responsibilities and lines of communication during an incident on, or in the immediate vicinity, of the FPSO. This includes managing the immediate response and operations of the Northern Endeavour Incident Response Team and all personnel onboard, in responding to any incident or emergency on the FPSO.

###### Source Control Emergency Response Plan

The Source Control Emergency Response Plan (SCERP) ensures safe and efficient re-establishment of well control after a loss of containment event. The focus is to minimise risk to people, environment and assets.

#### Discharge management – conditions 2 and 3

Petrofac take samples from different depth horizons in the slops tank and submitted them to a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratory. The laboratories analyse the samples for toxicant concentrations and radioactivity as outlined in the conditions. The results are reviewed by an independent and suitably qualified marine environmental water quality expert. Petrofac do not discharge until they receive notice that the results meet the requirements of this condition.

#### Invasive marine species management – condition 4

To remove the floating offtake hose from the operational area, DISR engaged an independent and suitably qualified marine biosecurity expert to complete a Marine Biosecurity Risk Assessment (MBRA). This will be the first piece of submerged equipment planned to be towed from the operational area.

#### Hazardous waste management – conditions 10 - 12

An IHM for Northern Endeavour waste is currently in development. The FPSO remains within the operational area on station. DISR and Petrofac have not yet identified a licenced facility for disposing of hazardous waste.

### Part B - Administrative conditions

The following conditions ensure that DISR and Petrofac keep suitable records and notices to the regulator.

#### Notification of date of commencement of the Action – conditions 13 and 14

DISR notified DCCEEW by email on 1 August 2023, within 5 business days of the approval, that the activity under the approval had commenced. This followed cessation of the exemption under section 158 of the EPBC Act for taking of "*limited preparatory topside works and minimal flushing activities" on the Northern Endeavour Floating Production, Storage and Offtake Facility (FPSO) and associated infrastructure*, until DCCEEW decided on the approval of Phase 1 decommissioning activities under the EPBC Act.

#### Compliance records – Conditions 15 - 19

DISR and Petrofac have kept accurate and complete records showing compliance with the conditions of approval for this reporting period. This includes documentation that shows compliance with activities outlined in the Condition 1 plans.

DISR notified DCCEEW within 20 business days from 31 July 2024, that no monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, other spatial and metadata or species occurrence record data (sightings and evidence of presence) was required and or reported during this period.

#### Annual compliance reporting – conditions 20 - 23

This report has been prepared by DISR for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024. It was published on DISR’s website in October 2024 in 60 business days of the end of the first reporting period. This report has been prepared according to DCCEEW’s [Annual Compliance Report Guidelines](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications/annual-compliance-report-guidelines).

#### Notifications – conditions 24 - 26

DISR made 2 notifications to DCCEEW during the reporting period by email within 2 business days of the event. These notifications included details on which condition was potentially breached, a description of the event, the location, date and time of the event. In both cases, DISR and Petrofac stayed in full compliance with the conditions of approval.

##### September 2023 notification

In September 2023, a subsea umbilical, riser and flowline (SURF) flushing campaign was commenced. During the campaign, Petrofac detected minor leaks of flushing fluid from the subsea infrastructure.

The leak was minor in nature and Petrofac stopped SURF flushing operations immediately. Well integrity was not impacted and any impacts on water quality were limited in area and duration.

DISR remained compliant with the conditions of approval including applying the correct management plans throughout.

The incident, its reporting and investigation complied with the conditions of approval.

##### February 2024 notification

In February 2024, during routine operations Petrofac observed increased pressure in a pressure sensor on one of the oil wells. Based on the information at the time, there was the possibility of a loss of well containment. DISR notified DCCEEW by email within 2 business days of the potential non-compliance with the approved management plan. Within 12 business days, DISR notified DCCEEW that besides the corrective measures already in place, a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) was used for subsea inspection, and to conduct preventative and maintenance works to ensure ongoing integrity of the well.

No sheens were identified on the surface, and there was no evidence of hydrocarbon release.

The event, its reporting and investigation were compliant with the conditions of approval.

## Attachment A - Conditions approved on 1 August 2023

On 1 August 2023, under section 133(1) of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC ACT), the delegate to the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, issued an approval with conditions for the action, under the title ‘Northern Endeavour Phase 1 Decommissioning' ([EPBC 2022/09327](https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/project-decision/?id=d6164cfd-8b6f-ed11-81ac-00224818a55a&)).

### Approved action

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Person to whom the approval is granted (approval holder) | The Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources |
| ABN of approval holder | 74 599 608 295 |
| Action | To undertake routine operations and maintenance operations (lighthouse operations and short-term well injections) and Phase 1 decommissioning activities of the Northern Endeavour floating production and storage offtake facility and its associated Laminaria and Corallina resource fields to enable un-crewed towing (See EPBC Act referral 2022/09327). |

Full detail of the approval is available on DCCEEW’s [EPBC Act Public Portal](https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/project-decision/?id=d6164cfd-8b6f-ed11-81ac-00224818a55a).

## Attachment B - Conditions as varied on 5 April 2024

On 5 April 2024, under section 143 of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC ACT), the delegate to the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, issued an approval to vary condition 21 of the approval with conditions for the action, under the title ‘Northern Endeavour Phase 1 Decommissioning' ([EPBC 2022/09327](https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/project-decision/?id=d6164cfd-8b6f-ed11-81ac-00224818a55a&)).

### Approved action

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Approval holder | The Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources  ABN: 74 599 608 295 |
| Action | To undertake routine operations and maintenance operations (lighthouse operations and short-term well injections) and Phase 1 decommissioning activities of the Northern Endeavour floating production and storage offtake facility and its associated Laminaria and Corallina resource fields to enable un-crewed towing.  See EPBC Act referral 2022/09327. |
| Variation of conditions attached to approval | The variation is:  Delete Condition 21 attached to the approval and substitute with the condition specified in the table below.  Delete definition of **Default guideline value(s)** attached to the approval and substitute with the definition specified in the table below. |
| Date of effect | This variation has effect on the date this instrument is signed. |

Full detail of the approval is available on DCCEEW’s [EPBC Act Public Portal](https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/project-referral-summary/project-decision/?id=feb64fb7-f3d1-ee11-9079-000d3acb1769).

## Attachment C – Detail of compliance with conditions of approval.

### Management plans

| Condition number | Condition | Compliance | Evidence/Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1) | To prevent, mitigate and manage harm to protected matters, the approval holder must implement the following management plans from the date of this approval notice until the expiry date of this approval, except where the implementation of these plans is superseded by other requirements of this approval.  **Note:** If there is a contradiction between a requirement in the Oil Pollution Emergency Plan or in the 3 Decommissioning Project Emergency Response Plans and a requirement in any other plan, the requirement of the Oil Pollution Emergency Plan and the 3 Decommissioning Project Emergency Response Plans takes precedence over any contrary requirement of any other plan. | Compliant | The listed plans have been implemented by operator Petrofac as per the conditions of approval. |
| 1a) | The Environment Risk Management Plan. | Compliant | Compliance with the commitments listed in the ERMP was met and assured, based on the approved ERMP version D03. |
| 1b) | The Waste Management Plan. | Compliant | Compliance with the commitments listed in the Waste Management Plan was met and assured. |
| 1c) | The FPSO Riser and Mooring Disconnection Methodology. | Not applicable | The activities covered by the FPSO Riser and Mooring Disconnection Methodology did not occur in this reporting period. |
| 1d) | The Chemical Management Procedure. | Compliant | Compliance with the commitments listed in the Chemical Management Procedure were met and assured. |
| 1e) | The Oil Pollution Emergency Plan. | Compliant | The Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) remains current and available for implementation in the event of an emergency. There were no emergency situations during this reporting period therefore the OPEP was not activated. |
| 1f) | The 3 Decommissioning Project Emergency Response Plans. | Compliant | The 3 Decommissioning Project Emergency Response Plans remain current and available for implementation in the event of an emergency. There were no emergency situations during this reporting period. |

### Discharge management

| Condition number | Condition | Compliance | Evidence/Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2) | To mitigate harm to protected matters from toxicants within the slops tank discharge, the approval holder must, through regular monitoring, ensure: | Compliant | Samples recovered by Petrofac in accordance with the Testing Plan are submitted to a NATA accredited Laboratory and the analytical results are provided to an independent and suitably qualified marine environmental water quality expert for review.  This analysis is undertaken to test the concentration and occurrence of toxicants, including the mercury concentration (as per condition 2a), the radioactivity levels (as per condition 2b) and for toxicants at levels specified by the default guideline values (as per condition 2c). |
| 2a) | The slops tank discharge does not exceed a mercury concentration of 0.1 µg/L at the point of discharge at all times. | Compliant | Discharge occurred once confirmation was received from an independent water quality expert that the results of analysis met the acceptance criteria as per this condition. |
| 2b) | The slops tank discharge does not exceed radioactivity levels of 35 Bq/g at all times. | Compliant | Discharge occurred once confirmation was received from an independent water quality expert that the results of analysis met the acceptance criteria as per this condition. |
| 2c) | Water 100 m and beyond from the slops tank discharge point does not exceed the default guideline values for all toxicants. | Compliant | Discharge occurred once confirmation was received from an independent water quality expert that the results of analysis met the acceptance criteria as per this condition. |
| 2d) | Ensure that representative samples from different depth horizons in the slops tank (near top, middle and near bottom) are obtained and analysed for concentrations of all toxicants that will be discharged, except for NORMs, by a NATA accredited laboratory prior to any batch discharges from the slops tank. | Compliant | The sampling and analysis process that ensures compliance with this condition is described in the Testing Plan. |
| 3) | To mitigate and remediate harm to protected matters from toxicants within the slops tank discharge, if the slops tank discharge exceeds the allowable toxicant concentrations and radioactivity levels specified in condition 2, then the approval holder must immediately cease all discharges from the slops tank and prepare and submit to the department an Adaptive Monitoring and Management Framework (AMMF). The AMMF must: | Not applicable | There was no instance of slops tank discharge exceeding the allowable toxicant concentrations and radioactivity levels specified in Condition 2. Therefore, an AMMF was not required for this reporting period. |
| 3a) | Detail the default guideline value exceedance (date, time, measured toxicant concentration, allowable toxicant concentration that was exceeded, distance from the slops tank discharge point and location of the exceedance). | Not applicable | An AMMF was not required to be implemented during this reporting period. |
| 3b) | Specify remediation measures to be implemented to reduce the toxicant concentration and/or radioactivity of slops tank discharges to meet the requirements of condition 2. | Not applicable | An AMMF was not required to be implemented during this reporting period. |
| 3c) | Not be inconsistent with the Water Quality Guidelines. | Not applicable | An AMMF was not required to be implemented during this reporting period. |
| 3d) | Have been reviewed by an independent and suitably qualified marine environmental water quality expert. | Not applicable | An AMMF was not required to be implemented during this reporting period. |
| 3e) | Include an acknowledgement of the independent review and show how any advice from the independent review has been addressed. | Not applicable | An AMMF was not required to be implemented during this reporting period. |
| 3f) | The approval holder must implement the AMMF and ensure that the requirements of condition 2 are being met before allowing any further slops tank water to be discharged. | Not applicable | An AMMF was not required to be implemented during this reporting period. |

### Invasive marine species management

| Condition number | Condition | Compliance | Evidence/Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4) | To minimise harm to protected matters from the potential introduction of invasive marine species, prior to removing the FPSO, the offtake hose, or any other submerged equipment from the operational area, the approval holder must: | Compliant | No submerged equipment, including the FPSO and the floating offtake hose, was removed from the operational area during this reporting period.  DISR prepared and submitted a MBRA for the floating offtake hose to DCCEEW in June 2024. |
| 4a) | Engage an independent suitably qualified marine biosecurity expert to complete a Marine Biosecurity Risk Assessment (MBRA) in respect of the FPSO, the offtake hose and any other submerged equipment to be towed from the operational area. | Compliant | DISR engaged with an independent, suitably qualified, marine biosecurity expert to complete a MBRA for the floating offtake hose.  No submerged equipment was towed from the operational area during the reporting period. |
| 4b) | Submit the MBRA to the department. | Compliant | DISR submitted the floating offtake hose MBRA to DCCEEW in June 2024. |
| 4c) | Consult with all relevant authorities and obtain all relevant approvals and permits with respect to invasive marine species biosecurity. | Compliant | Based on recommendations in the MBRA and Petrofac’s implementation proposal, DISR consulted with all relevant State and Territory and Commonwealth authorities regarding invasive marine species management regarding the planned tow of the floating offtake hose. |
| 4d) | The MBRA must specify the measures required to prevent the introduction of invasive marine species to sensitive benthic habitats and marine protected areas as a result of the Action. The approval holder must implement the MBRA until the expiry date of this approval. | Compliant | The MBRA for the floating offtake hose specifies measures to prevent introduction of invasive marine species. |

### Well management

| Condition number | Condition | Compliance | Evidence/Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5) | The purpose of the following conditions is to avoid and mitigate harm to protected matters as a result of the Action. |  |  |
| 5a) | The approval holder must leave all effective barriers in all wells, to prevent the escape of petroleum, water and any other substance from the wells, and ensure integrity is maintained until such time as the department notifies the approval holder in writing that the department is reasonably satisfied that the wells are permanently plugged or closed off. | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 6) | Within five business days following the completion of well suspension activities, the approval holder must notify the department electronically of the date of completion of well suspension activities. | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 7) | The approval holder must complete an underwater survey after the well suspension activities are completed, and again annually thereafter for the duration of this approval, to verify that integrity of the wells is being maintained. | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 8) | Should an underwater survey required by condition 7, or any other observation, show that the well suspension activities have failed, the approval holder must: | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 8a) | Within one calendar day of discovering that the completed well suspension activity having failed, notify the department that the well suspension activity has failed to prevent the escape of petroleum, water or any other substance (whichever applies). | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 8b) | Begin implementing an Adaptive Monitoring and Management Programme (AMMP) to stop the further failure from the well within one calendar day of the well suspension activity failure having been identified. | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 8c) | Notify the department electronically when the AMMP was implemented. | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 8d) | Continue to implement the AMMP at least until no further failure of the well can be detected. | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 8e) | Within 6 months from the day of identifying that well suspension activities have failed, or a longer period if agreed to by the department in writing, verify that the implemented AMMP has successfully stopped failure. | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 8f) | Within five calendar days of ceasing to implement the AMMP, notify the department in writing of the date on which it ceased implementing the AMMP. | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 9) | If the approval holder identifies a new risk that could increase the chance of failure of any wells before well suspension activities are completed, the approval holder must implement an AMMP to address the identified risk. The approval holder must implement the AMMP: | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 9a) | Until the expiry date of this approval. | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |
| 9b) | Until the approval holder receives written advice from the department that the AMMP no longer needs to be implemented. | Not applicable | Well suspension activities have not been completed in this reporting period. |

### Hazardous waste management

| Condition number | Condition | Compliance | Evidence/Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 10) | To minimise harm to protected matters from the potential inadequate management of hazardous wastes, the approval holder must: |  |  |
| 10a) | Have established an inventory of all hazardous waste remaining on the facility, suitably quantified and characterised, prior to the FPSO departing the operational area. This must include, but not be limited to: | Not applicable | An IHM of Northern Endeavour waste is currently in preparation.  The FPSO did not depart the operational area during this reporting period. |
| 10a) i. | Packaged solid, or liquid waste material (including plastics). | Not applicable | The FPSO did not depart the operational area during this reporting period. |
| 10a) ii. | Any residual process and treatment chemical inventories stored on the facility. | Not applicable | The FPSO did not depart the operational area during this reporting period. |
| 10a) iii. | Solids, liquids and sludges contained in facility piping, vessel and tanks. | Not applicable | The FPSO did not depart the operational area during this reporting period. |
| 10a) iv. | Specifically, material containing mercury, NORM(s), or other hazardous material identified as part of the proposed activities. | Not applicable | The FPSO did not depart the operational area during this reporting period. |
| 10a) v. | Any material of a category listed in Annex III of the Basel Convention. | Not applicable | The FPSO did not depart the operational area during this reporting period. |
| 10b) | Obtain any necessary permits or approvals for the transportation, import or export of such waste, as required by international or domestic conventions, protocols or legislative instruments, including the *Commonwealth Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989* and the Basel Convention, prior to the FPSO departing the operational area. | Not applicable | The FPSO did not depart the operational area during this reporting period. |
| 11) | The approval holder must inform the designated recipient (at the agreed location) of the FPSO of the quantities and nature of the hazardous waste that will be present on the FPSO, prior to the FPSO departing the operational area. | Not applicable | The FPSO did not depart the operational area during this reporting period.  The designated recipient and agreed location for the FPSO were not determined during the reporting period. |
| 12) | If the approval holder does not deliver the FPSO to the designated recipient (at the agreed location) themselves, and the FPSO is to be delivered to the agreed location by a creditor, then the approval holder must take all reasonable steps to communicate the requirements of this approval notice to the creditor. The requirements of this approval notice must be included in contractual or other handover arrangements between the approval holder and the creditor. | Not applicable | Handover of the FPSO did not occur in this reporting period.  The designated recipient and agreed location for the FPSO were not determined during the reporting period. |

### Notification of date of commencement of the Action

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Condition number | Condition | Compliance | Evidence/Comments |
| 13) | The approval holder must notify the department electronically of the date of commencement of the Action, within 5 business days following commencement of the Action. | Compliant | Within 5 business days from approval on 1 August 2023, the DISR notified DCCEEW via email that the approved action had commenced. |
| 14) | If the commencement of the Action does not occur within 5 years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not commence the Action without the prior written agreement of the Minister. | Not applicable | Within 5 business days from approval on 1 August 2023, the DISR notified DCCEEW via email that the approved action had commenced. |

### Compliance records

| Condition number | Condition | Compliance | Evidence/Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15) | The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records. | Compliant | DISR and Petrofac maintained accurate and complete compliance records. |
| 16) | If the department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the department within the timeframe specified in the request. | Not applicable | There was no request for providing electronic copies of compliance records during this reporting period. |
| 17) | The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data, Commonwealth of Australia 2018, or as otherwise specified by the Minister in writing. | Not applicable | No monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, or other spatial and metadata was required to have been prepared or submitted to DCCEEW during this reporting period. |
| 18) | The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects, Commonwealth of Australia 2021, or as otherwise specified by the Minister in writing. | Not applicable | No monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, or other spatial and metadata was required to have been prepared or submitted to DCCEEW during this reporting period. |
| 19) | The approval holder must submit all monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, other spatial and metadata and all species occurrence record data (sightings and evidence of presence) electronically to the department within 20 business days of each anniversary of this approval decision. | Compliant | DISR notified DCCEEW within 20 business days from 1 August 2024 that no monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, or other spatial and metadata was required to have been prepared or submitted to DCCEEW during this reporting period. |

### Annual compliance reporting

| Condition number | Condition | Compliance | Evidence/Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 20) | The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12- month period following the date of this approval decision, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister. | Compliant | DISR has prepared the compliance report, for the reporting period 1 August 2023 – 31 July 2024. |
| 21) | Each compliance report must be consistent with the Annual Compliance Report Guidelines, Commonwealth of Australia 2023. | Compliant | This compliance report has been prepared and published consistently with the Annual Compliance Report Guidelines, Commonwealth of Australia 2023. |
| 22) | Each compliance report must include: |  |  |
| 22a) | Accurate and complete details of compliance and any non-compliance with the conditions and any incidents. | Compliant | This report includes details of any incident and potential non-compliance reported during the period. |
| 23) | The approval holder must: |  |  |
| 23a) | Publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the end of the 12-month period for which that compliance report is required. | Compliant | This report has been prepared for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024. It was published on DISR’s website in October 2024 within 60 business days of the end of the first reporting period. This report has been prepared in accordance with the DCCEEW [Annual Compliance Report Guidelines](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/publications/annual-compliance-report-guidelines). |
| 23b) | Notify the department electronically, within 5 business days of the date of publication that a compliance report has been published on the website. | Not applicable | No annual compliance report was published on DISR website during this reporting period. |
| 23c) | Provide the weblink for the compliance report in the notification to the department. | Not applicable | No annual compliance report was published on DISR website during this reporting period. |
| 23d) | Keep all published compliance reports required by these conditions on the website until the expiry date of this approval. | Not applicable | No annual compliance report was published on DISR website during this reporting period. |
| 23e) | Exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website or otherwise provided to a member of the public. | Not applicable | Not applicable to date.  There was no sensitive ecological data related to this compliance report that needed to be excluded or redacted prior to publication on the DISR website or otherwise provided to a member of the public. |
| 23f) | If sensitive ecological data is excluded or redacted from the published version, submit the full compliance report to the department within 5 business days of its publication on the website and notify the department in writing what exclusions and redactions have been made in the version published on the website. | Not applicable | Not applicable to date.  There was no sensitive ecological data related to this compliance report that needed to be excluded or redacted prior to publication on the DISR website or otherwise provided to a member of the public. |

### Reporting non-compliance

| Condition number | Condition | Compliance | Evidence/Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 24) | The approval holder must notify the department electronically, within 2 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the commitments made in a plan that require reporting, or with any of the conditions of this notice. | Compliant | DISR notified DCCEEW within 2 business days, via email, of an [incident that occurred in September 2023](#_Incident_report). Following investigation, there was no non-compliance with approved management plans or breach of the conditions of approval.  DISR notified DCCEEW within 2 business days, via email, of a [potential non-compliance observed in February 2024](#_Potential_non-compliance). Following investigation, there was no non-compliance with approved management plans or breach to conditions of approval. |
| 25) | The approval holder must specify in the notification: |  |  |
| 25a) | Any condition or commitment made in a plan which has been or may have been breached. | Compliant | The notifications sent to DCCEEW in September 2023 and February 2024 stated that no commitments within the ERMP or EPBC conditions were breached in relation to the incident or the potential non-compliance.  Both notifications indicated the EPBC conditions and ERMP commitments were investigated. |
| 25b) | A short description of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance. | Compliant | This information was provided to DCCEEW in the notification sent via email in September 2023.  This information was provided to DCCEEW in the notification sent via email in February 2024. |
| 25c) | The location (including co-ordinates), date and time of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance. | Compliant | This information was provided to DCCEEW in the notification sent via email in September 2023.  This information was provided to DCCEEW in the notification sent via email in February 2024. |
| 26) | The approval holder must provide to the department in writing, within 12 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance, the details of that incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the conditions or commitments. The approval holder must specify: | Compliant | This information was provided to DCCEEW with a report via email in September 2023.  This information was provided to DCCEEW with a report via email in March 2024. |
| 26a) | Any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken. | Compliant | This information was provided to DCCEEW in the report sent via email in September 2023.  This information was provided to DCCEEW in the report sent via email in March 2024. |
| 26b) | The potential impacts of the incident and/or non-compliance. | Compliant | This information was provided to DCCEEW in the report sent via email in September 2023.  This information was provided to DCCEEW in the report sent via email in March 2024. |
| 26c) | The method and timing of any corrective action that will be undertaken by the approval holder. | Compliant | All corrective actions were implemented in the timeframes specified in the information provided to DCCEEW in the reports sent via email in September 2023 and March 2024. |

### Independent audit

| Condition number | Condition | Compliance | Evidence/Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 27) | The approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions is conducted for every five-year period following the commencement of the Action until this approval expires, unless otherwise specified in writing by the Minister. | Not applicable | No audit was required to be conducted during this reporting period. |
| 28) | For each independent audit, the approval holder must: |  |  |
| 28a) | Provide the name and qualifications of the nominated independent auditor, the draft audit criteria, and proposed timeframe for submitting the audit report to the department prior to commencing the independent audit. | Not applicable | No audit was required to be conducted during this reporting period. |
| 28b) | Only commence the independent audit once the nominated independent auditor, audit criteria and timeframe for submitting the audit report have been approved in writing by the department. | Not applicable | No audit was required to be conducted during this reporting period. |
| 28c) | Submit the audit report to the department for approval within the timeframe specified and approved in writing by the department. | Not applicable | No audit was required to be conducted during this reporting period. |
| 28d) | Publish each audit report on the website within 15 business days of the date of the department’s approval of the audit report. | Not applicable | No audit was required to be conducted during this reporting period. |
| 28e) | Keep every audit report published on the website until this approval expires. | Not applicable | No audit was required to be conducted during this reporting period. |
| 29) | Each audit report must report for the five-year period preceding that audit report. | Not applicable | No audit was required to be conducted during this reporting period. |
| 30) | Each audit report must be completed to the satisfaction of the Minister and be consistent with the EPBC Act Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines, Commonwealth of Australia 2019. | Not applicable | No audit was required to be conducted during this reporting period. |

### Completion of the Action

| Condition number | Condition | Compliance | Evidence/Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 31) | The approval holder must notify the department in writing the date on which it removed the FPSO from the operational area within 5 business days of having removed the FPSO from the operational area | Not applicable | The action has not been completed. |
| 32) | The approval holder must notify the department in writing the date on which it delivered the FPSO to the designated recipient within 5 business days of having delivered the FPSO to the designated recipient. | Not applicable | The action has not been completed. |
| 33) | The approval holder must notify the department electronically 60 business days prior to the expiry date of this approval, that the approval is due to expire. | Not applicable | The action has not been completed. |
| 34) | Within 20 business days after the completion of the Action, and, in any event, before this approval expires, the approval holder must notify the department electronically of the date of completion of the Action and provide completion data. The approval holder must submit any spatial data that comprises completion data as a shapefile. | Not applicable | The action has not been completed. |