



# **Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd**

# South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Project Consultation Plan

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# **Abbreviations**

Abbreviation	Definition
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
ATBA	Area to be Avoided
EMBA	Environment that May be Affected
Esso	Esso Australia Pty Ltd (EAPL), the Company
OA	Operational Area
OIMS	Operations Integrity Management System
OPGGS	Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 (Australia)
OPEP	Oil Pollution Emergency Plan
SEA CCS	South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage

# **Definitions**

Term	Definition
Activities	Activities are considered to be what other persons or organizations are already doing.
Claims	Evidence provided that suggests there are potential adverse impacts from the petroleum or greenhouse gas activities to which the regulatory submission relates.
Consultation	Targeted and tailored information provided to enable effective two-way consultation on a specific planned activity within a defined timeframe.
Engagement	Ongoing relationship building or general engagement not related to a specific planned activity or defined timeframe.
Environment	OPGGS (Environment) Regulations defines environment as:
	(a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and
	(b) natural and physical resources; and
	(c) the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas; and
	(d) the heritage value of places; and includes
	(e) the social, economic and cultural features of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d).
Functions	Refers to a power or duty to do something.

Term	Definition
Geographical Boundary	The geographical areas (OA, ATBA and EMBA) used as the basis for identifying stakeholders. See Section 4.2.1 for definitions.
Information sharing	Broad, high-level information such as information bulletins and information regarding unplanned release modeling.
Interests	Interests represent a connection to the values described in the activity regulatory submission document. Any interest possessed by an individual, whether or not the interest amounts to a legal right or is a proprietary or financial interest or relates to reputation.  An interest does not extend to general public interest in an activity.
Objection	A reason or argument that asserts that there are potential adverse impacts arising from the petroleum or greenhouse gas activities to which the regulatory submission relates.
Petroleum/greenhouse gas activity	A planned offshore petroleum or greenhouse gas storage activity for which a regulatory submission is required. This also includes activities undertaken in the event of an emergency condition such as oil spill response.
Reasonable period	A reasonable time for stakeholders to identify the effect of a proposed activity on their functions, interests or activities and make a response detailing their objections or claims.
	Esso generally defines a reasonable period for a stakeholder to review and provide an initial response i.e., the consultation period, as being 30 business days, subject to the nature and scale of the proposed activity.
	Where engagement with stakeholders is ongoing after this period, Esso will continue to engage with these persons until Esso believes that it has provided sufficient evidence/justification to close the consultation (i.e. they have been provided sufficient information and reasonable time).
Regulatory submission	Esso created document submitted to a regulatory body for approval to proceed with work relating to a specific scope.
Stakeholder	Describes any person, group or organisation with a function, interest or activity that is affected by a proposed Esso activity. It includes a person, organisation, department or agency that falls within one of the classifications defined by sub regulation 11A (1) of the OPGGS (Environment) Regulations and the defines Esso geographical areas. It includes those that may be affected in an immaterial or negligible way.
Planned activity	The activity as described in the scope of the regulatory submission.
Unplanned activity/event	Accidental release e.g., loss of containment refined oils (collision) or loss of containment reservoir hydrocarbons.
	Emergency response plans for each scope will be identified in the planned activity documentation.

### 1 Introduction

Over the past 50 years of operations in Gippsland and the Bass Strait, Esso has established relationships with a broad range of stakeholders.

Esso recognises and respects the important contribution of stakeholders, including Indigenous People, throughout its operations and for new activities.

Esso is committed to ensuring that stakeholders are identified, provided sufficient information, and afforded reasonable time for consultation to allow them to make an informed assessment of the possible consequences of a proposed activity on them and if they choose, provide feedback.

Esso has developed a consolidated consultation methodology, as outlined in this South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage (SEA CCS) Consultation Plan, meets all applicable legislative requirements.

Esso defines consultation as a process of communication that leads to a decision where the views of stakeholders have been considered. Engagement aims to build long term relationships by exchanging information. Esso will continue to further develop relationships already established with existing stakeholders and is committed to identifying and consulting with new stakeholders.

The consultation methodology as outlined in this plan, allows Esso to ascertain, understand and address impacts and risks that might arise from the proposed activity. The methodology also allows Esso to receive information that the Company might not otherwise receive, and to use this information to enhance understanding of the environment, people, communities, heritage values, and social and cultural features that may be affected by the proposed activities and to inform decision-making.

# 2 Objectives

The objectives of Esso's consultation methodology are to:

- ensure every effort is made to identify stakeholders
- undertake a verification process to ensure all representatives of stakeholders are a true representation/advocate of the views of their constituents and can be relied upon to faithfully communicate the results of engagements back to their constituents
- ensure stakeholders, especially those who are directly impacted, are consulted on matters that may affect them
- ensure that consultation is genuine and provides a meaningful two-way dialogue to develop and maintain consistent and constructive relationships with stakeholders to further understand potential environmental, social, and economic impacts
- pursue engagement with stakeholders using a level of effort commensurate with the nature and scale of the activity
- keep stakeholders informed with respect to their specific interests, functions, or activities
- encourage stakeholders to assess the information provided to them and respond to Esso with any feedback including questions, issues, concerns, suggestions, objections and/or claims

• maintain confidence of stakeholders in Esso and its activities through ongoing open, informative, inclusive, and timely communications, wherever possible.

Implementation of the consultation methodology provides a mechanism by which Esso can:

- meet regulatory obligations and align with industry best practice consultation and engagement methods
- review and update the consultation methodology to reflect any changes to applicable laws, best practices, or standards
- provide meaningful information in a format and language that is readily understood and tailored to the needs of stakeholders.
- provide information within an adequate timeframe to inform decision-making
- ensure consultations are based on open communication that is transparent, collaborative, inclusive and are conducted with integrity to foster respect and trust
- disseminate information in formats, methods and locations that make it easy for stakeholders to access
- respect local traditions and the stakeholder's preferred ways of doing things
- establish two-way dialogue that gives all stakeholders the opportunity to exchange views and information, to listen, and to have their feedback heard and addressed
- seek inclusiveness in representation of views, including minority and special interest groups
- develop clear mechanisms for receiving, documenting, and responding to feedback
- incorporate feedback from stakeholders into the program design and providing clear and transparent reporting back to stakeholders in a reasonable timeframe.

# 3 Standards and requirements

Esso is committed to undertaking all consultation and engagement activities in accordance with applicable ExxonMobil standards and Australian legislation.

#### 3.1 ExxonMobil standards

As a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, Esso complies with the ExxonMobil Corporation Standards of Business Conduct, which require the company to conduct business in a manner that is compatible with the environmental, social, and economic needs of the communities in which it operates. These Standards also aim to protect the safety and health of employees, those involved in operations, and members of the public.

In addition to the Standards, Esso manages its operations in accordance with a structured and disciplined risk management framework known as the Operations Integrity Management System (OIMS). This System identifies, evaluates, and manages risks across all ExxonMobil exploration, construction, and production activities.

The consultation methodology outlined in this plan has been developed in accordance with the requirements of OIMS System 10-1: Community Awareness and Public Affairs.

#### 3.2 Legislative requirements

Esso will undertake consultation for the SEA CCS Project in accordance with relevant legislative requirements (including case law) and the guidance below.

#### Legislation:

- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Greenhouse Gas Injection and Storage) Regulations 2011
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety) Regulations 2009
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2010 (Victoria)
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Regulations 2021 (Victoria)
- Pipelines Act 2005
- Native Title Act 1993
- Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981
- Environment Protection Act 2017 (Victoria)

#### Case law:

- Tipakalippa v National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (No. 2) [2022] FCA 1121 (Decision)
- Santos NA Barossa Pty Ltd v Tipakalippa [2022] FCAFC 193 (Appeal)

#### Guidance:

- Interim Engaging with Indigenous People and Communities on Assessments and Approvals under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2023)
- Consultation in the course of preparing an environment plan (National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority, 2022)
- Australian Energy Regulator, Revised Stakeholder Engagement Framework (2017)

A full depiction of legislation relevant to the SEA CCS Project is outlined in Figure 3-1(including those which do not require consultation).

#### Key approvals required for the South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage Project OPGGS Act 2010 (Vic) Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (OPGGS) Act 2006 Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981 Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic) Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 Traditional Owners Settlement Act 2010 Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic) Pipelines Act 2005 Bream A platform SEA CCS Plant Existing facilities Valve Site 3 New facilities Commonwealth Waters 1 State Waters Onshore pipeline \*Not to scale Offshore pipeline (BMA350-Shore) → Development Licence Department of Transport and Planning → Operating Licence Bream greenhouse → Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic) Determination gas storage formation → Safety Case National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation → Well Operations Management Plan → Sea Dumping Permit → Cultural Heritage Management Plan → Environment Plan → Safety Case Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action New Pipeline Licence Department of Justice and Regulation Pipeline Consultation Plan National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator → Variation to existing Pipeline Licence → Future Act Assessment Amendment to existing Pipeline Licence → Variation to existing Pipeline Licence Environment Plan Environment Management Plan Wellington Shire Council/Minister for Planning National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority Fournament Protection and Biodiversity → Declaration of Storage Formation Conservation Act 1999 Approval Safety Management Plan → Planning Permit → Injection Licence Safety Case

Figure 3-1

Key regulatory approvals for the SEA CCS Project (as at November 2023)

## 4 Methodology

When planning consultation, stakeholders are identified, classified, verified and consulted, and their feedback used to inform decision-making and planning, as summarised in Figure 4-1 and detailed in the following sections. This methodology applies to each regulatory submission developed by Esso for the SEA CCS Project.

Esso's approach to consultation with stakeholders involves steps undertaken across four consultation levels. Esso acknowledges that there may be persons who have functions, interests or activities within relevant geographical areas (Section 4.2.1), but those functions, interests or activities may not be affected by Esso's activities.

There may be instances where potential environmental or ecological impacts are predicted to occur within an area; however, despite a geographical overlap this will not necessarily equate to an impact on a person's functions, interests or activities. Where a person's functions, interests or activities within the Environment that May Be Affected (EMBA) are not affected, or are only affected in an immaterial or negligible way, they may not have been identified as a stakeholder.

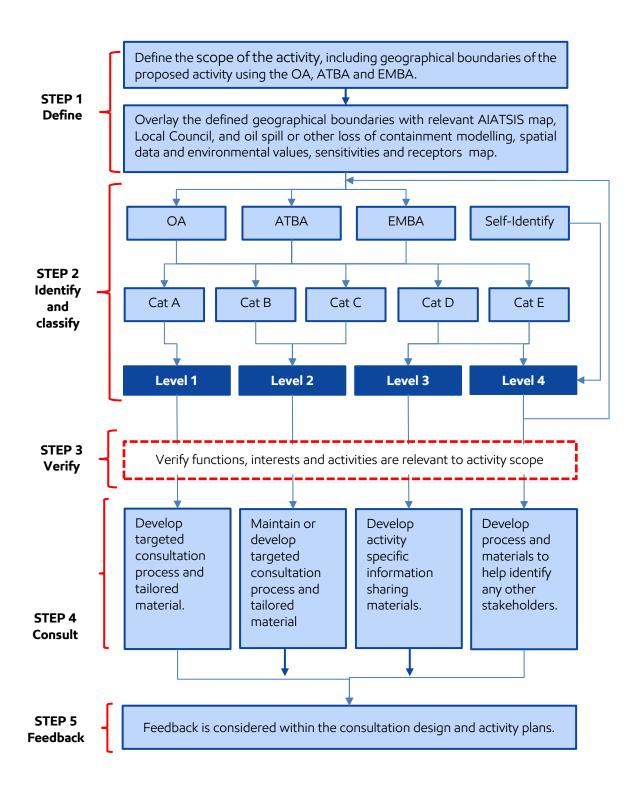


Figure 4-1 Consultation methodology

#### 4.1 Define

To identify stakeholders, Esso will first define the activity-specific characteristics that will be used to evaluate whether a person is a stakeholder for the activity. These activity-specific characteristics are the:

- activity description
- scope of the activity, taking into consideration factors such as potential impacts to environmental factors including air and water emissions, culturally sensitive areas, sea country and marine environments; and potential socioeconomic impacts including job creation throughout the supply chain
- values and sensitivities of the proposed activity, including cultural heritage, sea country, wetlands of international significance (e.g. Ramsar), listed threatened species and listed migratory species, listed threatened ecological communities and Commonwealth marine areas
- timing of the proposed activity, including any seasonal changes
- anticipated functions, interests and activities relevant to the proposed activity
- geographic location of the activity, including not just primary project sites but also related facilities, transport routes, and sea country.

#### 4.2 Identify and classify

Esso acknowledges that factors such as the nature of the activity, the environment in which the activity is being undertaken and the possible impacts and risks of the activity should be considered when determining whether the activity may be relevant to authorities, or determining who has functions, interests or activities that may be affected.

Therefore, the identification and classification process involves assessing the relevance of the reasonably ascertainable functions, interests and activities of each person/group/organisation taking into account the definitions of activity-specific characteristics outlined in Section 4.1.

Esso then classifies all stakeholders into one of five categories A to E. The use of Categories A to E and functions, interests and activities have been adopted by Esso as consultation methodology standard practice to help identify, evaluate and verify stakeholders in a consistent manner across all activities.

If Esso identifies a stakeholder that may be potentially affected but is unable to confirm contact details as these are not ascertainable through normal mechanisms (e.g. website, associated government agencies, organisations or groups who hold these details or who can advise who these individuals are), the opportunity exists for such persons to contact Esso via the publicly accessible Consultation Hub, consultation email or phone.

#### 4.2.1 Geographical boundaries

Table 4-1 Onshore and offshore geographical boundary descriptions

Geographical Boundary	Offshore	Onshore
Operation Area (OA) - This is the area in which Esso's physical infrastructure exists and its operational boundaries for planned activities	This is 500m Petroleum Safety Zone around platforms and subsea installations.	Within the boundaries of onshore infrastructure e.g. directly affected landowners (pipeline easement) and CCS infrastructure at Longford Plant.
Area to be avoided (ATBA)	For offshore, the boundary which commences at the most easterly intersection of the coastline of the State of Victoria at mean low water by the parallel of Latitude 38° 14′ 54.50″ south and runs thence south-easterly along the geodesic to the point of Latitude 38° 34′ 54.49″ south, Longitude 147° 44′ 04.61″ east thence along the coastline of the State of Victoria at mean low water to the point of commencement.	Not relevant.
Environment that May be Affected (EMBA) during an unplanned activity	Oil spill and CO2 loss of containment modelling is used to determine the total area that could be exposed to hydrocarbon or CO2, including trace concentrations in the water column, as a result of any loss of containment and is used for planning purposes to ensure that all social and environmental sensitivities are acknowledged, described and considered in the development of the regulatory submission.	Area determined by the credible worst case scenario CO2 loss of containment modelling for the pipeline and CCS facility (Longford Plant).

#### 4.2.2 Methodology for identification of Category A-C stakeholders

**Category A** – Each Department or agency of the Commonwealth to which the activities to be carried out may be relevant. For Esso's operations, this includes any Commonwealth department or agency that has responsibility for managing or protecting the marine environment from pollution. It may also include those with responsibilities for environmental and fisheries management, defence and communications, maritime/navigational safety, marine parks, and native title.

**Category B** – Each Department or agency of Victoria to which the activities to be carried out may be relevant. For Esso's operations, this includes any Victorian government department or agency that has responsibility for managing or protecting the marine environment from pollution. It may include those with responsibilities for environmental and fisheries management, defence and communications, maritime/navigational safety, marine parks, and native title.

Category A and B require the identification of stakeholders in Commonwealth or State government departments or agencies (respectively) who may have responsibilities either related to or impacted by the activities to be carried out.

**Category C** – The Department of the responsible State Minister, meaning the Victorian Government department that has responsibilities for petroleum or energy resources in Victoria. For Esso's operations in Bass Strait, this is the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, formerly the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions - Earth Resources.

Category C requires Esso to identify the department of the responsible State Minister.

Esso has a history of extensive and ongoing consultation for its activities in Victoria and the Bass Strait spanning more than 50 years, meaning that most, if not all, Category A-C stakeholders are already known to Esso.

The first step in identification is to review Esso's existing Stakeholder Database. This review involves comparing the defined 'activity description' characteristic to previous Esso activities and/or facilities to identify past consultations of a similar nature. This is then used to filter the Database, providing a list of stakeholders for all past activities with a similar nature.

#### 4.2.2.1 Actively seeking out new stakeholders

To identify new Commonwealth or State departments or agencies relevant to the activity, Esso reviews the location of the activities.

If Commonwealth or State departments or agencies change, Esso will leverage existing relationships to ensure consistency of consultation.

### 4.2.3 Methodology for identification of Category D stakeholders

**Category D** – A person or organisation whose functions, interests or activities may be affected by the activities to be carried out. A connection of traditional owners with sea country may constitute an interest for the purposes of Category D categorisation. For Esso's operations in Victoria and the Bass Strait this includes Indigenous groups, non-government organisations, worker unions and fishing groups. It may also include community groups and individuals.

Identification of Category D relevant stakeholders requires their functions, interests or activities to be understood and applied broadly taking into account how potential risks and impacts of the activity may affect them. This is achieved through using functions, interests and activities groups to identify stakeholders via several methods as outlined in the following sections.

#### 4.2.3.1 Review of stakeholders previously identified for other activities

Given Esso's extensive history of consultation in the area, identification of stakeholders starts with a review of Esso's existing Stakeholder Database to generate a list of any persons, groups, and organisations with functions, interests or activities matching those defined for the activity.

#### 4.2.3.2 Actively seeking out new stakeholders

To ensure the broad capture of persons and organisations who may have their functions, interests or activities affected by the activity, Esso seeks to identify any new stakeholders through:

• using local knowledge of existing relationships to identify marine users and interest groups active in the area (e.g. Indigenous groups, commercial fisheries, recreational fishers, other energy producers, local business, etc.)

- providing a link to the Consultation Hub and Esso Consultation Questionnaire with existing stakeholders and asking them to share it with anyone who may be interested in Esso's activities
- seeking the advice of Indigenous groups such as land councils and prescribed body corporates in relation to who and how other Indigenous groups or individuals should be consulted as stakeholders whose interests may be affected by the activities
- searches of internet sources, including social media platforms etc.
- identification of landowners/occupiers and near neighbours
- members of the Company's local workforce providing suggestions of other potentially impacted stakeholders
- identified stakeholders providing recommendations of other potentially impacted stakeholders, through direct engagement and/or Esso Consultation Questionnaire
- guidance from the Regulator, other government agency/department, industry associations or bodies about other potentially stakeholders
- advertisements in newspapers and other relevant news sources (e.g. Koori Mail, local papers)
- a review of legislation applicable to petroleum and marine activities
- active participation in industry bodies and collaborations e.g. Australian Energy Producers and CO2CRC
- leveraging existing relationships with relevant Commonwealth and state departments and agencies to identify other relevant stakeholders
- reviewing the stakeholders identified for other oil and gas activities in the area.

Potential stakeholders identified through these means are added to the list generated by the review of the Stakeholder Database (as described in Section 4.2.3.1).

### 4.2.3.3 Self-identification from broad-based information sharing

As part of the Company's own commitments to consultation and engagement, Esso regularly conducts broad-based information sharing designed to reach both stakeholders identified for any activity and a broad range of other interested parties. This broad-based information sharing allows Esso to create awareness of its activities and encourages stakeholders to make themselves known to the Company. Any persons or organisations who self-identify are added to the list generated by the ongoing review of the Stakeholder Database (as described in Section 4.2.3.1).

### 4.2.3.4 Specific identification processes for Indigenous peoples

Identification commences with a review of the Stakeholder Database (as described earlier in this section). Additional potentially relevant Indigenous peoples are identified using the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) map of Indigenous Australia, overlaid with the geographical information of the activity location.

Government resources such as State Government spatial data sets are also utilised to identify potentially relevant Aboriginal Land Councils, Registered Aboriginal Parties and Registered Aboriginal Community Organisations.

## 4.2.3.5 Specific identification processes for Local Councils

Identification commences with a review of the Stakeholder Database (as described earlier in this section). Additional potentially relevant local government/councils are identified using government resources such as State Government spatial data overlaid with the geographical information of the activity location.

## 4.2.4 Methodology for identification of Category E stakeholders

**Category E** - Any other person or organisation that the Esso considers relevant. These stakeholders can self-identify or may be identified as part of the previous identification steps.

In some cases, stakeholders have developed guidance, or provided feedback to Esso, detailing their own functions, interests or activities and how and when they wish to be consulted on activities, which will be considered throughout the process.

Where Esso chooses to consult with persons or organisations that would not be considered a stakeholder whose functions, interests or activities are not impacted by the proposed workscope, Category E allows for Esso to nominate these persons/organisations, at their discretion.

Once both geographical and category assessments are completed, the evaluation yields a list of potential stakeholders for the activity.

## 4.3 Verify

Following identification and classification of stakeholders, Esso undertakes a process of verification. The verification aims to ensure that:

- organisational or departmental restructures, name changes, staff/contact person changes, contact information are up to date
- the functions, interests and activities used to evaluate and categorise the person or organisation as a stakeholder are accurate
- identified representatives are a true representation/advocate of the views of their constituents and can be relied upon to faithfully communicate the results of engagements back to their constituents
- stakeholders have been provided with the Esso Consultation Questionnaire to confirm they are willing to participate in the consultation process.

## 4.3.1 Verifying functions, interests and activities

In order to verify functions, interests and activities, stakeholders (or their verified representative) will be provided with:

- activity-specific communication material(s), such as a webpage or information bulletin, providing sufficient information on the activity
- access to the Esso Consultation Questionnaire to verify their functions, interests and activities.

The activity-specific communication material aims to ensure all stakeholders are provided with sufficient information according to the assigned Consultation Level at the outset of the consultation process so they can make informed decisions about their participation or otherwise.

Consultation aims to verify the functions, interests and activities of each stakeholder. This information comes either directly from the stakeholder or using the Esso Consultation Questionnaire, by providing a list of functions, interests and activities so that the stakeholder can select one or more items. Esso captures this information in the Stakeholder Database and may use this to re-evaluate the person's/group's status as a stakeholder.

If the functions, interests or activities of a person/s have not been advised directly to Esso via the above methods, an assessment is made based on available information relating to the person/s or organisation/s, as per the function, interests and activities definitions within this procedure.

#### 4.3.2 Verifying true representation

The Esso Consultation Questionnaire is also used to determine the group participation of individual stakeholders through consultation with the stakeholder or group representative. This information is used to develop a list of group members that Esso can engage with directly to seek verification that the right group representatives have been identified. This ground-truthing of views of the designated representatives is essential to confirm they will provide comprehensive and accurate representation. The Questionnaire also allows for individual stakeholders to choose whether they want to be consulted with directly or if their preference is for Esso to consult with the group representative on their behalf.

### 4.3.3 Confirming participation

Provision is made in the Esso Consultation Questionnaire to allow for a stakeholder to opt out of the consultation process. Esso will respect the wishes of the stakeholder should they choose to 'opt out'. Where the Esso Consultation Questionnaire has not been completed and returned, this will not be considered 'opting out' and Esso representatives will seek to make further contact with the stakeholder to obtain a response.

Stakeholders can also notify Esso via the Consultation email (see Section 4.4.2) to opt out of communications on specific activities.

It is recognised that in any community consultation there will inevitably be persons who cannot participate for various reasons; however the absence of their participation does not invalidate the process provided reasonable efforts are made to identify the stakeholders and to consult with them.

#### 4.4 Consultation

Esso seeks to engage with stakeholders so that each stakeholder has sufficient information to understand the activity and to help them make an informed assessment of possible consequences associated with the activities pursuant to their own functions, interests or activities. Esso acknowledges that what constitutes sufficient information as part of a consultation process may differ depending on the stakeholder(s). Esso therefore seeks to consult in a way that is appropriate for each stakeholder and adapted to the nature of the person to be consulted.

To achieve this, the consultation process is tailored to the requirements of stakeholders by obtaining their feedback directly e.g. face-to-face, phone or email, or via the Esso Consultation Questionnaire. This allows them to:

- subscribe to Esso's other broad-based information sharing communications
- nominate how they prefer to be communicated with

provide any feedback.

Information gained during consultation is entered into Esso's Stakeholder Database and used to:

- align delivery of planned engagement mechanisms and materials to the requests of stakeholders
- develop additional materials and/or conduct additional engagements in response to feedback received
- be considerate of the level of participation requested by each stakeholder
- take into account any views of what constitutes reasonable timeframes, availability and or accessibility issues offered by stakeholders.

Each consultation has the overarching goals of:

- further strengthening foundation relationships with existing stakeholders
- developing relationships with new stakeholders
- facilitating genuine two-way dialogue between Esso and stakeholders
- building upon preceding consultations (where applicable) to further a stakeholder's understanding of the activity.

Throughout the consultation process, stakeholders are invited to correspond with Esso if they have concerns or require clarifications.

Esso will ensure a reasonable opportunity to participate has been afforded to groups where interests are held communally, such as Indigenous groups. To do this, Esso will ensure reasonable notice is provided to group members and reasonable efforts are made to notify group members of the consultation in clear, simple and directly expressed terms.

Esso also provides avenues for stakeholders to contact Esso outside of formal engagement activities if they have any questions or concerns. Follow up verbal discussions occur where required, or if, requested. If needed, Esso will engage an expert third party to provide support or assistance to stakeholders in relation to understanding technical data.

#### 4.4.1 Consultation timing

Esso recognises that the time required for consultation varies depending on the individual circumstances of the stakeholder, the proposed activity, the extent of potential impacts and risks on that stakeholder, and the level of information that has been provided. Therefore, what is a reasonable period for consultation should be considered on a case-by-case basis but at a minimum allows sufficient time for:

- a stakeholder to assess information and provide a response detailing any feedback
- Esso to consider responses when developing regulatory submissions
- Esso to reply to the stakeholder addressing any feedback.

The reasonable period defined must be no less than 30 days.

#### 4.4.2 Consultation mechanisms

Esso uses different mechanisms to consult with stakeholders. Where possible the method most appropriate, and/or has been requested, by the stakeholder is used.

Given the nature of consultation, the process will always be context-specific, meaning that techniques, methods, approaches and timetables will be tailored to the issue, to the situation and to the stakeholders being consulted. At all times the provision of sufficient information is the focus.

Direct mechanisms typically used by Esso to communicate with stakeholders include:

- in-person discussions and presentations
- community sessions
- presentations at committee meetings
- formal and informal meetings
- phone calls
- video meetings
- forums
- email correspondence.

Wherever possible, Esso aims to conduct face-to-face consultations in a location within the stakeholders' community in a venue where they feel comfortable. Such locations and venue considerations can assist to:

- make consultation convenient for the person being consulted with
- lend transparency to the process
- increase accountability of local leaders
- demonstrate that Esso values the input of local communities
- contribute to a stakeholders' feeling of ownership over the consultation process
- allow stakeholders to identify their own representatives, preventing illegitimate representatives from claiming that they speak for them.

All consultations are undertaken with respect to the physical, environmental and cultural sensitivities of the person being consulted with.

Stakeholders are not obligated to respond to a titleholders requests to participate in the consultation process. In cases where no response has been received from a stakeholder, and sufficient information and reasonable period of time has been afforded to the stakeholder, Esso will consider consultation to be closed for the purposes of preparation of the regulatory submission.

During all communications, Esso encourages stakeholders to provide feedback by:

- meeting with us in person/phone/online call
- emailing the <u>consultation@exxonmobil.com</u> email address
- accessing the Consultation Hub
- completing the Esso Consultation Questionnaire

- calling +61 3 9261 0000
- or writing to GPO Box 400 Melbourne VIC 3001.

The email inbox and Esso Consultation Questionnaire are monitored daily and Esso endeavours to respond within 7 to 10 days of any enquires.

#### 4.4.3 Consultation Levels

#### 4.4.3.1 Consultation Level 1

Stakeholders who may be affected by planned activities in the OA will be provided with targeted and tailored information to enable an effective two-way consultation process.

This can include meetings, presentations, workshops, forums, phone calls and specific information such as mapping. All stakeholders are given the opportunity to nominate how they would like to be consulted. As appropriate, direct engagement with stakeholders e.g. Indigenous groups, will be done to co-design their consultation methodology. This may require consultation over an extended period of time.

Stakeholders will be provided with sufficient information with a minimum of 30 business days to respond (subject to nature and scale of the proposed activity). If no response is received within 10 business days, Esso will make a second attempt to contact the stakeholder.

Where engagement with stakeholders is required after this period, Esso will continue to engage with these persons until Esso believes that it has provided sufficient evidence/justification to close the consultation i.e. they have been provided sufficient information and reasonable time.

### 4.4.3.2 Consultation Level 2

Stakeholders who may be affected by planned activities in the ATBA (offshore only) will be provided with specific information based on known information needs e.g., published industry quidance notes or proformas outlining what information a stakeholder wishes to receive.

This can include meetings, presentations, workshops, forums, phone calls and specific information such as mapping. It may require consultation over an extended period of time.

As appropriate, direct engagement with stakeholders e.g., Indigenous groups will be done to codesign their consultation methodology.

Stakeholders will be provided with sufficient information with a minimum of 30 business days to respond (subject to nature and scale of the proposed activity). If no response is received within 10 business days, Esso will make a second attempt to contact the stakeholder.

Where engagement with stakeholders is ongoing after this period, Esso will continue to engage with these persons until Esso believes that it has provided sufficient evidence/justification to close the consultation (i.e. they have been provided sufficient information and reasonable time).

#### 4.4.3.3 Consultation Level 3

Stakeholders who may be affected by unplanned activities within the EMBA will be provided with broader, high level information.

This can include activity specific information bulletins, information regarding EMBA and loss of containment modelling, and links to the Esso Consultation Hub and Esso Consultation Questionnaire.

If requested, consultation can include face-to-face engagements, phone calls, community meetings, specialist group meetings or drop-in sessions.

Stakeholders will be provided with sufficient information with a minimum of 30 business days to respond (subject to nature and scale of the proposed activity). If no response is received no further consultation will be undertaken but Esso will continue to provide broader, high level information.

#### 4.4.3.4 Consultation Level 4

There may be instances where other persons, organisations, departments or agencies may consider themselves relevant and wish to be included in the consultation process. As an additional proactive step, Esso will undertake advertising and publish information on a proposed activity to help identify any other stakeholders that may not have been identified by our process.

Esso will place advertisements in newspapers informing the general public of community drop-in sessions and directing them to the Esso Consultation Hub to seek out anyone else who may be relevant based on the defined geographical area of the activity.

Where a person, organisation, department or agency identifies themselves to Esso via these campaigns, Esso will apply the methodology as defined in Figure 4-1 to assess if the person, organisation, department or agency is a stakeholder, for the purposes of the activity.

The advertisements will also act as a means for sharing information to identified stakeholders and providing an ongoing mechanism for feedback.

## 4.4.4 Activity feedback

Esso is committed to considering all input and/or feedback received from stakeholders in the development of regulatory submissions. To do this:

- Esso takes feedback and where appropriate, incorporates this into the activity design
- Esso considers impacts and risks identified by the stakeholder and considers measures to mitigate these
- Esso will use feedback to inform risk assessments and control measures.

All feedback is documented in Esso's Stakeholder Database.

### 4.4.5 Ongoing consultation

Esso recognises the importance of ongoing identification of stakeholders, consultation and engagement throughout all stages of an activity. Ongoing consultations will be conducted in accordance with the assigned Consultation Level, for as long as is necessary to ensure stakeholders remain engaged and are consulted on any changes or new developments relating to the activity.

Stakeholders are encouraged to periodically visit the Consultation Hub and sign up to receive Esso's Connection magazine to maintain awareness of Esso's activities outside the activity for which they were identified as a stakeholder.

### 4.5 Consultation reporting

Esso maintains a Stakeholder Database to log engagements. Consultation-related communications, including meetings, calls, distribution of communications materials, emails etc., are logged in the Stakeholder Database, detailing any feedback received, including questions, issues, concerns, suggestions, objections and/or claims, and any actions/responses. Actions are tracked and feedback is provided to stakeholders as required.

A report on activity-specific consultations is included in regulatory submissions, where relevant.

Esso acknowledges the requirement to manage personal information in compliance with the *Privacy Act 1988*, and Esso's privacy policy will be followed during all engagements and consultations.

## 5 Appendix A – Example consultation materials

The following consultation materials demonstrate some of the various methods Esso uses to consult with stakeholders. Included are Information Bulletins, brochures, Esso Consultation Questionaire responses and Activity Update emails.



# South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage (SEA CCS) Project

#### Project overview

Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso Australia), together with its co-venturer, Woodside Energy (Bass Strait) Pty Ltd (an affiliate of Woodside Energy Group Ltd), is undertaking front-end engineering design (FEED) for carbon capture and storage in the Gippsland Basin to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from multiple industries.

Carbon capture and storage is the process of capturing carbon dioxide  $(CO_2)$  emissions from industrial activity or power plants at the source and injecting it into deep underground geologic formations for safe, secure and permanent storage. It is among the few proven technologies that could enable reduced  $CO_2$  emissions from high-emitting and hard-to-decarbonise sectors, such as heavy industries, including manufacturing, refining and petrochemicals.

Both the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have outlined a clear and important role for CCS in reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

The initial phase of the SEA CCS Project will take an existing CO2 stream from the Longford Gas Plants to the Bream A platform, where it will be injected into the Bream reservoir for permanent storage. It has the potential to capture and store up to 2 million metric tonnes of CO2 per year. Collaboration with other industries is an important step to unlock future carbon capture and storage opportunities for Australia, with the potential for large-scale reductions in the highest emitting industrial sectors. We are in active discussions with local industries that may be interested in accessing the SEA CCS facilities to reduce emissions from their operations.

#### Project infrastructure

The project will involve the use of existing facilities as well as installation of new facilities. New compression and dehydration facilities will be required within the Longford Plants site to convert the  $CO_2$  into dense phase for transportation.

The  $CO_2$  will be transported to the Bream A platform via a new onshore pipeline installed within the existing pipeline easement, from Longford to Valve Site 3 in Dutson Downs, which is approximately 19 km in length.

Transportation of the  $CO_2$  will continue from Valve Site 3 using the re-purposed existing Bream natural gas pipeline which extends to the Bream A platform, located in Commonwealth waters approximately 46 km offshore.

The Bream A platform is in 59 m of water depth and will be converted into a fit-for-purpose normally unstaffed platform. At Bream A, existing wells will be converted for use to inject the  ${\rm CO}_2$  into the depleted Bream reservoir.

#### Consultation commitment

Esso Australia is committed to maintaining a positive relationship with our neighbours and the local community through open, accurate and transparent consultation.

Esso Australia welcomes questions and feedback, which will inform development of regulatory deliverables and management plans.

Engagement with stakeholders that relates to regulatory approvals for the project will be shared with the relevant regulatory agencies as part of the required statutory processes.

#### How to contact us

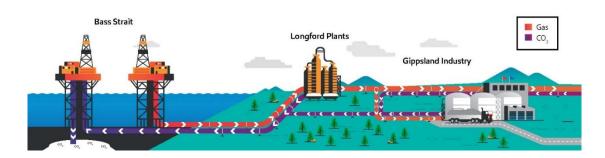
+61 3 9261 0000

consultation@exxonmobil.com

www.exxonmobil.com.au



Scan to keep up to date with the SEA CCS Project via our project website





#### **Project approvals**

The SEA CCS Project will be subject to a number of regulatory approvals under a broad range of licensing and environmental legislation. This may include, but is not limited to the following key legislation:

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006
- Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981
- Native Title Act 1993
- Environment Effects Act 1978
- Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2010
- Pipelines Act 2005
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- Water Act 1989
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004.

#### **Timeline**

Subject to obtaining all regulatory approvals, construction could commence as early as 2025.

Start up (CO₂ injection) would occur following construction activities and could occur anytime from 2026 to 2027.

#### Acknowledgement of traditional owners



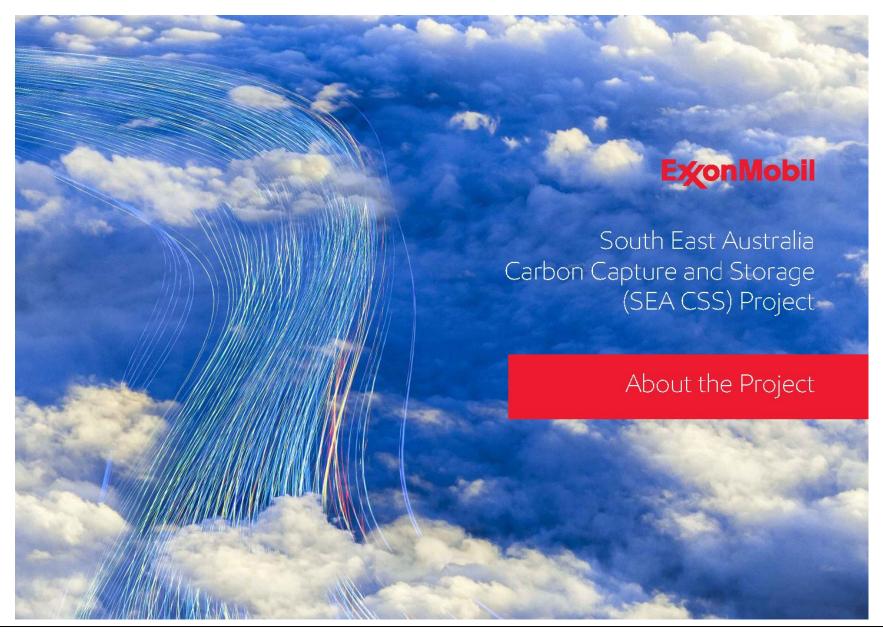


Esso Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country, the Gunaikurnai Peoples, and the land upon which the SEA CCS Project will be located

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

© Esso Australia Pty Ltd 2023 ABN 49 000 018 566





## South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Consultation Plan



2 | South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage Project | About the Project

# Key benefits

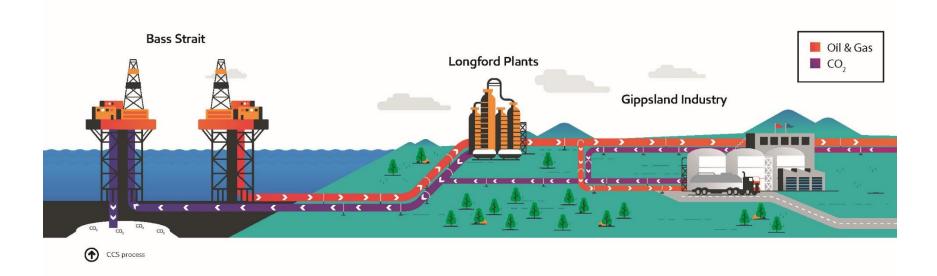
The initial phases of the SEA CCS Project will take  $CO_2$  from the Longford Gas Plants to the Bream A platform, where it will be permanently injected into the Bream reservoir.

It has the potential to capture up to two million metric tonnes of  $CO_2$  – that's equivalent to taking almost half a million cars off the road for every year of operation.

Collaboration with other industries is an important step to unlock future carbon capture and storage opportunities for Australia, with the potential for large-scale reductions in the highest emitting industrial sectors. We are in active discussions with local industries that may be interested in accessing the SEA CCS hub to reduce emissions from their operations.

#### TIMELINE

The Project timeline depends on a number of factors including regulatory approvals, stakeholder agreements, engineering design, procurement processes and Project execution. If the Project is approved, construction and commissioning of the pipeline would take place sometime in 2024 to 2025.



3 | South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage Project | About the Project

# **Project infrastructure**

The SEA CCS hub would initially use existing infrastructure to store  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  in the depleted Bream field off the coast of Gippsland, Victoria. Along with existing infrastructure, a new pipeline will be required to transport  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  to the offshore injection site. The new pipeline is expected to be approximately 19 kilometres in length and, along with existing infrastructure, will

be required to transport  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  to the offshore injection site. Based on preliminary design studies the proposed route is located within an existing easement that connects the Longford Gas Conditioning Plant to an existing valve site at Paradise Beach.

Proposed pipeline route





KEY PIPELINE FACTS

## Location

Within existing easement that extends from Longford Gas Conditioning Plant to an existing valve site at Paradise Beach

## **Product**

Compressed carbon dioxide

# Depth

Mostly buried underground with aboveground components at existing valve sites

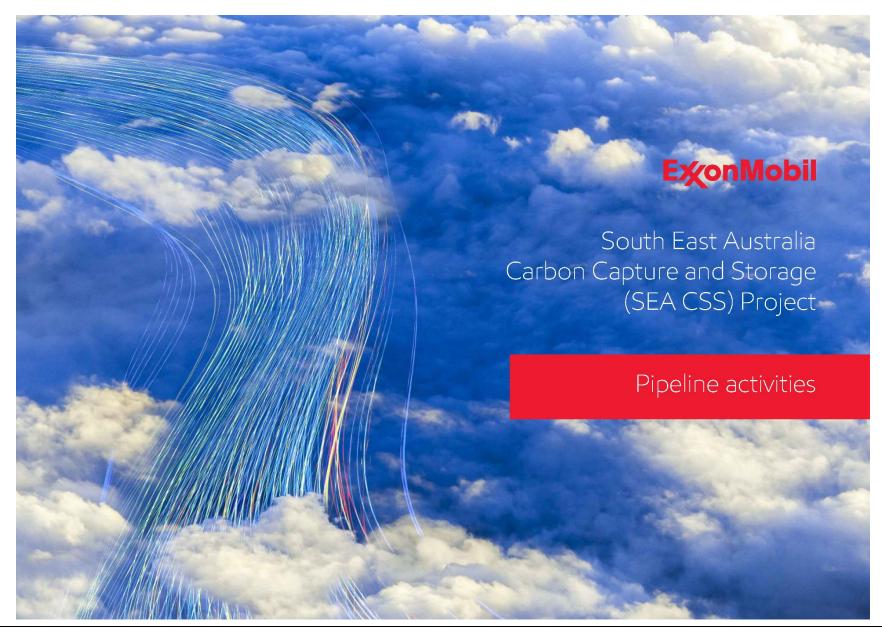
## Diameter

350 millimetres (approximate dimension – subject to final design engineering)

# Length

~19 kilometres





1 | South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage Project | Pipeline activities

Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso Australia), together with its co-venturer, BHP Petroleum (Bass Strait) Pty Ltd (a Woodside Energy company), is undertaking early front-end engineering design (pre-FEED) studies to determine the potential for carbon capture and storage to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from multiple industries in the Gippsland Basin.

The South East Australia carbon capture and storage (SEA CCS) hub would initially use existing infrastructure to store  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  in the depleted Bream field off the coast of Gippsland, Victoria. Along with existing infrastructure, a new pipeline will be required to transport  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  to the offshore injection site. The new pipeline is expected to be approximately 19 kilometres in length and, along with existing infrastructure, will be required to transport  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  to the offshore injection site.

Based on preliminary design studies the proposed route is located within an existing easement that connects the Longford Gas Conditioning Plant to an existing valve site at Paradise Beach.

#### Acknowledgement of traditional owners





Esso Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country, the Gunaikurnai Peoples, and the land upon which the SEA CCS Project will be located.

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



2 | South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage Project | Pipeline activities

# Survey activities

Esso Australia will be completing a number of field surveys to inform the engineering design and environmental assessment of the proposed pipeline. Survey activities may include cultural heritage, flora and fauna, soil/land assessments, cadastral and features/services identification. Survey areas will also consider land that may be required for setting up or work areas.

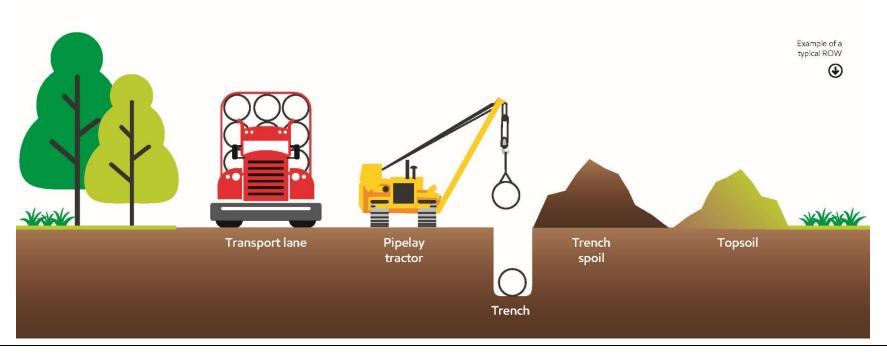
Landowners and occupiers will be consulted regarding these surveys and requirements for land access. The Notice of Intention to Enter Land for Survey will be provided to relevant landowners and occupiers and will include a description of survey activities.

## **Construction activities**

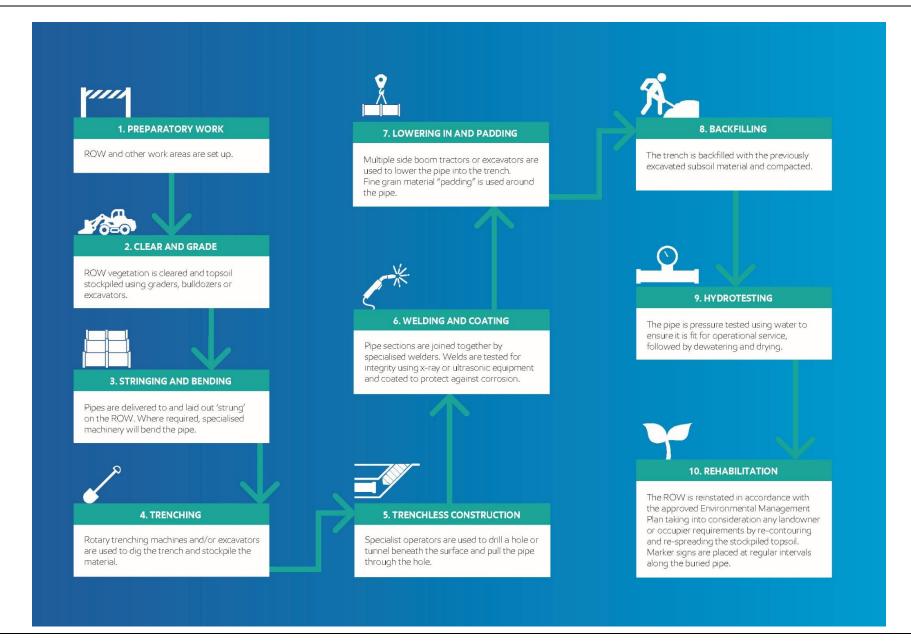
Construction works are subject to establishing all relevant regulatory approvals and the necessary agreements with landowners and occupiers.

Pipeline construction will involve the use of specialised equipment and will take into consideration current land uses. Pipeline installation will involve either trenched or trenchless construction methods for more complex or environmentally sensitive areas.

Construction will occur within the area known as the construction 'right of way' (ROW) as well as identified additional workspace areas. Standard onshore pipeline techniques will be used.



## South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Consultation Plan



4 | South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage Project | Pipeline activities

# Operational activities

Esso Australia will seek consent from regulators before commissioning and operating the pipeline. Ongoing access to the easement will be required for maintenance and to assess pipeline integrity. All operational activities will be conducted in accordance with approved operations environment and safety management plans. In particular:

- Environment Management Plan: In developing the operations Environmental Management Plan, ongoing activities that support the operation of the pipeline will be assessed and work practices defined to minimise impacts on the environment.
- Safety Management Plan: This Plan will be developed to provide an integrated safety management approach in accordance with Esso Australia's existing safety management policies and practices for pipeline operations.



#### **KEY PIPELINE FACTS**

## Location

Within existing easement that extends from Longford Gas Conditioning Plant to an existing valve site at Paradise Beach

# **Depth**

Mostly buried underground with aboveground components at existing valve sites

## Diameter

350 millimetres (approximate dimension – subject to final design engineering)

# Length

~19 kilometres

## **Product**

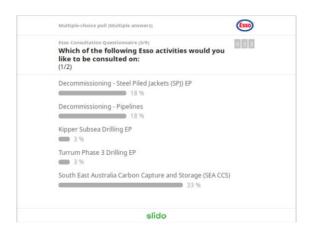
Compressed carbon dioxide

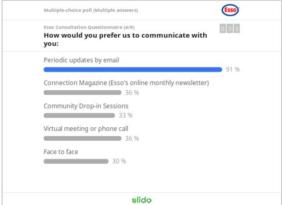


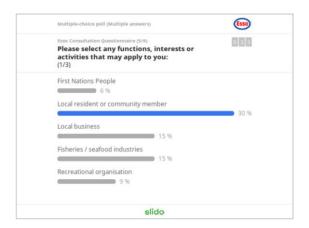


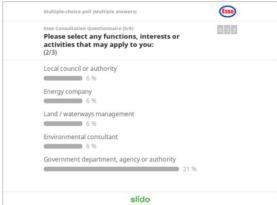






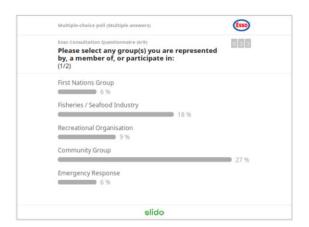


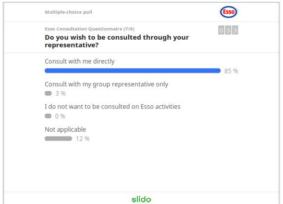


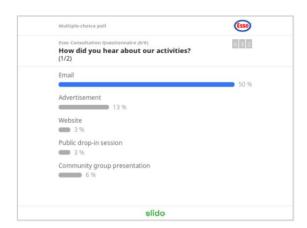


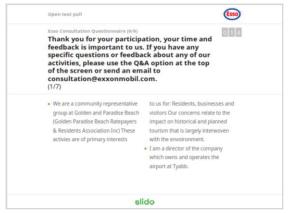




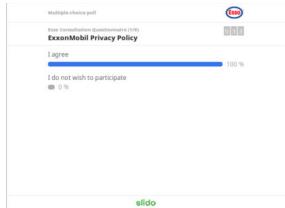


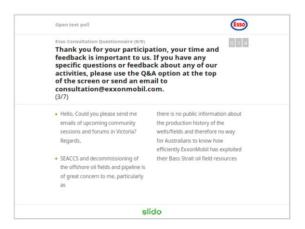


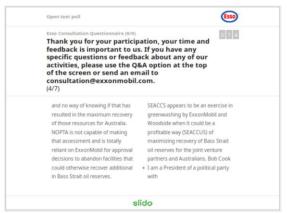


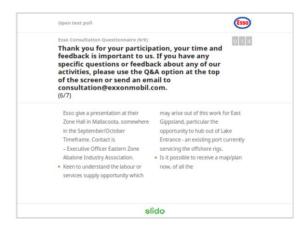


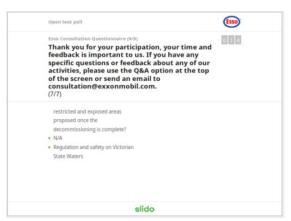












## South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Consultation Plan

From: on behalf of EP Consultation /SM

Sent: Sunday, October 8, 2023 3:36 PM

To: EP Consultation /SM

Subject: Esso Australia - Updates on offshore activities in Bass Strait

#### Good afternoon,

Esso Australia are proposing several offshore activities which require Environment Plans to be submitted to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). As part of these submissions, we are working with the communities we operate in to find solutions that balance environmental impacts and benefits with the needs of the community and regulatory requirements.

Esso Australia has identified that you may be a relevant person because you or your organization have functions, interests, or activities that may be affected by one of our proposed offshore petroleum activities. Please refer to this <u>brochure</u> to understand more about NOPSEMA Consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans.

Consultation provides an opportunity for people or organisations who may be affected by an offshore petroleum activity to raise concerns, objections or claims, about the potential impacts of the activity. We encourage people to seek information about how they may be affected, and how Esso Australia as titleholder intends to manage the activity to ensure the associated impacts are as low as reasonably practicable and ascentible.

Information provided by relevant persons during consultation helps Esso to better understand the value and sensitivities of the environment. This improves the identification of the potential impacts and risks associated with the activity, as well as considerations on how to manage them appropriately.

Here is a link to our <u>Consultation Hub</u> which allows you to easily access information on our activities and review them more closely, including the impacts and risks of each activity.

Through the Consultation Hub you can access our <u>'Esso Consultation Questionnaire</u>' which helps us to better understand what activities you're interested in, how you want to be consulted and any questions or feedback you may have.

Here are the current proposed activities available on the Consultation Hub:

PROPOSED ACTIVITY	CONSULTATION STATUS
Jack-Up Rig Well Plug and Abandonment	Closes 20 October 2023
Gudgeon-1 and Terakihi-1: Exploration Well Plug and Abandonment	Closes 3 November 2023
Kipper Subsea Drilling	Closes 26 January 2024

Turrum Phase 3 Drilling	Closes 29 March 2024
South East Australia Carbon Capture and Storage Project	Open / Ongoing
Decommissioning in the Bass Strait	Open / Ongoing
Bass Strait State Waters Environment Plan	Closed (Environment Plan is being developed)

If there is anyone you know who may be interested in our activities, we encourage you to share this information with them.

We look forward to hearing from you and providing you updates as part of our consultation process.

We encourage you to respond with any questions or feedback to <u>consultation@exxonmobil.com</u> or via the <u>Esso</u>
<u>Consultation Questionnaire</u> and we can then engage with you via email, phone, in person or virtual meeting.

Thank you / Noon Gudgin,

#### She/hers

Stakeholder Advisor – check out Esso's Consultation Hub or use the QR Code below



I acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which I live and work and pay respect to Elders past and present. I commit to working respectfully to honour their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to this country. I recognise the role and value of culture in our community.

"This message and any attachments may contain proprietary or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient or you received the message in error, you must not use or distribute the message. Please notify the sender immediately and destroy the original message. Thank you."