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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 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

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



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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 (CO_2 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.

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About Esso Australia

Esso Australia is a subsidiary of ExxonMobil, one of the largest publicly traded international energy and petrochemical companies that creates solutions to improve quality of life and meet society's evolving needs. In Australia, our reliable supply of natural gas is powering local jobs, providing the energy used by local manufacturers, hospitality venues, medical facilities and construction firms, and supporting the countless industries that rely on their products and services. The ExxonMobil Australia group has been operating in Australia since 1895.

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Bream A Platform