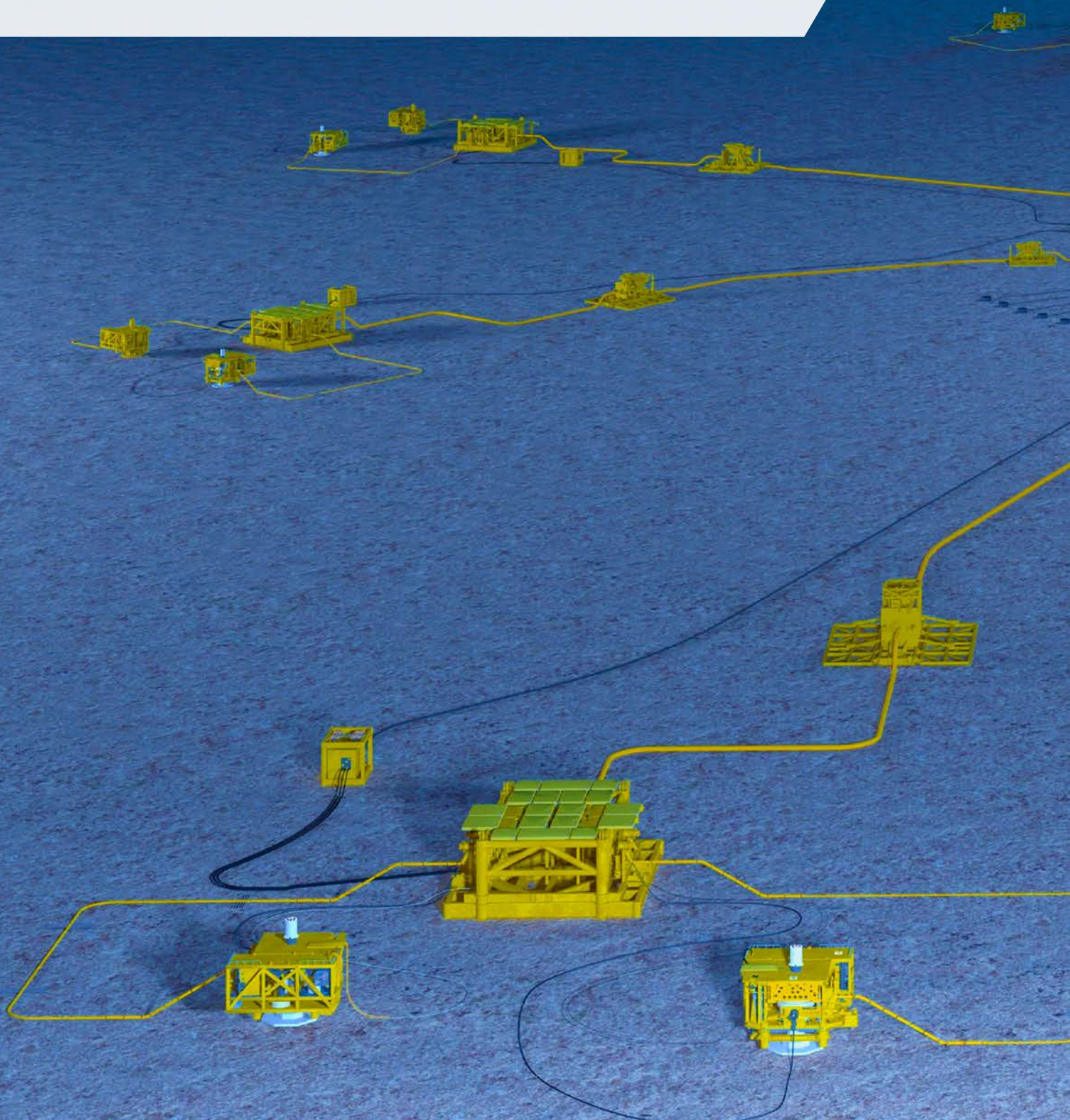


8 Consultation

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Section 8 summary

Purpose:

This section describes the consultation that has occurred as part of this OPP, both during its development and during the public comment period, and the future consultation that will occur for the project.

Section at a glance:

Previous consultation: ConocoPhillips has been a titleholder and operator of the exploration, appraisal and development activities supporting the project since 2004. Engagement in recent years has included the plans to develop the project area as a potential future backfill gas supply for the Darwin LNG facility.

Based on its history of proactive consultation, ConocoPhillips believes stakeholders support development of the Barossa offshore development area and the continued economic benefit it will deliver to Australia, in particular Darwin and the NT, and understand that a new gas resource will be required for the DLNG facility once the Bayu-Undan Field is depleted.

Public comment period: The public was invited to submit their comments on the project to NOPSEMA for consideration during an eight-week public comment period. The Barossa OPP public comment period was publicly advertised and communicated directly to stakeholders by ConocoPhillips. The full OPP and appendices, along with information on how to make a submission, were also made available on NOPSEMA and ConocoPhillips' websites.

A total of seven (7) submissions were received during the OPP public comment period. A summary of these comments, a merit assessment of the items raised, and ConocoPhillips' response to them is included in this OPP (**Appendix R**). Any changes made to the OPP as a result of these comments are also identified.

NOPSEMA's Guidance Note clarifies that an objection or claim does not have to be accommodated through changes to the project, but the proponent must assess whether any changes put forward are practicable or feasible, particularly in reducing impacts and risks.

Future consultation: Subject to acceptance of the Barossa OPP by NOPSEMA, ConocoPhillips will commence preparation of Environment Plans (EPs) for project activities. The preparation and assessment of specific EPs for each activity will involve further detailed stakeholder consultation prior to their submittal to NOPSEMA for assessment.

The consultation process for EPs is designed to align with NOPSEMA's published consultation guidance as well as comply with all relevant regulatory requirements.

Consultation will occur during preparation of each EP to further understand and seek feedback on the key issues and concerns of relevant stakeholders, with the outcomes fully documented in the EPs submitted to NOPSEMA. Following this, ConocoPhillips will continue ongoing, targeted consultation with stakeholders with direct interest in the activities. ConocoPhillips has dedicated channels for enquiries and ongoing communication with the public.

ConocoPhillips also consults on a regular basis with scientific and academic stakeholders to better understand the environment in which it operates and to explore areas for collaboration and research related to its offshore permits. During the project, ConocoPhillips will continue to seek similar opportunities to share and advance knowledge with other stakeholders.

8 Consultation

8.1 Overview

ConocoPhillips understands the importance of thorough, meaningful and ongoing consultation with stakeholders as part of its social licence to operate and fulfilment of regulatory commitments. Consultation supporting the project is an integral and ongoing component of all business activities related to the Company's exploration, appraisal and development activities for its Bonaparte Basin acreage.

ConocoPhillips believes early and sustaining engagement is key to achieving mutual productive outcomes for both the Company and stakeholders as it assists the Company to understand potential issues and develop solutions.

ConocoPhillips believes its previous and continued efforts to share and explain its intentions for the project meet the intent of early, proactive engagement with relevant stakeholders which informed the consideration of the information in this OPP.

ConocoPhillips has been a titleholder and operator of the exploration, appraisal and development activities supporting the project since 2004 and has developed good relationships with a broad range of stakeholders, including the Commonwealth and NT Governments, commercial fishing associations, scientific and educational organisations (including recognised experts), spill response agencies, local business associations, other oil and gas industry operators, contractors, non-government organisations and co-venturers.

This history of consultation has demonstrated to ConocoPhillips that the majority of stakeholders relevant to the project understand and support the Company's long-term intentions and requirements.

8.2 Approach and objectives

ConocoPhillips' stakeholder engagement activities are an integral part of our sustainable development commitment to be transparent and accountable. ConocoPhillips consults openly with stakeholders about upcoming activities and potential development of the fields within our offshore permits to understand their expectations of the Company and considers these opinions in the development of business plans and actions.

This process fosters an environment of trust and mutual respect. The approach is embedded in our SPIRIT Value of integrity, which states that we will be ethical and trustworthy in our relationships with stakeholders. ConocoPhillips' 'Principles for Effective Non-Financial Stakeholder Engagement' provide corporate guidance and expectations and commit ConocoPhillips to:

- proactively identifying and engaging with key stakeholders at an early stage
- including key stakeholders in the design and implementation of the engagement process
- listening in order to understand stakeholders' interests, concerns and culture
- communicating openly and transparently
- seeking solutions that create mutually beneficial business and engagement approaches and build long-term value for both the Company and our stakeholders
- following through on our commitments and being accountable for the results, both internally and externally.

This approach is implemented through the Company's stakeholder management standards, systems and practices and reflective of approaches commonly adopted by the oil and gas industry, within Australia and internationally. More specifically, it aligns with NOPSEMA consultation guidelines under the OPGGS (E) Regulations 2009. The key sources of guidance for stakeholder engagement used by ConocoPhillips are summarised in **Table 8-1**. The internal project Stakeholder Engagement Plan reflects this guidance and provides strategic direction to meet the following objectives:

- inform relevant stakeholders of the objectives and rationale for the development options for the project
- explain how ConocoPhillips will identify and mitigate potential risks that may impact relevant or affected persons/organisations
- listen to and address any concerns arising before, during and after regulatory approval and understand requirements for ongoing consultation.

Table 8-1: Stakeholder engagement guidance sources

Stakeholder	Guidance
Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Principles for Stakeholder Engagement Corporate Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan
External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian regulatory agencies (legislation and guidelines) – NOPSEMA, NT Department of Mines and Energy (DME), Fisheries Division of NT Department of Primary Industry and Resources (DPIR), Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), NT Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) Australian industry organisations (principles and methodology) – APPEA International organisations (guidelines) – International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), American Petroleum Institute (API), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Association for Public Participation (IAPP)

8.3 Identification and classification

Stakeholder consultation supporting the project has drawn on a range of information sources to identify relevant stakeholders' functions, activities and interests. The list of stakeholders and issues is dynamic and changes as consultation and understanding builds and priorities and opinions evolve.

The sources and methods ConocoPhillips have used to date include:

- a detailed stakeholder identification and mapping project to classify more than 400 individuals/organisations and consider their known viewpoints and potential issues that could be of relevance to future development of the Barossa offshore development area
- stakeholder categorisation and definition of stakeholder groups, in broad alignment with those used by NOPSEMA to facilitate consistency with regulatory requirements
- analysis of stakeholder groups to assist in identifying and prioritising key stakeholders, and understand how to best engage with these groups
- stakeholder identification, classification and consultation records associated with progressing environmental approvals and conducting exploration activities within the Barossa Field since 2004, with particular reference to other marine users of the Barossa offshore development area and its surrounds
- records of stakeholder consultation with the Australian, NT and WA governments on future development options for the Barossa Field since 2014
- ConocoPhillips' history of consultation and established relationships with the Darwin and wider NT communities as operator of the Bayu-Undan Field in the Timor Sea and the DLNG facility
- ConocoPhillips' history of consultation and engagement with stakeholders during all exploration and appraisal activities undertaken offshore northern Australia, including within the Barossa and Caldita permit in the Bonaparte Basin.

The initial detailed stakeholder mapping completed in 2011 used a combination of desktop research and internal workshops, combined with previous experience from working with some of the groups concerned. The outcomes of the mapping project provided detailed analysis of each stakeholder group, identified key personnel and "known" levels of interest and support at that time. The mapping has been informed by, and updated using, information gained during subsequent stakeholder engagement on activities undertaken within the Bonaparte Basin acreage.

Issues, risks and opportunities associated with the project were mapped to stakeholders' interests. Potential non-environmental and socio-economic considerations of offshore development on local communities were also examined. To ensure consistency with regulatory requirements, ConocoPhillips adapted its categorisation and definition of stakeholder groups to broadly align with those used by NOPSEMA, as outlined in **Table 8-2**.

Table 8-2: Broad list of stakeholder groups

Stakeholder group	Description
Commonwealth Government organisations	Commonwealth Government regulatory agencies, organisations and political representatives
NT Government organisations	NT Government regulatory agencies, organisations and political representatives
Foreign Governments and organisations	Foreign governments and organisations with an interest in the project
Associations	Petroleum and professional and recreational fisherman industry associations
Industry	Petroleum titleholders (current and future applicants)
Other marine users	Commercial and recreational fishermen, shipping companies
Environmental interest groups	Environmental non-government organisations
Darwin Harbour users	Darwin Ports, Darwin Harbour commercial and recreational users
Traditional Owners and Indigenous groups	Traditional Owners and other local Indigenous groups
Business community	Suppliers of goods and services, including those based in the NT or providing services in the NT
Local employees	Employees living and/or working in the NT
Research/education groups	Interested research, education and training organisations
Other community stakeholders	Other interested groups and/or individuals

Stakeholder mapping provides an evolving assessment of stakeholder sentiment and is reviewed and refined as the project progresses to further understand and characterise the key relevant stakeholders. The mapping has helped guide ConocoPhillips' subsequent stakeholder consultation informing environmental permitting, appraisal activities and baseline environmental marine studies – all feeding into the understanding of issues and opportunities consolidated into this OPP assessment.

In preparing the Barossa OPP, ConocoPhillips used this information and method to design a consultation program across five stakeholder groups. Examples of stakeholders within each group and the roles they have played in helping guide activities to this date are outlined in **Table 8-3**.

While these groups have formed the basis of an ongoing proactive consultation program by ConocoPhillips, all members of the public have also had the opportunity to seek further information and provide their views during the OPP public comment period. ConocoPhillips will also maintain public information channels throughout the project.

The OPP public comment period has provided ConocoPhillips the opportunity to share more detail and build on its understanding of the relevant and interested stakeholders for the project, their areas of interest and views on the future potential development.

Table 8-3: OPP specific stakeholder consultation groups

Group	Role
<p>Expert advisory</p> <p>Technical experts, including CWR, CDU, Monash University, AIMS and the Fisheries Division of the NT DPIR.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in understanding of environmental values and sensitivities, including validation of certainty in scientific knowledge for key sensitive receptors such as marine mammals, marine reptiles, seabirds, fish, coral and benthic habitats. Assist in validating potential risks and impacts.
<p>Primary – community, government</p> <p>Key government agencies responsible for the assessment of onshore and offshore development proposals and other organisations potentially affected by these proposals (e.g. local governments, chambers of commerce, fishing operators).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in understanding of environmental values and sensitivities. Assist in validating potential risks and impacts. Help shape consultation requirements.
<p>Secondary – government</p> <p>Australian, State and Territory Ministers, Members of Parliament and Senior Officers stakeholders whose activities and/or responsibilities may be relevant to a specific development concept.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in identifying potential risks and impacts. Help understand community issues and requirements.
<p>Wider – community</p> <p>All the above and other stakeholders previously engaged since 2004 as part of the appraisal activities within the Bonaparte Basin acreage. Includes stakeholders who may be affected by the development concept as well as those with a general interest in the project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in understanding of environmental values and sensitivities. Assist in identifying potential risks and impacts. Help understand community issues and requirements.
<p>Future (onshore) – community</p> <p>Additional stakeholders who may be affected by elements of future associated onshore development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in understanding of environmental values and sensitivities. Assist in identifying potential risks and impacts. Help understand community issues and requirements.

8.4 Methods and tools

ConocoPhillips' consultation method for major capital projects has been adapted to support the achievement of goals within five stages of the OPP process:

- 1. Scoping** – identification of relevant persons through mapping of potential impacts and risks to relevant stakeholder functions, interests and activities
- 2. Definition** – framing the OPP risks and issues, supported by targeted engagement
- 3. Targeted engagement** – early dialogue with relevant stakeholders based on the intention to develop the offshore resources and making information regarding potential development concepts available
- 4. Public comment** – publication of information to be available to all relevant and interested stakeholders, as well as the general public, enabling provision of open feedback and consideration of issues raised during the OPP public comment process
- 5. Future consultation** – commitment to ongoing engagement based on deepening understanding and relationships as well as consideration of new or additional interests and issues identified during the OPP public comment process, and through subsequent engagement on specific topics and activities.

The tools regularly used in support of this process involve a combination of planned and opportunistic engagement activities supported by a range of written communications. These tools comprise scheduled meetings held on an ongoing basis, targeted briefings, conference participation, speaking engagements, roundtable participation, regular telephone and/or email interaction, other informal engagement opportunities, letters, formal notifications, media statements, factsheets, and website updates.

Prior to the OPP public comment period, ConocoPhillips' understanding of stakeholder issues and concerns has been gained through early consultation around specific related activities and potential development concepts. The understanding gained by all parties has been further enhanced by the formal public comment period (**Section 8.6**).

Previous stakeholder feedback related to the potential development of the Barossa offshore development area has been recorded and stored in ConocoPhillips' secure management system. A record of all relevant meeting notes, phone calls, letter correspondence and email exchanges, along with copies of project letters and factsheets is kept and mapped to each individual stakeholder.

All information issued by ConocoPhillips includes dedicated project contact details (phone, email, postal, online) through which stakeholders can provide feedback. Correspondence also includes links to the ConocoPhillips Australia website, where additional information and fact sheets are also available.

Where a specific business activity is being supported, such as a drilling campaign or environmental study, ConocoPhillips follows up the distribution of information with phone calls to associations representing likely affected stakeholders and relevant government agencies. The purpose of the calls is to verify each stakeholder has sufficient information and time to provide feedback and ensure any additional consultation is completed.

At all times, ConocoPhillips maintains dedicated channels for enquiries, whether related to a project, activity or of a general nature. ConocoPhillips looks to address all correspondence in a timely manner, based on the complexity of the required response. This process, summarised in **Figure 8-1**, is consistent with the provision of an open feedback mechanism as defined within performance standards commonly adopted internationally by the oil and gas industry.

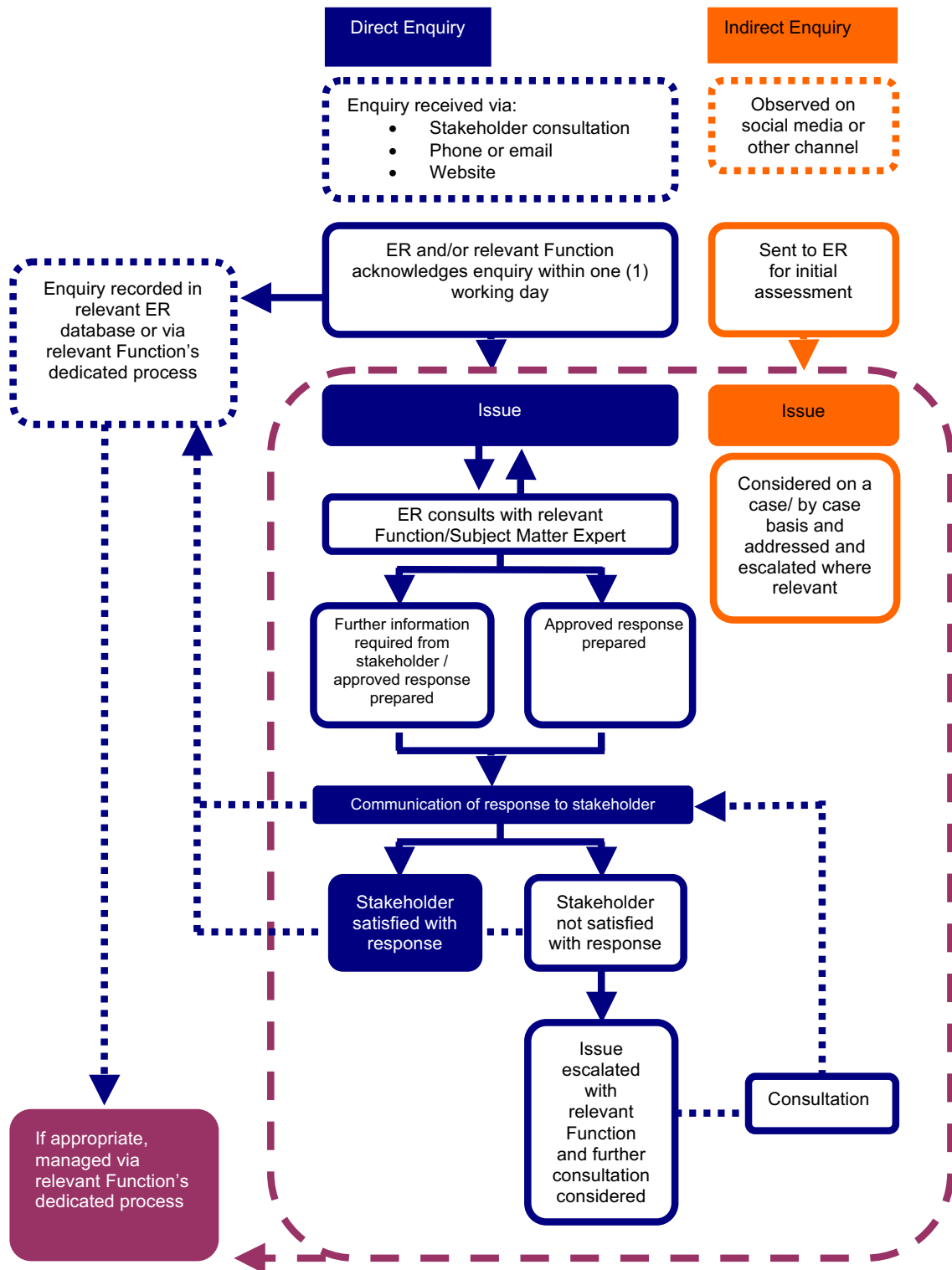


Figure 8-1: Stakeholder consultation and enquiry response flowchart

8.5 Activity and outcomes

Consultation relating to the potential development of the Barossa offshore development area has been ongoing since 2004. Engagement has focused on stakeholder awareness in relation to ConocoPhillips' environmental permitting, exploration and appraisal programs, and the potential for future development. This consultation has supported the following activities:

- environmental permitting during 2004/05 for exploration drilling program
- execution of the 2004/05 exploration drilling program
- environmental permitting during 2006/07 for seismic survey program
- execution of the seismic survey program during 2006/07
- environmental permitting and execution of the appraisal drilling program during 2014/15
- planning and execution of the Barossa marine studies program during 2014/15
- environmental permitting and execution of the marine seismic data acquisition during 2015/16
- environmental permitting during 2015/16 for additional appraisal drilling and execution of the program during 2017
- pre-OPP release consultation during Q2 2017
- formal OPP public comment period during Q3 2017.

In addition, during this period the potential for future development has also been discussed as part of ConocoPhillips' ongoing government engagement program providing regular activity updates to key ministerial offices and departments with the Australian, State and Territory governments. The program is conducted annually by ConocoPhillips and covers its operatorship of the onshore DLNG facility, the Bayu-Undan offshore facility and the Barossa, Caldita and Greater Poseidon offshore acreage.

Since mid-2014, following the introduction of the OPP process by the Commonwealth Government, Barossa stakeholders were advised of the new OPP process that would be involved should a development be pursued by ConocoPhillips. Engagement has included the provision of information related to the early feasibility and concept engineering studies of potential development options for the project.

In addition to the feedback received from these discussions, ConocoPhillips has also been able to draw on the knowledge and experience gained from its decade of stakeholder engagement with the community, industry and local, state and federal governments in Darwin and the NT, both generally and as operator of the offshore Bayu-Undan facility and onshore DLNG facility.

Combined, the above activities have resulted in an ongoing history of consultation with stakeholders relevant to potential future development of the Barossa offshore development area. As a result of this consultation, ConocoPhillips believes stakeholders have expressed the following broad opinions and understandings related to the Company's intentions:

- support development of the offshore fields as a future gas resource
- support development of the offshore fields as a potential option for processing at the existing DLNG facility
- support continuation of the economic and employment benefits that ConocoPhillips' presence has provided to Perth, Darwin and the NT for over a decade
- understand that a new gas source will be required to ensure continued operation of the existing DLNG train once the current supply (from Bayu-Undan) is exhausted
- understand that backfill of gas from the Barossa offshore development area into DLNG would extend that facility's life.

8.6 Ongoing process

ConocoPhillips' history of consultation to date has been enhanced by the outcomes of the OPP public comment process. Combined with historical consultation, this provides the framework for ongoing evolution of the Company's internal Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Further detailed analysis of potential project impacts on stakeholder groups and the resulting risks and issues will be undertaken as the project progresses through ConocoPhillips' internal project stage gates. Other specific engagement plans will directly inform and enhance this plan and future consultation activities.

Ongoing consultation will occur in five stages, linked to internal project planning, provision of further information, meeting stakeholder expectations and the regulatory activities involved.

a. Pre OPP public comment period

As part of the engagement on its most recent appraisal activities in the Bonaparte Basin acreage, ConocoPhillips advised all stakeholders that development will be subject to the OPP regulatory assessment process. During 2017, prior to the OPP being formally released for public comment, ConocoPhillips re-engaged with a range of relevant stakeholders, including government agencies and commercial fishing associations, to discuss the project's status and the formal OPP engagement process. The overall aims were to ensure the key relevant stakeholders continue to receive opportunity to provide comment and their expectations related to engagement will be met.

As part of the OPP's release, ConocoPhillips informed all relevant stakeholders explaining the formal process and where and how information was available to them.

b. OPP public comment period

ConocoPhillips publicly advertised that the Barossa OPP was available for an eight-week public comment period from 13 July to 6 September 2017, and communicated directly to its stakeholders. This information was also available on the NOPSEMA and ConocoPhillips websites.

Comments received from stakeholders during the public comment period have been taken into consideration in this revised version of the OPP submitted to NOPSEMA for Stage 2 assessment. This version of the OPP also provides a summary of all comments received and an assessment of the merits of all items raised and ConocoPhillips' response (**Appendix R**).

NOPSEMA published the OPP on its website with details of how to make a submission and issued a formal notification to its information service subscribers on 13 July 2017 announcing the start of the public comment period. ConocoPhillips supported this process by:

- publishing information on a dedicated OPP page on the ConocoPhillips Australia Website
- issuing its own media release which was distributed to 18 news outlets and posted to ConocoPhillips' Australia website
- advertising through a public notice in national and NT newspapers (The Australian, The NT News and the Litchfield/Palmerston Sun)
- providing direct email notification to the full stakeholder list comprising 195 individuals from 93 organisations
- sending letters directly to 50 NT commercial fishing licence holders
- phone communication to/with the Tiwi Land Council, NT Seafood Council, Northern Prawn Fishery, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Amateur Fisherman's Association of NT, Department of Fisheries - NT, Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
- project representative in attendance at South East Asia-Australia Offshore and Onshore Conference (SEAAOC) held in Darwin, with factsheets available
- OPP process referenced in ConocoPhillips' ABU-West President's speech to SEAAOC attendees and request made for public comment on proposal
- re-advertising half way through the public comment period in national and NT newspapers
- sending reminder emails and letters to stakeholders (including NT commercial fishing licence holders) half way through public comment period
- briefing update provided to Amateur Fisherman's Association of NT.

The public comment period was managed within ConocoPhillips by the External Relations team with support from all involved functions of the business.

Five formal submissions were received before the close of the public comment period, and ConocoPhillips accepted an additional two late submissions. These seven submissions were received from the following individuals or organisations:

- The Sea Turtle Foundation
- The Director of National Parks, Australian Government
- The Environmental Defenders Office NT, on behalf of the Australian Marine Conservation Society
- The Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources
- The Northern Territory Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Northern Territory Department of Tourism and Culture (joint submission)
- An individual, Michael Williams of MFW Consultants
- An anonymous submission.

Per ConocoPhillips' internal Stakeholder Engagement Plan, each submission received during the public comment period was formally logged and assessed by subject matter experts. Once the assessment had been completed and included in the summary report and other relevant sections of the OPP, a formal written response, including ConocoPhillips' assessment of merit and response, was also provided directly to the stakeholder, where contact details had been provided.

The full details of these submissions are included in **Appendix R - Summary Report**, including a summary of the comments made, a merit assessment of each item raised, ConocoPhillips' statement of response, and a description of any changes that have been made to the OPP as a result of these items raised.

Following the original submission of the OPP to NOPSEMA for Stage 2 assessment of acceptability, additional correspondence with stakeholders has been undertaken as follows.

1. Parks Australia provided further advice in relation to the comments made in the Director of National Parks' original submission and after discussion with Parks Australia, ConocoPhillips has revised its assessment of merit and response to the comments to that presented in **Appendix R**.
2. After the OPP was submitted for assessment, DoEE updated the National Conservation Values Atlas to include spatial data showing (draft) habitats critical to the survival of marine turtles called 'Marine Turtles – Habitat Critical (Draft)' (DoEE 2017d). As a result, ConocoPhillips re-evaluated its assessment of merit and response to the comments received during the public comment period that related to impacts and risks to marine turtles and has revised the OPP, including **Appendix R**, based on this re-evaluation.

Where revisions were made to the original assessment of merit and response, the revised information, as presented in **Appendix R**, were provided directly to the stakeholder that made the original comment to keep them updated with how their comments have been taken into consideration and addressed in the OPP. Parks Australia has responded to the revised information (presented in **Appendix R**) and stated that the amendments made to the OPP satisfy its concerns and reflect the intent of its feedback. Parks Australia also commented that reducing the area that the gas export pipeline corridor overlapped the Oceanic Shoals marine park is a positive outcome from a marine park management perspective. No further comments have been received from any other stakeholder.

c. Post OPP public comment period

As noted above, changes made to the final OPP as a result of stakeholder feedback were communicated directly to those stakeholders. In the event further changes to relevant areas of the OPP result, these will also be communicated to the stakeholder(s) concerned. All stakeholders will have access to the final OPP and summary report following formal acceptance by NOPSEMA.

Consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including those who have indicated their interest in the project will continue during the development of activity-specific EPs. The consultation process has been used extensively by ConocoPhillips for all its activities undertaken in Australia in compliance with the relevant legislation, regulations and guidance. The process used by ConocoPhillips will be further enhanced through NOPSEMA guidance and the APPEA Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Principles and Methodology (draft, in preparation) once published.

The EP specific consultation process continues to engage a range of stakeholders, but concentrates on specific groups as relevant to that particular stage of development or activity. For example, consultation with the Director of National Parks will be ongoing throughout the preparation of EPs where a proposed activity is within or could impact on a marine park. Outcomes of all consultation are fully documented for provision to NOPSEMA and advice is provided to stakeholders on changes made as a result of their feedback. A summary is made available to stakeholders in the final, accepted EP summary.

d. Ongoing process during preparation of activity-specific EPs

ConocoPhillips will continue its ongoing, targeted consultation with stakeholders with direct interest in the proposed activities. Future consultation will take into consideration the additional stakeholders identified and issues raised during the OPP public comment period, as the project progresses.

ConocoPhillips has dedicated channels for enquiries and ongoing communication with all members of the public. The Company looks to address all correspondence in a timely manner, based on the complexity of the required response, and in accordance with the process outlined previously in **Figure 8-1**.

Complementing this process, ConocoPhillips consults on a regular basis with stakeholders who are either affected by development and operations or have an interest in these activities. For offshore activities, due to the remote location and minimal interaction with other users, consultation continues to principally occur with Government, the commercial fishing sector and other marine users. Other stakeholders with an interest in these activities are provided updated information and opportunity to comment.

ConocoPhillips is also involved in ongoing efforts by the industry, government and other relevant parties to improve the regulatory process governing consultation. These efforts occur on a Company to stakeholder basis and through collaboration with representative organisations.

e. Broader collaboration

ConocoPhillips consults on a regular basis with scientific and academic stakeholders to explore areas for collaboration and research related to its offshore permits. This broader commitment is evidenced by the ongoing involvement of ConocoPhillips and its key stakeholders in the Bonaparte Fish Group, established in 2013 to investigate research opportunities to advance understanding of fish and their habitats in the Bonaparte Gulf region.

Conceived as part of the baseline studies and stakeholder engagement activities, the Bonaparte Fish Group aims to:

- identify opportunities for collaborative research
- increase baseline knowledge in the area to inform environmental approvals
- collect data and information to inform fishery management strategies
- further develop stakeholder engagement.

To date, ConocoPhillips has undertaken collaboration on a gear trial with commercial fishermen in the Timor Reef Fishery and is currently finalising arrangements to contribute to a study to investigate stock structures of commercially valuable species across northern Australia in collaboration with the Fisheries Division of the NT DPIR, NT Seafood Council, WA Department of Fisheries, AIMS, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and Curtin University.

Given the ongoing appraisal activity and the potential for the project to proceed, ConocoPhillips is interested in continuing the engagement and collaborative approach to research and data collection and sharing in the Bonaparte Basin with the NT commercial fishing sector and Fisheries Division of the NT DPIR.

ConocoPhillips' interest in contributing includes its desire to:

- collaboratively collect data and information that can be used to inform management strategies that will ensure the long-term sustainability of the fisheries
- support access to the latest information and data relating to fish distributions and stock structure for baseline data to inform environmental approvals documents and contribute to adaptive management should any issues associated with project operations be identified
- continue to work collaboratively with other marine users in the Bonaparte region and maintain strong relationships across the industries.

8.7 Conclusion

ConocoPhillips is committed to proactive and meaningful engagement with stakeholders as part of good business practice. This section demonstrates a process of continued engagement to seek input, views and perspectives as the project progresses. This consultation has been undertaken in different forms since 2004 and to date has indicated broad support for ConocoPhillips' intentions to commercialise its Bonaparte Basin acreage.

Based on the consultation to date, ConocoPhillips believes stakeholders support development of the Barossa offshore development area and the continued economic benefit it will deliver to Australia, in particular to the NT, and understand that a new gas resource will be required once the Bayu-Undan Field is exhausted. This understanding has been reinforced as a result of the formal public comment period which provided an opportunity for all to have their opinions and comments considered.

Consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including those who have indicated their interest in the project will continue during the development of activity-specific EPs.