



## Barossa Offshore Project Proposal (OPP)

### Evaluation of environmental impacts and risks

Evaluation of all environmental impacts and risks ensures they are managed to an acceptable level through the key management controls that will be applied. For NOPSEMA to consider a project “acceptable”, ConocoPhillips must demonstrate it has considered all relevant regulations and guidelines, ecologically sustainable development principles, ConocoPhillips’ own policies and standards, and the potential environmental consequences and community expectations.

NOPSEMA’s Guidance Note provides important context to OPP **Section 6** by explaining the level of detail required, the types of processes that should be followed, and the main terminology used.

The risk assessment uses a precautionary approach in terms of defining the ‘outer boundary’ within which the environment could be impacted by the project, i.e. the area of influence. The assessment process considers two forms of impacts and risks - those associated with planned events, such as atmospheric emissions and discharges to sea during normal operations (including cumulative impacts), and those associated with highly unlikely unplanned events, unplanned events, such as a hydrocarbon release caused by a vessel collision or loss of well control.

As the OPP occurs in the early design phase of a project, a description of key control measures is provided at a high-level as well as management systems that can be used to reduce the environmental impacts and risks of the project to an acceptable level. Procedural controls will be further detailed in the subsequent EPs for each activity, to ensure risks are as low as reasonably practicable. The likelihood, potential magnitude and duration, and consequences of project activities is considered along with the control measures (systems, equipment, people, procedures) used to manage them.

Following the risk assessment process, and informed by ConocoPhillips’ understanding and experience, most environmental risks were considered to be low. Some impacts and risks are unavoidable, like the physical presence of facilities or planned discharges and emissions.

However, these impacts and risks are low given the open ocean location and the distance from key features, such as shoals and banks, and can be managed and controlled with good industry practice.

Overall, potential impacts and risks to marine fauna and habitat from planned activities will be at a local level, as opposed to a regional level, affecting individuals rather than populations. No facilities in the Barossa offshore development area will be placed near any areas of regional environmental importance such as shoals, banks and coral reefs.

The southern end of the gas export pipeline corridor is closer to more sensitive environmental features, however, the impacts and risks in this area are considered to be low. This is because activities in this area are primarily associated with the initial installation of the pipeline, and there will be no ongoing discharges along the pipeline.

To inform the impact and risk assessment of unplanned activities, comprehensive modelling of potential hydrocarbon releases to the marine environment is illustrated, with an evaluation of worst-case scenarios where the outer boundary of all credible spill trajectories is considered, however unlikely they may be. This approach ensures the impact and risk assessment accounts for different seasonal and environmental conditions that could occur at the time of a vessel collision or loss of well control, including wind, current, temperature and other climatic conditions. The impact assessment is also based on spill modelling where no response measures are taken, compared to a true scenario where all appropriate response measures are taken.

The OPP demonstrates risk assessment and risk mitigation, and provides discussion of various control measures at a high-level and management systems that can be used to reduce the environmental impacts and risks of the project to an acceptable level.

### Environmental risk assessment process

