



Environmental Defenders Office

Factsheet Series:

What you need to know about offshore oil and gas (petroleum)

Disclaimer: This collection of factsheets are a guide only and are designed to give readers a plain English overview of the law. It does not replace the need for professional legal advice in individual cases. To request free initial legal advice on a public interest environmental or planning law issue, please visit our [website](#).

While every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate, the EDO does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage resulting from any error in these factsheets or use of this work.

The series factsheet was last updated on 17 March 2026

What is this factsheet series about?

This factsheet series explains how offshore oil and gas projects impact the environment, ecosystems and marine species. It aims to provide crucial information relating to offshore petroleum projects to help you when writing your submissions to NOPSEMA.

Separate assessment processes apply to activities that take place in State and Territory waters. This fact sheet does not cover those processes.

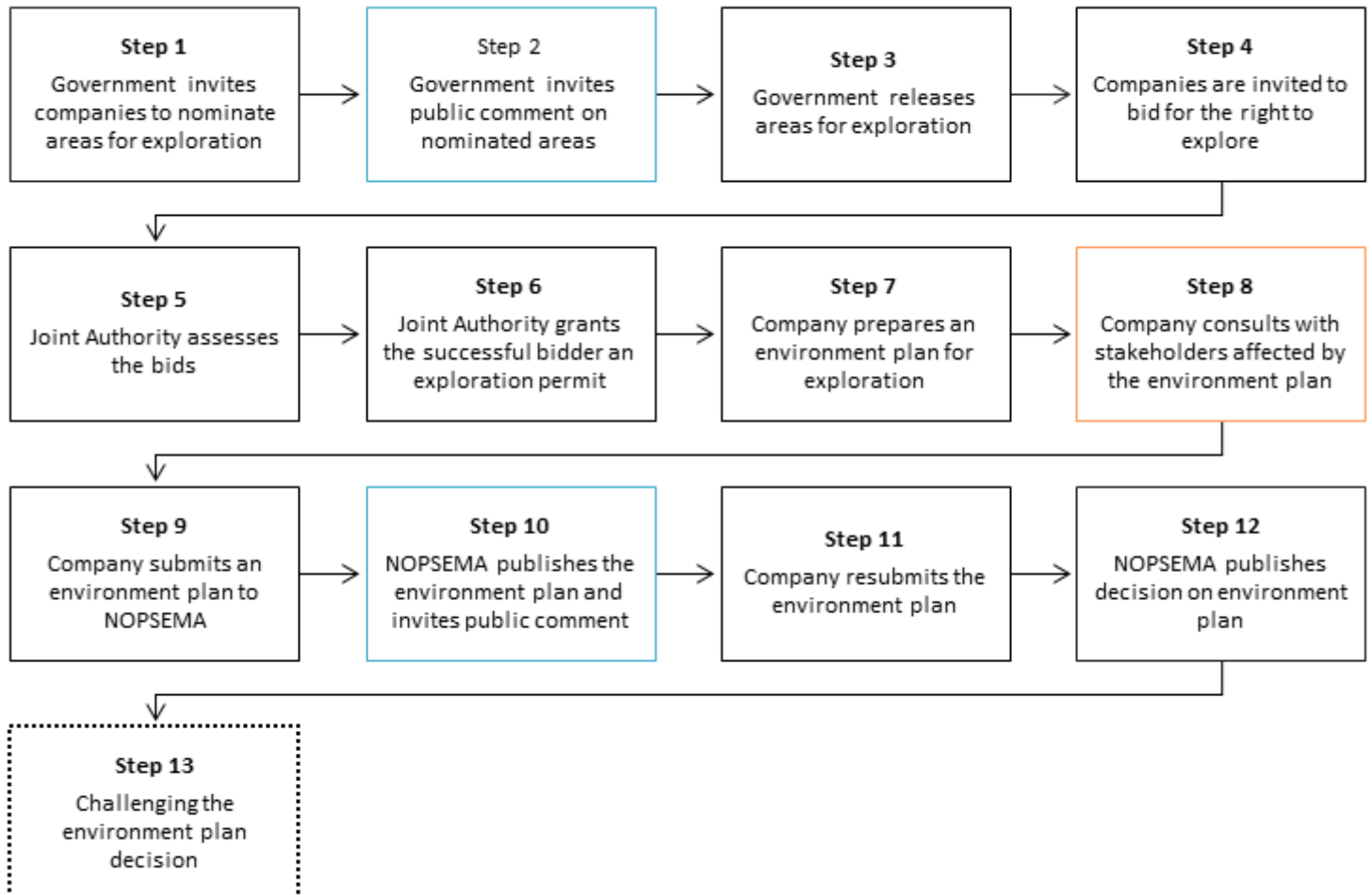
Content of the series

(Click on the headings to access each factsheet)

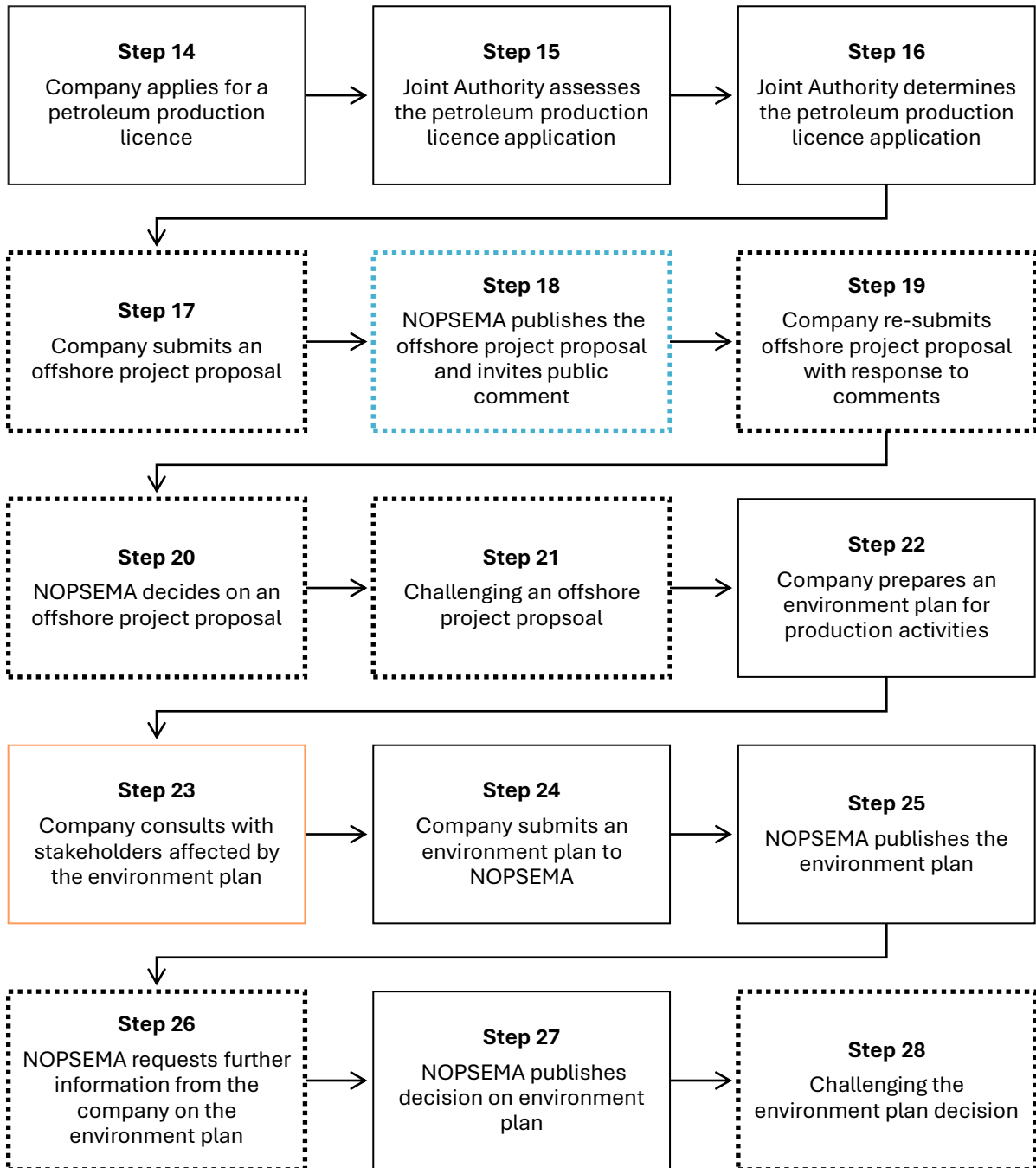
1. [Key terms and definitions](#)
2. [How offshore oil and gas projects impact the environment](#)
3. Gas Exploration Permits
 - a. [How to comment on proposed Gas Exploration Areas](#)
 - b. [How to get involved as a 'relevant person'](#)
 - c. [Your right to comment on and challenge an Environment Plan](#)
4. Petroleum Production Licences
 - a. [Your right to comment on Offshore Project Proposals](#)
 - b. [How to get involved as a 'relevant person'](#)
5. [Decommissioning: How to get involved as a 'relevant person'](#)

Read: Our [Key Terms and Definitions](#) factsheet first to familiarise yourself with the language used within the series

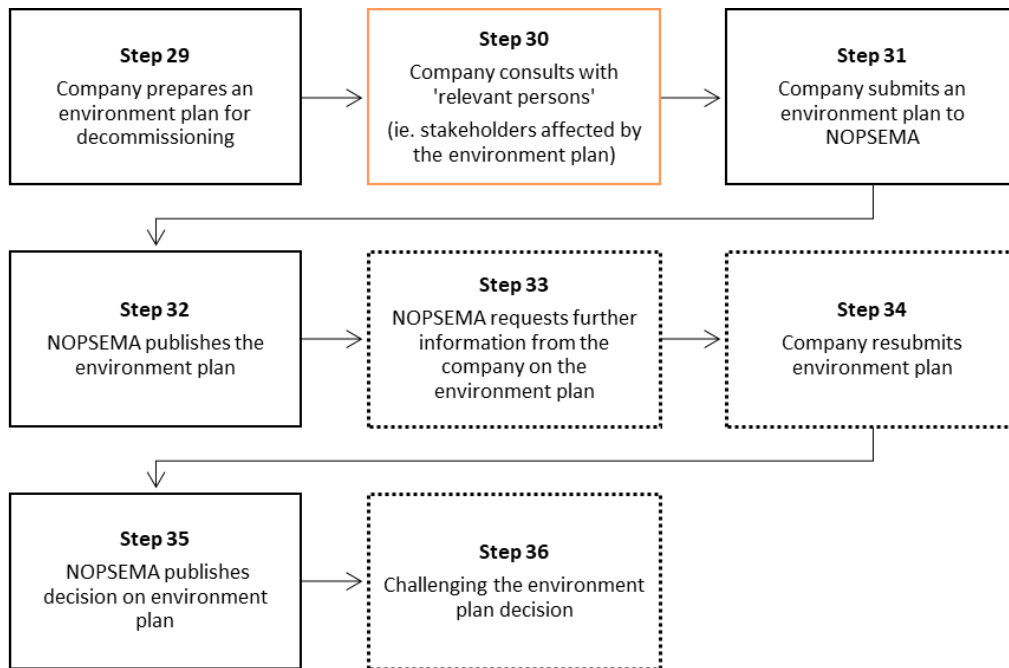
Steps in the offshore oil and gas exploration process



Steps in the offshore oil and gas production process



Steps in the offshore oil and gas decommissioning process



The factsheet series will explain the relevant steps above in detail with a focus on the opportunities for you to engage in the processes for offshore oil and gas projects.

Evaluate this resource

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If you have any concerns or suggestions regarding this legal resource, please fill out the Legal Resources evaluation form by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code below:

