

**PETROLEUM/GEOTHERMAL SPECIAL PROSPECTING AUTHORITY (SPA)
WITH ACREAGE OPTION (AO) APPROVAL PROCESS**

This process is Quality Management System Certified to ISO 9001:2008 standard

Dated: 28 September 2011

Definitions
 DEC – Department of Environment and Conservation
 DEP – Department of Environmental Protection
 DMP – Department of Mines and Petroleum
 DRET – Department of Resources, Energy & Tourism
 EPA – Environment Protection Authority
 NOPSA - National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority
 OPGGSA06 – Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006
 PEB – Petroleum Environment Branch
 PGERA67 – Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967
 PPA69 – Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969
 PSLA82 – Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982

- Applicant
- DMP
- DMP Resources Safety - PGERA67
- Other External Agencies

APPLICANT

DMP

OTHERS

Screening Stage (10 days)

- Submit application and fee
- NB: Application for AO must be made in conjunction with SPA and cannot be applied for retrospectively

Petroleum Tenure & Land Access Branch

- Receive application
- Conduct preliminary check for completeness

Petroleum Tenure & Land Access Branch

- Check application for access authority and identify block(s) outside the SPA area requiring access authority
- Identify reserved ground, restricted areas, Native Title, Environmentally Sensitive areas, Defence areas, Pipelines, Commonwealth lands or Schedule 1 areas affected by the survey
- Identify any underlying Petroleum/Geothermal titles requiring S69A referral (include SPA titles)

Petroleum Tenure & Land Access Branch

- Determine whether application is to be accepted or refused
- If refused, prepare refusal documents

Assessment Stage (20 days)

Resources Branch

- For Recommendation with right to acceptance for work program fulfilment
- For written report and conditions

Resource Safety Division

- Report on safety
- Acceptance of Safety Management System

Petroleum Tenure & Land Access Branch

- Determine whether application is subject to Native Title processes
- Commence Future Act notification process

Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRB)

Registered NT Claimants and/or Prescribed Body Corporate

Underlying title holder referrals (Petroleum & Geothermal)

DEC/EPA Fisheries/WAFIC (internal waters)

- For review and comment

Petroleum Tenure & Land Access Branch

- If reserved ground or World Heritage Areas are affected commence reserve referral action (SECTION 15A)
- If Environmentally Sensitive Areas affected advise applicant that the activity may require a clearing permit & for them to contact Native Vegetation Branch
- Conduct Section 69A referrals to underlying title holders
- Refer as necessary to DEC, EPA and external stakeholder

Environment Division

- For written report and conditions required
- Environmental Management Plan acceptance

Refused

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**Determination Stage
(10 days)**

Petroleum Tenure & Land Access Branch

- If applicable, action any additional information/clearances, underlying title holder concerns
- Prepare approval (or refusal) minute, letter, instrument and directions

Finalisation

Receives certified copy of grant instrument

Petroleum Tenure & Land Access Branch

- Send certified copy of Instrument and approval documents to applicant

Resources Branch

- Note commencement of survey and receive reports

DECISION MADE BY APPLICANT TO APPLY FOR DRILLING RESERVATION/EXPLORATION PERMIT UNDER ACREAGE OPTION

Submits Drilling Reservation/
Exploration Permit application
before 6 month Acreage Option
period expires

Petroleum Tenure & Land Access Branch

- Receive application and Process