

Advice and promotion

Document No: N-06201-PL2238 A1146115

Date: 11/12/2024

1. Background

The Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR) is provided with functions and powers under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (OEI Act). The OIR is responsible for regulating work health and safety, **infrastructure integrity**¹ and environmental management of **offshore infrastructure activities**² in the **Commonwealth offshore area**³.

2. Purpose

This policy provides an overview of the general principles that the OIR applies in exercising its functions to provide advice and promote good practice work health and safety, infrastructure integrity and environmental management for offshore infrastructure activities in the Commonwealth offshore area.

3. Scope

In accordance with section 177 of the OEI Act, the OIR has functions to:

- advise persons on matters relating to work health and safety, environmental protection and infrastructure integrity in connection with offshore infrastructure activities
- promote the work health and safety of persons engaged in offshore infrastructure activities.

This policy applies to advice and promotion activities undertaken by the OIR in connection with its other functions under the OEI Act and seeks to support the effective delivery of those functions.

This document is not legally binding and is provided to inform stakeholders as to how the OIR exercises its functions. It reflects the current policies of the OIR, which may change from time to time, with all changes being notified publicly.

4. Relevant legislation

The following Commonwealth legislation gives direction to the OIR's advice and promotion activities:

- *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (OEI Act)
-

¹ See section 8 of the OEI Act

² Ibid

³ Ibid

- Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations 2022 (OEI Regulations)
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth) (WHS Act) as applied under the OEI Act
- Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 (Cth) (WHS Regulations) as applied under the OEI Regulations.

5. Key principles

Through our advice and promotion activities we aim to:

- enhance stakeholder understanding of regulatory requirements and obligations
- encourage and promote duty holders' compliance with regulatory requirements and obligations
- encourage and promote continuous improvement in work health and safety, infrastructure integrity and environmental management outcomes
- communicate emerging work health and safety, infrastructure integrity and environmental management issues and lessons learned from the conduct of our regulatory activities
- supplement and support broader compliance and enforcement activities and initiatives
- engage with stakeholders in a way that meets the needs of stakeholders and optimises the fulfilment of our legislated functions.

We will seek to achieve the above aims through:

- development and implementation of proactive advice and promotion campaigns and work programs
- publication and maintenance of a comprehensive suite of policies, guidance and other information to assist duty holders in complying with their obligations under the OEI Act framework
- implementation and maintenance of a stakeholder engagement framework
- participation in relevant stakeholder events to communicate targeted messages
- active utilisation of various communication and media channels
- interacting with stakeholders in a manner that emphasises our values and the principles of leading practice regulatory administration
- conducting stakeholder engagement activities in a professional, respectful, transparent and impartial manner.

Our advice and promotion activities will be designed and implemented in a manner that recognises the responsibility of the duty holder to identify and manage risks generated by their activities.

Our communication and engagement activities are focused on encouraging compliance through education and providing assistance to stakeholders to help them understand the regulatory requirements.

The extent to which we will provide advice will take into account the requirement to maintain objectivity in regulatory decision-making.

6. Monitoring

This policy is to be reviewed periodically by the OIR. Further reviews will be undertaken as a result of changes to legislation, through feedback elicitation or as a result of accumulated experience.

7. Related documents

N-04401-PL2048 – Policy – Assessment

N-02401-PL21709 – Policy – Inspection

N-03401-PL2100 – Policy – Investigations

N-05501-PL2096 – Policy - Enforcement