

NOPSEMA CEO Opening Statement: 2023-24 Additional estimates

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I welcome the opportunity to appear before the committee today.

Since NOPSEMA last appeared before the Committee, we have undergone an internal reorganisation.

This has been conducted following a thorough review and with the aim of providing a sustainable and integrated approach to respond to current and future changes in our regulatory environment. The changes have been implemented as of the start of this month and notably have resulted in the creation of two Deputy CEO positions.

Cameron Grebe, who will be familiar to you as the Head of Division, Environmental, Renewables and Decommissioning, is now Deputy CEO, Strategic Regulation and Improvement. Graham Blair, who joined us in December following more than 20 years with the offshore energy industry in both Australia and internationally, has taken on the role of Deputy CEO, Regulatory Operations. We also now have a separate Executive Director for Offshore Renewables Regulation in recognition of an area beginning to expand.

I am confident that a more integrated approach to regulatory operations will provide for efficiencies over time for both NOPSEMA and the industry, while enabling us to provide greater support to government and external stakeholders. The new structure also ensures a greater focus on the analysis of data and intelligence to identify trends and areas of risk as well as an increase in the investigative function within NOPSEMA.

The effects of the legal challenges against previously accepted environment plans continues to be felt although environment plan approvals have increased over the past few months, with a particular increase in both approvals and submissions since December.

I believe this reflects the significant effort titleholders have been making over the last 17 months to comply with broadened consultation requirements.

Further, I welcome the Government's announcement that it will be looking into clarifying and improving consultation requirements as an initial step in the offshore environmental management review. NOPSEMA will continue to provide advice and support to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources which is leading the review.

With that I welcome questions from the Committee.