



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

November 2022

Australian carbon capture and sequestration sea dumping permits

Introduction

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) streams from carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) are defined as a waste or other matter considered for dumping at sea under the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (the London Protocol).

As party to the London Protocol, the Australian Government has a responsibility to meet Australia's obligations to protect our marine environment from pollution. To achieve this, we have produced this draft guidance on how the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* (the Act) applies in relation to the disposal of CO₂ via offshore CCS.

Offshore CCS has the potential to reduce emissions from hard-to-abate industrial sectors. CO₂ is separated from other gases from industrial processes and is compressed. A suitable CO₂ stream is then able to be permanently stored in underground geological formations.

CCS activities that may need a sea dumping permit

For each permit application under the Act, the Minister for the Environment (or their delegate) considers the specific circumstances of each situation to determine whether the sequestration of CO₂ in Australian waters constitutes sea dumping under both the London Protocol and the Act.

For a detailed definition of Australian waters, please see our website.

If you require assistance with determining whether your offshore CCS activity requires a sea dumping permit, please contact the sea dumping section at seadumping@dcceew.gov.au.



Does my offshore CCS activity require a sea dumping permit?

The scenarios described and illustrated opposite have been designed to help you determine if your intended offshore CCS activity requires a sea dumping permit. Please note that your activity may require more than one permit depending on your proposed actions.

An application permit to dispose of CO₂ via offshore CCS will incur a fee as per the Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Regulations 1983.

The export of CO₂ for disposal outside of Australian waters is currently prohibited. If your offshore CCS activity includes the import of a CO₂ stream for disposal within Australian waters, an agreement with the exporting country may be required to satisfy Australia's London Protocol obligations.

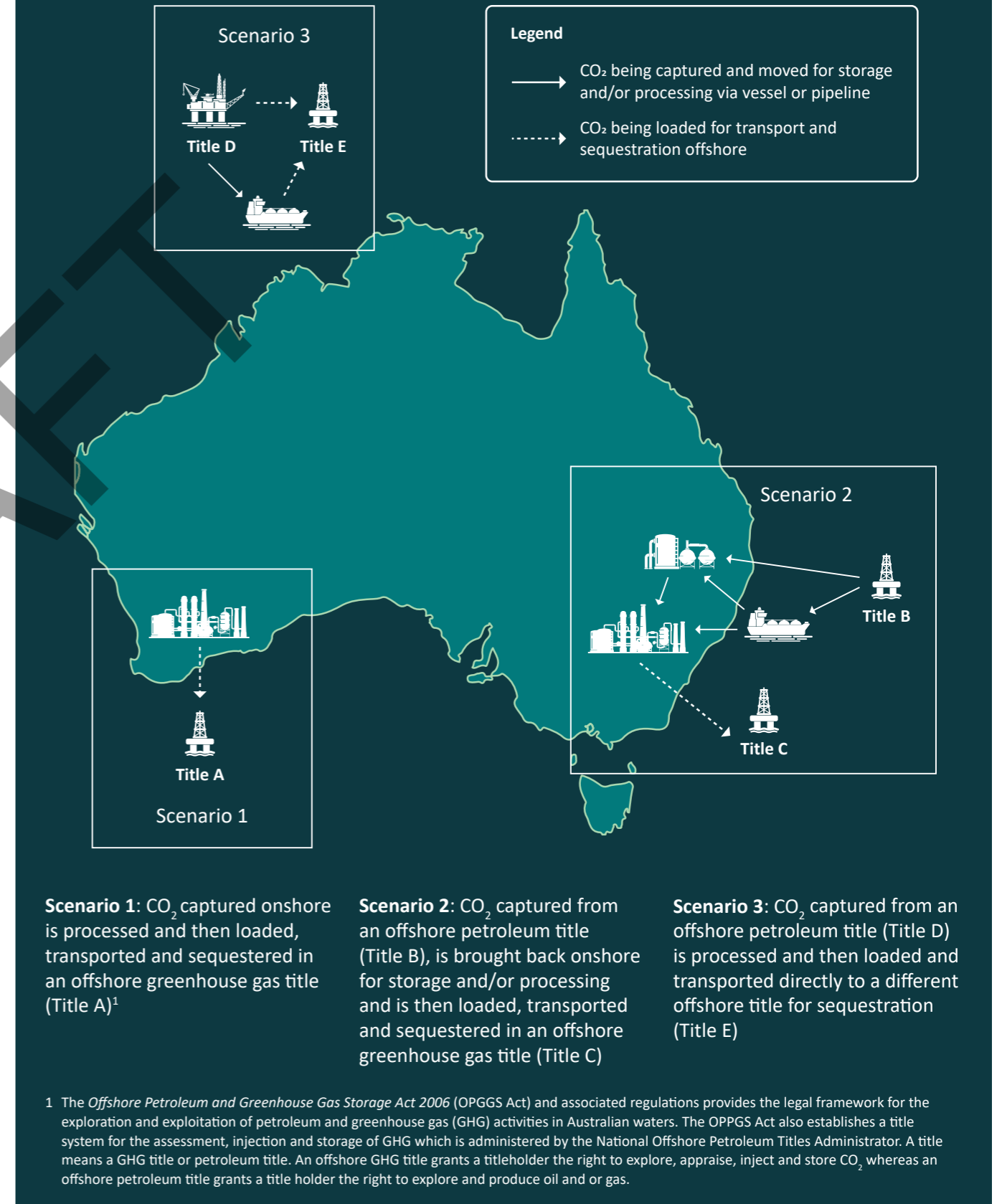
In both cases, we encourage you to contact the sea dumping section at seadumping@dcceew.gov.au to discuss your project.

You should also consider any requirements that may apply to your project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The application form for carbon capture and sequestration permits will be available on our website in future.



Offshore CCS activities that may need a sea dumping permit



More information

Learn more about sea dumping in Australia:

- **Web** dcceew.gov.au/environment/marine/sea-dumping
- **Email** seadumping@dcceew.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2022

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.

