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 To achieve this, we have produced this draft guidance on how the Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981 (the Act) applies in relation to the disposal of CO₂ via offshore CCS.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 Legend Scenario 3 CO₂ being captured and moved for storage and/or processing via vessel or pipeline CO₂ being loaded for transport and sequestration offshore Scenario 2 Title C Title A Scenario 1 **Scenario 1**: CO, captured onshore **Scenario 2**: CO, captured from Scenario 3: CO₂ captured from an is processed and then loaded, an offshore petroleum title offshore petroleum title (Title D) (Title B), is brought back onshore is processed and then loaded and transported and sequestered in for storage and/or processing transported directly to a different an offshore greenhouse gas title (Title A)1 and is then loaded, transported offshore title for sequestration and sequestered in an offshore (Title E) greenhouse gas title (Title C) 1 The Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 (OPGGS Act) and associated regulations provides the legal framework for the exploration and exploitation of petroleum and greenhouse gas (GHG) activities in Australian waters. The OPPGS Act also establishes a title system for the assessment, injection and storage of GHG which is administered by the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator. A title means a GHG title or petroleum title. An offshore GHG title grants a titleholder the right to explore, appraise, inject and store CO, whereas an offshore petroleum title grants a title holder the right to explore and produce oil and or gas.

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.

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