



Department of Mines,
Petroleum and Exploration

Guidance to support the commencement of the *Petroleum Legislation Amendment Act 2024*

Information sheet

Purpose

This information sheet provides an overview of the purpose and context of the three guidelines which have been released for public consultation.

Background

The *Petroleum Legislation Amendment Act 2024* (PLAA2024) amended the State's three principal petroleum Acts to introduce, amongst other things, two new industries into Western Australia; greenhouse gas (GHG) transport and storage, and the exploration and production of regulated substances (natural hydrogen and helium).

To support the commencement of the PLAA2024, the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) has developed new and amended guidance material to assist proponents with the amendments to the legislation. The first package of guidelines released for public consultation will assist proponents with applying to add regulated substance rights to an existing petroleum title, understanding the criteria for assessment of applications for GHG exploration permits, and lodging an application for the declaration of an identified GHG storage formation.

Overview of guidelines

Applying to add regulated substance rights to a petroleum title guideline

The new guideline “Applying to add regulated substance rights to a petroleum title” outlines how an applicant for or the holder of a petroleum title can apply to add regulated substance rights and relevant considerations prior to and after the addition of rights extending to a regulated substance.

Operations involving a regulated substance will be able to be authorised under a new or existing petroleum title, however, the addition of a regulated substance is not automatic:

- A new applicant may apply for a new petroleum title, requesting rights that extend to the exploration for, or recovery of, a regulated substance prescribed by the Regulations at the time of application.
- Existing holders of a petroleum exploration permit, petroleum drilling reservation, petroleum retention lease, petroleum production licence, petroleum access authority, or petroleum special prospecting authority may apply to the Minister to extend the rights conferred by the title to include a prescribed regulated substance.

Criteria for assessment: Petroleum, geothermal and greenhouse gas exploration permits guideline

DMPE will additionally be releasing acreage for competitive bidding and award of GHG exploration permits. The existing guidance for petroleum and geothermal energy exploration permits has been expanded to include considerations for GHG permits and regulated substance rights authorised under a petroleum permit. The updated “Criteria for assessment: Petroleum, geothermal energy and greenhouse gas exploration permits guideline” seeks to clarify the assessment and ranking framework to determine whether a bid is deserving of grant, and where multiple bids are received, to determine the applicant most deserving of the grant of an exploration permit.

Please note that comments are only invited in relation to the elements introduced by the PLAA2024, being considerations for the assessment of applications for GHG exploration permits or regulated substance rights applied for under a new or existing petroleum exploration permit.

Application for the declaration of an identified greenhouse gas storage formation guideline

The “Guideline for an application for the declaration of an identified greenhouse gas storage formation” is a new guidance document that outlines the requirements for declaring part of a geological formation suitable for the underground storage of GHG substances in Western Australia. To be declared, the part of the geological formation must be assessed to be suitable for the injection and permanent storage of GHG substances. Once a declaration is in force, title holders may apply for a GHG injection licence or a GHG retention lease over the area covered by the identified GHG storage formation. Injection and permanent storage operations cannot commence until an approved site plan is in force. The guideline also provides information on varying or revoking a declaration under the relevant legislation.

Consultation

These guidelines are available for comment until the close of business on **8 March 2026**. Please note that the closing date is final, and no extensions of time will be granted on this occasion.

The consultation and draft documents are available on the DMPE WA.gov.au website.

Any comments or feedback can be emailed to Rec.Consultation@dmpe.wa.gov.au.

If providing comment or feedback, please clearly identify which guideline(s) it corresponds to.

DMPE will publish a response to submissions document for each corresponding guideline, and all submissions will be published verbatim, with the submitter identified in the document.

Government of Western Australia

Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

8.30am – 4.30pm

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