GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
State of Energy

# Stop the Clock Position Statement

## Purpose

This Position Statement sets out guiding principles that regulatory agencies in Western Australia should follow when using 'Stop the Clock' (STC) provisions.

While each agency operates under different legislation, approval types, and assessment procedures, the guiding principles aim to support greater consistency, transparency and efficiency in the non-statutory application and reporting of STC across and within agencies.

### Stop the clock

STC is a process used by regulatory agencies to temporarily pause the time left to make a decision or complete a function. Mainly used when Agencies request further information from the proponent.

## Principles

**1. Transparency & Consistency** – STC provisions are clearly defined, communicated, and applied consistently across Agencies and assessing Officers.

- Agencies develop clear public-facing guidance on when and how STC is used. Where possible, this guidance should be consistent across Agencies.
- Notices to proponents are clear and outline the reason STC is being used, the expected duration of the pause, and the conditions that must be met for resumption.
- Proponents may also request STC when they require reasonable time to respond to requests, providing justification and a proposed timeframe for resumption.

**2. Efficiency** – STC provisions are used in accordance with documented provisions to support fair and efficient decision-making.

- Agencies use STC when permitted by law or Departmental guidelines and avoid use when awaiting information from other WA Government bodies.
- Agencies continue progressing other aspects of the assessment where possible during STC periods.
- Agencies and proponents engage early to clarify information requirements, approval pathways, and potential risks to reduce the need for STC, engaging triaging functions where necessary.
- Timeframes must resume promptly once conditions are met. If they aren't met, applicants should be informed as soon as possible.

**3. Accountability** – Agencies implement appropriate training, record keeping, and reporting practices to support continuous improvement and accountability within the STC provisions.

- Agencies keep records on STC use and activity in public reports and process reviews.
- Agencies regularly update their guidance materials, defining maximum allowable STC durations, and ensure consistent documentation across agencies.
- Agencies must provide training to all staff on the appropriate use of STC and the implications of its use.