# Commonwealth-Victoria Intergovernmental Agreement on Decommissioning Oil and Gas Infrastructure

Date: 27 October 2026

The Decommissioning Oil and Gas Infrastructure Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Australian Government and the Victorian Government will commence when the Commonwealth and the State of Victoria have signed.

# Context

Australia's offshore oil and gas industry has numerous projects that will reach the end of their productive life over the next 30 years. Decommissioning oil and gas infrastructure as it reaches end of life will be an increasingly important part of the offshore industry.

The Australian Government has developed *Australia's Offshore Resources Decommissioning Roadmap* to maximise the benefits accruing to Australia from this decommissioning work. The roadmap sets out a pathway for the federal and state/territory governments, industry, workers and the community to build capability and capacity across the decommissioning value chain (offshore, onshore, recycling and waste management) in Australia.

The Roadmap recognises that offshore decommissioning activity in Australia must occur in a way that is safe, cost-effective, and environmentally sound. Increased cooperation between decommissioning projects and with adjacent industries like offshore wind generation can enhance the efficiency of both industries.

Decommissioning activities are part of the pathway to net zero for the Australian economy and contribute to the growth of Australia's circular economy. Victoria's pathway through the energy transition, to support the State's legislated target of net-zero by 2045, is set out in the Victorian Government's *Gas Substitution Roadmap* and updates, and the Victorian Gas Security Statement.

Petroleum operations are active in Victoria's two main petroleum provinces – the Otway Basin and the Gippsland Basin. The decommissioning of oil and gas in Victoria is primarily occurring in the Gippsland Basin region, and will occur imminently, with state and national impacts across industries and economies.

# Part 1 – Formalities

## Parties to this Agreement

1. This Intergovernmental Agreement (Agreement) is made between the following Parties:
    a) The Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth)
    b) The State of Victoria (the State)

## Interpretation

2. This Agreement is not intended to be, and is not, a legally binding or enforceable document.
3. The Commonwealth and the State intend to act and cooperate in good faith in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and consistent with its spirit and intention.

## Terms

4. This Agreement will commence as soon as both Parties have signed the Agreement.
5. This Agreement commences on the date on which it is signed by both Parties and will continue until Parties agree in writing that all objectives and actions outlined in this Agreement have been completed, or by any other mutual agreement.
6. The Parties may end the arrangements in this Agreement by written notice and corresponding written agreement. Either Party may notify its intention to end the arrangements in this Agreement by giving written notice to the other Party.
7. The Parties acknowledge that this Agreement does not give rise to legally enforceable obligations.
8. This Agreement is not intended to affect:
    a) any existing Federation Funding Agreements between the State and the Commonwealth; or
    b) any other funded or non-funded existing intergovernmental arrangements between the State and the Commonwealth.

## Funding

9. Unless otherwise stated in this Agreement, or otherwise agreed by the Parties in writing, anything a Party will do under this Agreement will be done at that Party's cost.

# Part 2 – Objectives

10. The objective of the Agreement is to facilitate collaboration between the Commonwealth and State to support Australia’s domestic decommissioning industry activities in Victoria.
11. The Agreement provides a framework to address issues between the Commonwealth and State, including areas of regulatory duplication or inconsistency which may provide a barrier to the operation of a decommissioning industry, all whilst still upholding Australia’s high safety and environmental standards.
    a) Regulated entities in the decommissioning industry should be clear that they are expected to adopt best practice and to comply at the earliest opportunity under Commonwealth and State legislative frameworks.
12. The Agreement provides a framework to support the collaborative development of policy and attached initiatives at state and federal government levels to develop and progress initiatives relevant to this Agreement’s Principles.
13. The Agreement is intended to support:

a) the creation of employment opportunities in Australia's decommissioning industry;
b) drivers for improved economic development in the decommissioning industry, notably in areas of downstream manufacturing; and
c) capital investment opportunities in emerging decommissioning industries, such as materials processing and recycling.

# Part 3 – Principles

14. The Parties agree on collaborative efforts to support the Principles and Objectives of this Agreement.

15. The key Principles of this Agreement that the Parties commit to, inter alia:

    a) Exploring and developing ways to promote and support the growth of a skilled, diverse and safe decommissioning workforce in Victoria, including:

        i) creating new jobs

        ii) supporting reskilling and upskilling options of existing and new industry workforces, and

        iii) a focus on supporting interlinked sectors such as waste management, specialist decommissioning and relevant manufacturing.

    b) Enabling the development of clear and consistent decommissioning regulatory information and reforms at all levels of government, including

        i) improved information sharing efforts at state and federal government levels, and

        ii) improved visibility around changes occurring in decommissioning regulatory environments.

    c) Supporting relevant stakeholders in undertaking responsible recycling and waste management of decommissioned materials, including:

        i) promoting and supporting new and innovative methods of waste management and recycling, including in production of lower-emissions steel and manufacturing industries, and

        ii) considerations for ways to promote and grow the circular waste economy through capital investment opportunities.

    d) Supporting the attraction of capital investment and economic growth in the decommissioning, processing and downstream manufacturing sectors.

16. To support these Principles, the Parties will endeavour to:

a) share information regarding expected timelines, size, composition, and execution of decommissioning projects in Commonwealth and State waters;

b) identify opportunities to improve alignment and consistency between Commonwealth and State regulatory frameworks relevant to decommissioning activities;

c) support joint activities that grow industry capability in offshore decommissioning; and

d) cooperate on approaches to addressing unmet oil and gas decommissioning liabilities.

# Part 4 – Roles and Responsibilities

17. The Parties agree to:

a) cooperate and act in good faith to address issues relevant to decommissioning offshore oil and gas infrastructure in Commonwealth waters and the downstream onshore processing of material removed from offshore;

b) cooperatively develop a Work Plan with actions to support the objectives of this Agreement within 4 months after the commencement of the Agreement;

c) cooperatively develop a Governance Structure to support cooperation and delivery of the actions agreed in the work plan within 4 months after the commencement of the Agreement;

d) cooperatively develop a suitable Reporting Framework for progress against the agreed work plan within 4 months of the commencement of the Agreement;

e) regularly share progress and updates on decommissioning related activities;

f) invite each other as appropriate to attend meetings in relation to decommissioning activities and actions identified in the Work Plan;

g) use all reasonable endeavours to respond promptly to any reasonable enquiries for either Party; and

h) undertake their Roles and Responsibilities in alignment with the relevant Commonwealth and State legal and regulatory frameworks.

# Part 5 – Governance and Administration

## Variation

18. Any variation to this Agreement will be in writing and signed by both Parties.

## Notices

19. Unless notified otherwise, the Commonwealth's address for notices is:

    Physical Address:
    General Manager, Offshore Decommissioning Directorate
    Department of Industry, Science and Resources
    10 Binara Street, Canberra ACT 2601

    Postal Address:
    GPO Box 2013

    Canberra ACT 2601

    Email:
    decomdirectorate@industry.gov.au

20. Unless notified otherwise, the State's address for notices is:

    Physical Address:
    Executive Director Policy and Programs
    Resources Victoria
    Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
    8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne VIC 3008

    Postal Address:
    PO Box 500
    East Melbourne VIC 8002

    Email:

    resources.coordination@deeca.vic.gov.au

# Signatures

SIGNED for and on behalf of the **Commonwealth of Australia** by



The Honourable Madeleine King

Minister for Resources of the Commonwealth of Australia

Date: 20 October 2026

SIGNED for and on behalf of the **State of Victoria** by



Jaclyn Symes MP

Minister for Energy and Resources of the State of Victoria

Date: 27 October 2026