

Public Consultation - Draft Mines and Petroleum Regulations Amendment Regulations 2025

Australian Energy Producers | 30 January 2026

Australian Energy Producers (AEP) appreciates the effort of the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DPME) to align State and Commonwealth regulatory frameworks as much as possible. Alignment between jurisdictions is particularly important for the smooth regulatory oversight and operation of projects that span both Western Australia and Commonwealth jurisdictions. In general, the approach of these regulations should be flexible and project specific, and AEP appreciates DMPE's effort to develop an effective regulatory framework which promotes workable interaction across multiple jurisdictions. This framework is essential for enabling the safe and efficient deployment of carbon, capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) projects which are critical to achieving emissions reduction targets and supporting Western Australia's energy transition.¹

AEP is supportive of the Draft Regulations and highlights the following:

Overlapping Petroleum and GHG Titles and Graticular Block Amalgamation

AEP emphasises that a regulatory framework that enables the amalgamation of graticular blocks to accommodate project requirements is needed to enable CCUS hub development. Current limitations in the regulatory framework prevent the consolidation of blocks into larger title areas (e.g., converting a production to injection licence with addition of a nearby graticular block(s) in order to maximise storage capacity of a reservoir). This process remains critical for efficient project planning, and enabling cooperative arrangements between overlapping petroleum and GHG title holders would minimise conflicts and facilitate the seamless movement of CO₂ across blocks.

DMP has previously advised that amendments to the Act will be required to enable graticular block amalgamation. DMPE has also identified another section requiring legislative amendment – Section 67. Given that legislative changes will be needed to address issues in section 67, AEP strongly urges that block amalgamation be prioritised and included in any forthcoming amendments to WA's petroleum legislation to avoid ongoing restrictions that will hinder the successful rollout of CCUS projects in Western Australia.

Besides the issue discussed above, AEP is supportive of the proposed amendments to the Draft Regulations as they will enhance the economic viability, environmental sustainability, and regulatory efficiency of CCUS projects in Western Australia.

AEP's members eagerly await the completion of the regulatory framework and the subsequent GHG Injection and Storage acreage release. The completion of the regulatory framework and the commencement of new CCUS projects in Western Australia is a significant milestone in the decarbonisation journey of the State.

¹ Net Zero Australia, Modelling Summary Report, 2023