



Australian Government
Department of Resources
Energy and Tourism

AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM NEWS

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Policy Review on Grants and Renewals of Retention Leases

The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism is reviewing the policy on the management of retention leases in Commonwealth offshore waters. An options paper has been released to facilitate discussion on how the granting and renewal of retention leases can be improved and comments are invited from interested stakeholders.

The Options Paper results from the Government's commitments arising from the recommendations of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Natural Gas Supply Report. The paper also reflects the recommendations of the Productivity Commission's report, *Regulatory Burden on the Upstream Petroleum Sector*.

The Options Paper addresses the JWG's recommendation to improve the current acreage management process, in particular the granting and renewal of retention leases. The review also aims to ensure that processes are transparent and that commerciality tests are rigorously and appropriately applied.

The Options Paper outlines the current retention lease system, current guidelines can be found at:

www.ret.gov.au/resources/Documents/Upstream%20Petroleum/Guidelines_for_Retention_Lease_Application.pdf

It discusses a range of issues and options for improvement. The draft conclusions presented in the Paper are not final, and are intended to stimulate discussion and encourage alternative points of view and ideas.

We welcome your comments on any aspect of the paper by Friday, 14 August 2009. Your feedback is welcome and will be considered in the process of formalising final recommendations to improve to the management of retention leases.

For further information, please contact Belinda Josey on 02 6213 7736 or e-mail belinda.josey@ret.gov.au.

The paper can be found at:

http://www.ret.gov.au/resources/Documents/Grant_and_%20renewal_of_retention_leases-optionspaper.pdf