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Welcome to the General Policy Review Bulletin #3

April 2006

Review of Criminal Penalty Provisions in the Offshore Petroleum Act

As noted in our General Policy Review Bulletin #2 of 15 December 2005, DITR had undertaken to review the criminal penalty provisions in the Offshore Petroleum Act 2006. We have completed this review with the result being that Government has agreed that no changes will be made to the criminal penalties scheme. While there were concerns that some penalties were inconsistent with Commonwealth criminal law policy, these generally related to issues such as safety and the national interest and, as such, these penalties will remain.

We attached a list of policy issues to the General Policy Review Bulletin #2. We thank stakeholders for making additional suggestions to that list for review. Whilst a deadline was set, we are always interested in hearing your suggestions about issues which warrant review and are particularly interested in stakeholders views on priority issues for the Department.

Update on Onshore Petroleum Bill

The Offshore Petroleum Bill was passed without amendment in the Senate on 1 March 2006 and received Royal Assent on 29 March 2006. Once all jurisdictions have updated their mirror Acts we will be in a position to proclaim the *Offshore Petroleum Act*.

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This occasional newsletter was prepared by the Resources Division, of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism.