



# Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee

**Hearing date:** 10/12/2025

**Question taken on notice**

**Directed to:** Dr Francis Norman, Centre of Decommissioning Australia

**Received date:** 13 January 2026

## 1. P.37 Sheena Watt

**Question:** - I do have a particular question about the potentially leaked greenhouse gas emissions that are coming from – okay, I might start from the start. Victoria has very ambitious emissions reductions that are cast in legislation here. I am trying to understand then, is there some work to be done around reducing the potential for leakage of those emissions out of these sites that are in Victorian waters? -

**Francis NORMAN:** ...They are all drilled through slightly different geography. They have all got slightly different challenges in terms of the way that they approach them. The folks that live and breathe wells – you could spend days in here talking with them about the different approaches and technologies. But they are very, very, very cautious in terms of what they do. It is not my background, but what I would say is that when they do plug the wells, they follow these processes which have to be vetted and approved before they start. They follow them very closely and then they have the opportunity once they have done that work to monitor it, to make sure that if it is going to leak – if it is going to leak, it is going to leak right at the start, and then if they need to, they can go back in and they can redo bits and pieces as well...

**Sheena WATT:** ... if you have a chance to look if you have any information that you can send through, I would certainly appreciate that.

**Francis NORMAN:** Yes, I would be happy to send you some links to some materials. Sure.

**Response:**

I have inquired with industry contacts and would suggest the committee consider looking at the following documents for best practice in well plug and abandonment:

- NORSOK D-010 – Well Integrity in Drilling and Well Operations
- Oil & Gas UK (OEUK) – Guidelines for Well Abandonment
- Instituto Brasileiro De Petroleo E Gas (IBP) – Well abandonment guidelines

Each of these three documents provide a different perspective but all three are closely aligned. The most accessible in terms of ease of download etc is the IBP guideline which can be downloaded free from the following link <https://www.ibp.org.br/personalizado/uploads/2025/01/diretrizes-para-abandono-de-pocos-ingles.pdf>

Additionally, CODA will shortly be releasing an online “introduction to well abandonment” e learning module. I will share the link with the committee once it is live.

2. **P 39 Gaelle BROAD:** That makes sense. We have heard some conflicting views today, but does Victoria have the power to recall a provider once that title has been returned to the state?

**Francis NORMAN:** I do not know. I do not know at the state level.  
Gaelle BROAD: Are you able to have a look at that and get back to us?

**Francis NORMAN:** Yes. I think your administrators will remind me of my obligations on that one. I can certainly look into that one and get back to you, yes.

### **Response**

I have spoken to industry colleagues and our understanding is that the Victorian regulations do not include any call back provisions that would apply post relinquishment of title – I would however recommend the committee consult with the state regulator to verify this.