



# Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

**Hearing date:** 6/03/2026

**Questions taken on notice**

**Directed to:** Environment Protection Authority Victoria, Dan

Hunt **Received date:** 27/03/2026

**1. P. 24 Ryan Batchelor**

**Question:** We have just had a presentation about the condition of the pipes. Obviously jurisdiction extends to the 3 nautical mile limits, so there are pipes that run into and through Victorian waters. What research or investigations have you done or do you do about contamination leaking from those contaminants and those pipes, firstly? And secondly, do you have any views about the adequacy of the flushing procedure that occurs during the proposed decommissioning process?

**Dan HUNT:** We have a science department at EPA Victoria. We have freshwater and marine experts in that field. I would have to take the question on notice-

**Response:**

*EPA Victoria is not the primary regulator of offshore oil and gas pipelines. Resources Victoria has the primary responsibility for the environmental regulation for the pipeline within state waters. Resources Victoria would be better placed to respond about the adequacy of the flushing procedure that occurs during the proposed decommissioning process.*

*EPA Victoria does not routinely undertake independent sampling or investigative programs for offshore petroleum infrastructure located within state waters. Where there is a risk of pollution migrating into Victorian waters, EPA Victoria may assess information provided by duty holders or other regulators and act under its legislative powers, including the General Environmental Duty.*

*EPA Victoria maintains internal scientific capability, including marine and freshwater expertise, which is used to assess pollution risks, review monitoring data, and support regulatory decision making.*

**2. P. 26-27 Melina Bath**

**Question:** The Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1986 – that seems to be about the time when this industry started up. Have there been any amendments to that Act since? You might need to take that on notice. But in your memory, have there been any substantial updates to that Act?

**Dan HUNT:** I would say yes, only because it references the EP Act 2017. There must have been amendments to that Act to enable that. It actually says that the EP Act 2017 prevails if there are any discrepancies under POWBONS.

**Response:**

*EPA Victoria can confirm the Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1986 has been amended over time to reflect changes in related legislation and regulatory arrangements. The most recent amendment to this Act was made on 8 February 2022.*

*This Act was also amended on 1 July 2021 to insert direct references to the Environment Protection Act 2017. This was done to ensure the two Acts operate together, with provisions that recognise their interaction and confirm that the Environment Protection Act 2017 prevails in the event of any inconsistency. This ensures alignment with Victoria's contemporary, risk-based environmental protection framework.*

**3. P.27 Melina Bath**

**Question:** Has Esso had any incidents, from your understanding, in the last, say, decade – I will say 'major incidents' or incidents?

**Dan HUNT:** I would have to take a question about their compliance history on notice. Nothing to my knowledge; however, I would need to extensively check our database to answer that question.

**Response:**

*EPA Victoria has conducted a review of its compliance and enforcement database and can confirm that Esso has not had any major incidents or incidents, in the last decade.*

**4. P. 28 Sarah Mansfield**

**Question:** - Just picking up that thread, my understanding – correct me if this is wrong – is that any emissions that are in those Commonwealth waters off the coast of Victoria would be attributed to our total emissions for Victoria. Is that correct?

**Dan HUNT:** I am happy to take that on notice, but I am not aware of EPA having a direct role in that space.

**Response:**

*EPA Victoria does not have a direct role in greenhouse gas emissions accounting or attribution, including from activities in Commonwealth waters. Questions about whether greenhouse gas emissions from activities in Commonwealth waters are attributed to Victoria's total emissions should be directed to either the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority or the Clean Energy Regulator.*