

Resource Assessment for potential coal and petroleum exploration release areas

An Overview

December 2017

The Strategic Release Framework for Coal and Petroleum Exploration (the Framework) has been developed by the NSW Government to deliver greater transparency and control over the release of exploration areas and the granting of prospecting titles for coal and petroleum resources. It sets out a process for achieving value for the economy and adequate returns for state owned resources of which a Resource Assessment is a major component.

The assessment is the first step in the Framework and will inform the Advisory Body for Strategic Release (Advisory Body) in making a determination as to whether an area should proceed to a Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment that considers economic, social and environmental issues relevant to the potential release area.

Further details of the Framework may be found at resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au. Details of the DPE Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment process are available at planning.nsw.gov.au.

What is a Resource Assessment?

A Resource Assessment is the first step of the Framework. Its purpose is to develop an understanding of the potential for discovery of a resource of sufficient quality and size to support a stand-alone operation. It will comprise a written report and an assessment of the geological potential of the resource in a form for use by the Advisory Body in its recommendation making process. These recommendations will be provided to the Minister for Resources and published after the Government has considered them.

Based on the Resource Assessment findings, the Advisory Body will determine what, if any areas should progress to a Preliminary Regional Issues Assessment (PRIA). The PRIA, conducted by DPE, will include an economic, environmental and social assessment and will include community engagement and consultation.

When will Resource Assessments be undertaken?

Resource Assessments are undertaken when the Division of Resources and Geoscience (DRG) considers it has appropriate data to suggest that an area has the potential for a discovery of a resource that supports one or more stand-alone operations. For coal, this will be a natural flow on from DRG's pre-competitive coal resource identification work. Assessments may also be undertaken at the request of the Advisory Body for Strategic Release, or the Minister for Resources.

A written report and assessment template is prepared with consideration of the Petroleum Resources Management System, or the Australian Guidelines for the Estimation and Classification of Coal Resources.

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This will account for differences in assessment requirements for coal and petroleum. In NSW, there is generally a greater level of geological knowledge of coal resources compared to petroleum resources.

What matters will be considered in a Resource Assessment?

As part of the Resource Assessment DRG will assess several factors, including:

- publicly available pre-competitive geoscientific data
- resource body characteristics
- market characteristics
- other geological factors
- known legislation and policy that may prohibit or restrict exploration and production.

Where can I find out more?

Visit: www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/strategic-release

Email: information@industry.nsw.gov.au

Call on [1300 305 695](tel:1300305695).

If English isn't your first language, please call [131 450](tel:131450). Ask for an interpreter in your language and then request to be connected to our Information Centre on [1300 305 695](tel:1300305695).

Exploration: commonground.nsw.gov.au.