

**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA**

**PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) ACT**

As in force at 11 December 1998

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# NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

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As in force at 11 December 1998

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## PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) ACT

**An Act to make provision with respect to the exploration for and the exploitation of the petroleum resources, and certain other resources, of certain submerged lands adjacent to the coasts of the Northern Territory and for other purposes**

### PREAMBLE

WHEREAS in accordance with international law Australia as a coastal State has sovereign rights over the continental shelf beyond the limits of Australian territorial waters for the purpose of exploring it and exploiting its natural resources:

\* \* \* \*

AND WHEREAS by the *Seas and Submerged Lands Act 1973* of the Commonwealth it is declared and enacted that the sovereignty in respect of the territorial sea of Australia and in respect of the airspace over it and in respect of its sea-bed and subsoil, and the sovereignty in respect of certain internal waters of Australia and in respect of the airspace over those waters and in respect of the sea-bed and subsoil beneath those waters, it is vested in and exercisable by the Crown in right of the Commonwealth:

AND WHEREAS the Parliaments of the States and the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory have certain legislative powers in respect of the sea-bed and subsoil referred to in the last preceding recital and the Parliament of the Commonwealth has vested in the Crown in right of each of the States and the Crown in right of the Northern Territory certain proprietary rights in respect of that sea-bed and subsoil:

AND WHEREAS it has been agreed between the Commonwealth, the States and the Northern Territory that, in place of the scheme provided for by an Agreement between the Commonwealth and the States dated 16 October 1967:

- (a) legislation of the Parliament of the Commonwealth in respect of the exploration for and the exploitation of the petroleum resources of submerged lands should be limited to the resources of lands beneath waters that are beyond the outer limits of the territorial sea adjacent to the States and the Northern Territory (being outer limits based, unless and until

otherwise agreed, on the breadth of that sea being 3 nautical miles), and that the States and the Northern Territory should share in the administration of that legislation;

- (b) legislation of the Parliament of each State should apply in respect of the exploration for and the exploitation of the petroleum resources of such part of the submerged lands in an area adjacent to the State as is on the landward side of the waters referred to in paragraph (a);
- (c) legislation of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory should apply in respect of the exploration for and the exploitation of the petroleum resources of such part of the submerged lands in an area adjacent to the Northern Territory as is on the landward side of the waters referred to in paragraph (a); and
- (d) the Commonwealth, the States and the Northern Territory should endeavour to maintain, as far as practicable, common principles, rules and practices in the regulation and control of the exploration for and the exploitation of the petroleum resources of all the submerged lands referred to above that are on the seaward side of the inner limits of the territorial sea of Australia.

## **Part I Preliminary**

### **Division 1 Interpretation, application and construction of Act**

#### **1 Short title**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act*.
- (2) This Act shall come into operation on the first day on which the following Acts of the Commonwealth, with or without amendments, are in operation, namely, the *Seas and Submerged Lands Amendment Act 1980*, the *Coastal Waters (State Powers) Act 1980*, the *Coastal Waters (State Title) Act 1980* and the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1980*.

#### **2 Scheme for transitional arrangements**

The scheme agreed on between the Governments of the Commonwealth, the States and the Northern Territory, being the scheme set out in Schedule 1, so far as that scheme relates to the operation of this Act, has the force of law by virtue of this section.



### 3 Schedules 1 and 2

- (1) A reference to the Designated Authority in a new permit (within the meaning of the scheme set out in Schedule 1) or a new pipeline licence (within the meaning of that scheme) shall, for the purposes of that permit or pipeline licence and this Act, be read as a reference to the Minister.
- (2) The provisions set out in Schedule 2 have the force of law by virtue of this section.

### 4 Interpretation

- (1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

**access authority** means an access authority under Part II.

**adjacent area** means, subject to subsection (2), so much of the area the boundary of which is described in Schedule 3 as is part of the territorial sea of Australia, including the territorial sea adjacent to any island forming part of the Territory, and includes, subject to subsection (3), an area which:

- (a) is within the area the boundary of which is described in Schedule 3;
- (b) is seaward of the coastline of the Territory at mean low water and landward of the inner limit of the territorial sea of Australia; and
- (c) was, immediately before the commencement of this Act, the subject of an exploration permit for petroleum subsisting under the Commonwealth Act.

**application for a primary licence** means an application under section 40(1) or (2) or 40A(2) or (3).

**application for a secondary licence** means an application under section 40(3) or 40A(3).

**approved** means approved by the Minister.

**block** means a block constituted as provided by section 17.

**Commonwealth Act** means the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967* of the Commonwealth as amended from time to time and any Act of the Commonwealth with which that Act is incorporated.

**construct** includes **place** and **construction** has a corresponding meaning.

**continental shelf** means the continental shelf, within the meaning of the *Seas and Submerged Lands Act 1973* of the Commonwealth, adjacent to the coast of Australia (including the coast of any island forming part of a State or Territory) or of a Territory to which the Commonwealth Act applies or extends.

**corresponding law** means an Act of another State or a law in force in a Territory of the Commonwealth giving effect to the agreement between the Governments of the Commonwealth, the States and the Northern Territory referred to in the preamble to this Act.

**document** includes any map, book, record or writing.

**good oilfield practice** means all those things that are generally accepted as good and safe in the carrying on of exploration for petroleum or, in operations for the recovery of petroleum, as the case may be.

**graticular section** means a section referred to in section 17.

**inspector** means a person appointed as an inspector under section 125.

**Joint Authority** means the Commonwealth Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority established by the Commonwealth Act.

**lease** means a retention lease under Division 2A of Part II.

**lease area** means the area constituted by the blocks that are the subject of a lease.

**lessee** means the registered holder of a lease.

**licence** means a production licence for petroleum granted under Part II.

**licence area** means the area constituted by the blocks that are the subject of a licence.

**licensee** means the registered holder of a licence.

**location** means a block or blocks in respect of which a declaration under section 37 is in force.

**native title** and **native title rights and interests** have the meaning given in section 223 of the Native Title Act.

**Native Title Act** means the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth.

**native title holder** has the meaning given in section 224 of the Native Title Act.

**natural resources** has the same meaning as in paragraph 4 of Article 77 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea done at Montego Bay on 10 December 1982.

**offshore place** has the meaning given in section 253 of the Native Title Act.

**partly cancelled** means:

- (a) in relation to a permit or licence – cancelled as to one or more but not all of the blocks the subject of the permit or licence; and
- (b) in relation to a pipeline licence – cancelled as to a part of the pipeline the subject of the licence.

**partly determined**, in relation to a permit or lease, means determined as to one or more but not all of the blocks the subject of the permit or lease.

**permit** means an exploration permit for petroleum granted under Part II.

**permit area** means the area constituted by the blocks that are the subject of a permit.

**permittee** means the registered holder of a permit.

**petroleum** means:

- (a) any naturally occurring hydrocarbon, whether in a gaseous, liquid or solid state;
- (b) any naturally occurring mixture of hydrocarbons, whether in a gaseous, liquid or solid state; or
- (c) any naturally occurring mixture of one or more hydrocarbons, whether in a gaseous, liquid or solid state, and one or more of the following: namely, hydrogen sulphide, nitrogen, helium and carbon dioxide,

and includes any petroleum as defined by paragraph (a), (b) or (c) that has been returned to a natural reservoir in an adjacent area.

**petroleum pool** means a naturally occurring discrete accumulation of petroleum.

**pipeline** means a pipe or system of pipes in an adjacent area for conveying petroleum but does not include a pipe or system of pipes:

- (a) for returning petroleum to a natural reservoir;
- (b) for conveying petroleum for use for the purposes of petroleum exploration operations or operations for the recovery of petroleum;
- (c) for conveying petroleum that is to be flared or vented; or
- (d) for conveying petroleum from a well to a terminal station without passing through another terminal station, whether the terminal station to which the petroleum is conveyed is in the adjacent area or not.

**pipeline licence** means a licence granted under Part II to construct and operate a pipeline.

**pipeline licensee** means the registered holder of a pipeline licence.

**primary entitlement** means:

- (a) in relation to a permittee – the number of blocks forming part of a location in the permit area in respect of which that permittee may make an application under section 40(1); and
- (b) in relation to a lessee – the number of blocks in the lease area in respect of which that lessee may make an application under section 40A(2).

**primary licence** means a licence granted on an application made under section 40(1) or (2).

**pumping station** means equipment for pumping petroleum or water and includes any structure associated with that equipment.

**register** means the register kept in pursuance of Division 5 of Part II.

**registered holder**, in relation to a permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, special prospecting authority or access authority, means the person whose name is for the time being shown in the register as being the holder of the permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, special prospecting authority or access authority.

**registered native title claimant** has the meaning given in section 253 of the Native Title Act.

**registered native title rights and interests** has the meaning given in section 30(3) of the Native Title Act.

**relinquished area** means:

- (a) in relation to a permit, lease or licence that has expired – the area constituted by the blocks in respect of which the permit, lease or licence was in force but has not been renewed;
- (b) in relation to a permit or lease that has been wholly determined or partly determined – the area constituted by the blocks as to which the permit or lease was so determined;
- (c) in relation to a permit or licence that has been wholly cancelled or partly cancelled – the area constituted by the blocks as to which the permit or licence was so cancelled;
- (ca) in relation to a lease that has been wholly cancelled – the area constituted by the blocks in respect of which the lease was in force;
- (d) in relation to a pipeline licence that is no longer in force – the part of the adjacent area in which the pipeline was constructed;
- (e) in relation to a pipeline licence that has been wholly cancelled or partly cancelled – the part of the adjacent area in which the pipeline or the part of the pipeline, as the case may be, was constructed; and
- (f) in relation to a special prospecting authority or access authority that has been surrendered, cancelled or has expired – the area constituted by the blocks in respect of which that authority was in force.

**royalty period**, in relation to a permit, lease or licence, means:

- (a) the period from and including the date from which the permit, lease or licence comes into force to the end of the month of the year during which that date occurs; and
- (b) each month thereafter.

**secondary licence** means a licence granted on an application made under section 40(3).

**secondary line** means a pipe or system of pipes for any purpose referred to in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the definition of **pipeline**.

**special prospecting authority** means a special prospecting authority granted under Part II.

**tank station** means a tank or system of tanks for holding or storing petroleum and includes any structure associated with that tank or system of tanks.

**terminal station** means a pumping station, a tank station or a valve station declared to be a terminal station under section 63 or under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law.

**valve station** means equipment for regulating the flow of petroleum and includes any structure associated with that equipment.

**vessel** means a vessel used in navigation, other than air navigation, and includes a barge, lighter or other floating vessel.

**water line** means a pipe or system of pipes for conveying water in connection with petroleum exploration operations or operations for the recovery of petroleum.

**well** means a hole in the sea-bed or subsoil made by drilling, boring or any other means in connection with exploration for petroleum or operations for the recovery of petroleum but does not include a seismic shot hole.

**wholly cancelled**, in relation to a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence, means cancelled as to all the blocks, or as to the whole of the pipeline, the subject of the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence.

**wholly determined**, in relation to a permit or lease, means determined as to all the blocks the subject of the permit or lease.

- (2) If, at any time, the breadth of the territorial sea of Australia is determined or declared to be greater than 3 nautical miles, the definition of adjacent area in subsection (1) continues to have effect as if the breadth of the territorial sea of Australia had continued to be 3 nautical miles.
- (3) Where an exploration permit for petroleum subsisting under the Commonwealth Act immediately before the commencement of this Act, or a permit granted by way of the first or any subsequent renewal of such a permit, is cancelled or determined, or expires and is not renewed, as to an area described in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the definition of adjacent area, that area ceases to be part of an adjacent area.
- (4) In this Act, a reference to the term of a permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, special prospecting authority or access authority is

a reference to the period during which the permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, special prospecting authority or access authority remains in force and a reference to the date of expiration of a permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, special prospecting authority or access authority is a reference to the day on which the permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, special prospecting authority or access authority ceases to be in force.

- (5) In this Act, a reference to a year of the term of a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence is a reference to a period of one year commencing on the day on which the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence, as the case may be, comes into force or on any anniversary of that day.
- (6) In this Act, a reference to the renewal, or to the grant of a renewal, of a permit is a reference to the grant of a permit in respect of all or some of the blocks specified in the first-mentioned permit to commence on the day after the date of expiration of the first-mentioned permit or on the day after the date of expiration of the permit granted upon a previous renewal of the first-mentioned permit.
- (6A) In this Act, a reference to the renewal, or the grant of a renewal, of a lease is a reference to the grant of a lease in respect of the blocks in respect of which the first-mentioned lease was in force to commence on the day after the date of expiration of the first-mentioned lease or on the day after the date of expiration of the lease granted upon a previous renewal of the first-mentioned lease.
- (7) In this Act, a reference to the renewal, or the grant of a renewal, of a licence in respect of the blocks specified in the licence is a reference to the grant of a licence in respect of those blocks to commence on the day after the date of expiration of the first-mentioned licence or on the day after the date of expiration of the licence granted upon a previous renewal of the first-mentioned licence.
- (8) In this Act, a reference to the renewal, or to the grant of a renewal, of a pipeline licence in respect of a pipeline is a reference to the grant of a pipeline licence in respect of that pipeline to commence on the day after the date of expiration of the first-mentioned pipeline licence or on the day after the date of expiration of the pipeline licence granted upon a previous renewal of the first-mentioned pipeline licence.
- (9) In this Act, a reference to a pipeline includes a reference to a part of a pipeline.

- (10) In this Act, a reference to a permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence or access authority is a reference to the permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence or access authority as varied for the time being under this Act.
- (11) The power conferred by this Act to make, grant or issue any instrument shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as including a power exercisable in the like manner and subject to the like conditions, if any, to repeal, rescind, revoke, amend or vary any such instrument.
- (12) For the purposes of this Act and the Regulations:
- (a) the space above or below the adjacent area shall be deemed to be in that area; and
  - (b) the space above or below an area that is part of the adjacent area shall be deemed to be in that part.

## **5 Construction of Act**

- (1) This Act shall be read and construed as intended to operate, and as operating, to the full extent of the legislative powers of the Territory (any presumption to the contrary notwithstanding) but subject to, and so as not to exceed, the limits of those powers to the intent that where any provision of this Act would, but for this subsection, be construed as being in excess of those powers, it shall nevertheless be a valid enactment to the extent to which it is not in excess of those powers.
- (2) No other provision of this Act shall be read or construed so as to limit, or as limiting, the operation of subsection (1).

## **6 Application of Act**

This Act applies to all natural persons, whether Australian citizens or not and whether resident in the Territory or not, and to all corporations, whether incorporated or carrying on business in the Territory or not.

## **7 Petroleum pool extending into 2 licence areas**

- (1) The provisions of this section have effect for the purposes of this Act and of licences (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act).
- (2) Where a well-head is situated in a licence area and the well from that well-head is inclined so as to enter a petroleum pool, being a pool that does not extend to that licence area, at a place within an adjoining licence area of the same licensee, any petroleum



recovered through that well shall be deemed to have been recovered in that adjoining licence area under the licence in respect of that area.

- (3) Where a petroleum pool is partly in one licence area and partly in an adjoining licence area of the same licensee and petroleum is recovered from that pool through a well or wells in one or both of the licence areas, there shall be deemed to have been recovered in each of the licence areas, under the licence in respect of that area, such proportion of all petroleum so recovered as may reasonably be treated as being derived from that area, having regard to the nature and probable extent of the pool, and the respective proportions shall be determined in accordance with subsection (4).
- (4) The proportions to be determined for the purposes of subsection (3) may be determined by agreement between the licensee and the Minister or, in the absence of agreement, may be determined by the Supreme Court on the application of the licensee or the Minister.
- (5) Where a petroleum pool is partly in a licence area and partly in an area (in this subsection referred to as **the Commonwealth licence area**) in which the licensee has authority under the Commonwealth Act to explore for, or recover, petroleum, and petroleum is recovered from that pool through a well or wells in the licence area, the Commonwealth licence area or both, there shall be deemed to have been recovered in the licence area such proportion of all petroleum so recovered as may reasonably be treated as being derived from that area, having regard to the nature and probable extent of the pool, and that proportion shall be determined in accordance with subsection (6).
- (6) The proportion to be determined for the purposes of subsection (5) may be determined by agreement between the licensee, the Joint Authority and the Minister or, in the absence of agreement, may be determined by the Supreme Court on the application of the licensee, the Joint Authority or the Minister.
- (7) Where a petroleum pool is partly in a licence area and partly in an area (in this section called **the other State licence area**) in which the licensee has authority, under a corresponding law, to explore for or recover, petroleum, and petroleum is recovered from that pool through a well or wells in the licence area, the other State licence area or both, there shall be deemed to have been recovered in the licence area such proportion of all petroleum so recovered as may reasonably be treated as being derived from that area, having regard to the nature and probable extent of the pool, and that proportion shall be determined in accordance with subsection (8).

(8) The proportion to be determined for the purposes of subsection (7) may be determined by agreement between the licensee, the Minister and the Minister of the other State administering the corresponding law or, in the absence of agreement, may be determined by the Supreme Court on the application of any of those persons.

(9) Where:

- (a) a petroleum pool is partly in a licence area and partly in another area, being an area which is outside the adjacent area and in which the licensee has, under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law, authority to explore for, or recover, petroleum;
- (b) petroleum is recovered from that pool; and
- (c) the Supreme Court of another State has made a determination, under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law, of the proportion of the petroleum recovered from that pool that is, for the purposes of the Commonwealth Act or the corresponding law, to be deemed to have been recovered from the other area,

the Supreme Court shall not make a determination under this section that is inconsistent with the determination of the Supreme Court of the other State.

(10) Where:

- (a) a petroleum pool is partly in a licence area and partly in another area, whether in the adjacent area or not, in respect of which another person has authority, whether under this Act, the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law, to explore for or recover petroleum;
- (b) a unit development agreement in accordance with section 59 is in force between the licensee and that other person; and
- (c) petroleum is recovered from that pool through a well or wells in the licence area, the other area or both,

there shall be deemed to have been recovered in the licence area such proportion of all petroleum so recovered as is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the agreement.

(11) In this section, a reference to a licence, a licensee or a licence area shall be read as including a reference to a permit and a lease, a permittee and a lessee or a permit area and a lease area.

**8 Points, &c., to be ascertained by reference to Australian geodetic datum**

Where, for the purposes of this Act or the Regulations, or for the purposes of an instrument under this Act or the Regulations, it is necessary to determine the position on the surface of the Earth of a point, line or area, that position shall be determined by reference to a spheroid having its centre at the centre of the Earth and a major (Equatorial) radius of 6,378,160 metres and a flattening of  $\frac{100}{29825}$

and by reference to the position of the Johnston Geodetic Station in the Territory.

**9 Position of Johnston Geodetic Station**

The station referred to in section 8 shall be taken to be situated at 133° 12' 30.0771" of east longitude and at 25° 56' 54.5515" of south latitude and to have a ground level of 571.2 metres above the spheroid referred to in that section.

**Division 2 Administration of Commonwealth adjacent area**

**10 Definition**

In this Division, *Commonwealth adjacent area* means the adjacent area in respect of the Territory determined in accordance with section 5A of the Commonwealth Act.

**11 Minister as member of Joint Authority**

The Minister may exercise any power which the Commonwealth Act is expressed to authorize him to exercise as a member of the Joint Authority.

**12 Minister to perform function as member of Joint Authority**

The Minister shall perform any function which the Commonwealth Act is expressed to require him to perform as a member of the Joint Authority.

**13 Minister as Designated Authority**

The Minister is authorized to perform the functions and exercise the powers which the Commonwealth Act is expressed to require or empower the Designated Authority in respect of the Commonwealth adjacent area to perform or exercise.

**14 Delegations under Commonwealth Act**

Where, in the exercise of a power which the Commonwealth Act is expressed to confer upon the Designated Authority in respect of the Commonwealth adjacent area, the Minister delegates a power to a person who is an employee of the Public Service or who holds any office in the service of the Territory, the person may exercise the power so delegated in an instrument of delegation

**15 Public servants performing functions under Commonwealth Act**

An employee of the Public Service shall perform any function which the Minister, as the Designated Authority in respect of the Commonwealth adjacent area, or as a member of the Joint Authority, requires him to perform in relation to the Commonwealth Act.

**Division 3 Acts affecting Native Title**

**15A Application**

This Division applies in relation to acts done under this Act that are future acts to which Subdivision N of Division 3 of Part 2 of the Native Title Act applies.

**15B Procedural rights**

Where an act to which this Division applies affects native title rights and interests:

- (a) the native title holders; and
- (b) the registered native title claimants (if any) in relation to land or waters in the area concerned,

have the same procedural rights as they would have in relation to the act on the assumption that they instead held any corresponding rights and interests in relation to the offshore place that are not native title rights and interests.

**15C Compensation**

Compensation for the effect on native title of an act to which this Division applies:

- (a) is payable by the holder of the permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, consent under section 60 or 123, special prospecting authority or access authority to which the act relates (in this section called *the petroleum interest*);

- (b) includes compensation for the effect on native title of activities done under the petroleum interest as a result of the act; and
- (c) is to be determined in accordance with Division 5 of Part 2 of the Native Title Act.

## **Part II Mining for petroleum**

### **Division 1 Preliminary**

#### **16 Delegation**

- (1) The Minister may, either generally or as otherwise provided by an instrument of delegation, by writing signed by him, delegate to a person any of his powers or functions under this Act or the Regulations other than this power of delegation.
- (2) A power or function delegated under subsection (1), when exercised by the delegate shall, for the purposes of this Act or the Regulations, be deemed to have been exercised by the Minister.
- (3) A delegation under this section may be expressed as a delegation to the person for the time being holding, or performing the duties of, a specified office under the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory.
- (4) A delegation under this section made at any time by a person who is, at that time, the Minister continues in force notwithstanding that at some subsequent time a different person is the Minister or there is no person who is the Minister, but such a delegation may be revoked or varied by any person who is, for the time being, the Minister.
- (5) A delegation of a power or function under this section does not prevent the exercise of the power or function by the Minister.
- (6) A copy of each instrument making, varying or revoking a delegation shall be published in the *Gazette*.

#### **17 Graticulation of Earth's surface**

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, the surface of the Earth shall be deemed to be divided:
  - (a) by the meridian of Greenwich and by meridians that are at a distance from that meridian of 5 minutes, or a multiple of 5 minutes, of longitude; and

- (b) by the Equator and by parallels of latitude that are at a distance from the Equator of 5 minutes, or a multiple of 5 minutes, of latitude,

into sections, each of which is bounded:

- (c) by portions of 2 of those meridians that are at a distance from each other of 5 minutes of longitude; and
- (d) by portions of 2 of those parallels of latitude that are at a distance from each other of 5 minutes of latitude.

(2) For the purposes of this Act:

- (a) a graticular section that is wholly within an adjacent area constitutes a block; and
- (b) if a part only of a graticular section is, or parts only of a graticular section are, within an adjacent area, the area of that part, or of those parts, constitutes a block.

(3) In this Act:

- (a) a reference to a block that is constituted by a graticular section includes a reference to a block that is constituted by the area of a part only, or by the areas of parts only, of a graticular section; and
- (b) a reference to a graticular section that constitutes a block includes a reference to a graticular section part only of which constitutes, or parts only of which constitute, the block.

## **18 Reservation of blocks**

- (1) The Minister may, by instrument published in the *Gazette*, declare that a block specified in the instrument (not being a block in respect of which a permit, lease or licence is in force or over or in which there is a pipeline) shall not be the subject of a permit, lease, licence, special prospecting authority or access authority and that a pipeline licence shall not be granted in respect of a pipeline over or in that block.
- (2) While a declaration under subsection (1) remains in force in respect of a block, a permit, lease, licence, special prospecting authority or access authority shall not be granted in respect of that block and a pipeline licence shall not be granted in respect of a pipeline over or in that block.

**18A Environmental consideration relating to certain parks and reserves**

(1) In this section:

**land**, **sea-bed** and **subsoil** have the same meaning as in the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

**park or reserve** means a park or reserve within the meaning of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* or land declared under section 9(4) of that Act to be a park or reserve for the purposes of this section.

(2) In respect of land comprising the whole or a part of a park or reserve, the Minister shall not grant:

(a) subject to subsection (3), an access authority, special prospecting authority, permit or lease, unless the Minister has considered the opinions of the minister administering the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* in relation to the proposed grant; or

(b) a licence, except in accordance with the conditions, if any, specified by the minister administering the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

(3) The holder of an access authority or special prospecting authority or a permittee or lessee shall not carry out exploration, or any other activity, which may cause substantial disturbance to the land, sea-bed or subsoil comprising the whole or a part of a park or reserve unless he has advised the Minister, in writing, of his intention to carry out the exploration or activity and he carries it out in accordance with such directions, if any, as the Minister thinks fit, or which are required under subsection (4) to be given, to protect the environment in or in the vicinity of the park or reserve.

(4) The minister administering the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* may require the Minister to give as directions under subsection (3) such directions in relation to the protection of the environment in the park or reserve as the minister thinks fit, and the Minister shall give those directions accordingly.

**Division 2 Exploration permits for petroleum**

**19 Exploration for petroleum**

(1) A person shall not explore for petroleum in an adjacent area except:

(a) under and in accordance with a permit; or

(b) as otherwise permitted by this Part.

Penalty: \$50,000 or imprisonment for 5 years.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a person who does anything preparatory to, or knowingly connected with, exploration for petroleum is taken to explore for petroleum.

## **20 Advertisement of blocks**

(1) The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*:

(a) invite applications for the grant of a permit in respect of the block or blocks specified in the instrument; and

(b) specify a period within which applications may be made.

(2) The Minister may, in a notice published under subsection (1), direct that section 21(2) or (3) does not apply, or that both of those subsections do not apply, to or in relation to the applications.

## **21 Application for permits**

(1) An application made under section 20:

(a) shall be in accordance with the approved form;

(b) shall be made in the approved manner;

(c) shall be in respect of not more than 400 blocks;

(d) shall be accompanied by particulars of:

(i) the proposals of the applicant for work and expenditure in respect of the blocks specified in the application;

(ii) the technical qualifications of the applicant and of his employees;

(iii) the technical advice available to the applicant; and

(iv) the financial resources available to the applicant;

(e) may set out other matters that the applicant wishes the Minister to consider; and

(f) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.



- (2) The number of blocks specified in an application:
  - (a) if 16 blocks or more are available – shall be not less than 16; or
  - (b) if less than 16 blocks are available – shall be the number available.
- (3) The blocks specified in an application shall be blocks that are constituted by graticular sections that:
  - (a) constitute a single area; and
  - (b) are such that each graticular section in that area has a side in common with at least one other graticular section in that area.
- (4) The Minister may, at any time, by notice in writing served on an applicant, require him to furnish, within the time specified in the notice, further information in writing in connection with his application.

## **22 Grant or refusal of permit**

- (1) Where an application has been made under section 20, the Minister may:
  - (a) by notice in writing served on the applicant, inform the applicant that he is prepared to grant to the applicant a permit in respect of the block or blocks specified in the notice; or
  - (b) refuse to grant a permit.
- (2) A notice under subsection (1) shall contain:
  - (a) a summary of the conditions subject to which the permit is to be granted; and
  - (b) a statement to the effect that the application will lapse if the applicant does not make a request under subsection (3) in respect of the grant of the permit.
- (3) An applicant who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) may, within a period of one month after the date of service of the notice on him, or within such further period, not exceeding one month, as the Minister, on application in writing served on him before the expiration of the first-mentioned period of one month, allows, by notice in writing served on the Minister, request the Minister to grant to him the permit referred to in the first-mentioned notice.

- (4) Where an applicant who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) has made a request under subsection (3) within the period applicable under subsection (3), the Minister shall grant to him a permit in respect of the block or blocks specified in the notice.
- (5) Where an applicant who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) has not made a request under subsection (3) within the period applicable under subsection (3), the application lapses upon the expiration of that period.

**23 Application for permit in respect of surrendered blocks, &c.**

- (1) Where:
  - (a) a lease is surrendered, cancelled or determined as to a block or blocks;
  - (aa) a licence is surrendered or cancelled as to a block or blocks;  
or
  - (b) a permit is surrendered, cancelled or determined as to a block or blocks and, at the time of the surrender, cancellation or determination, the block was, or the blocks were, included in, a location,

the Minister may, at any subsequent time by notice in the *Gazette*, invite applications for the grant of a permit in respect of that block or such of those blocks as is or are specified in the notice and specify a period within which applications may be made.

- (4) An application under this section:
  - (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) shall be made in an approved manner;
  - (c) shall be accompanied by the particulars referred to in section 21(1)(d);
  - (d) shall specify an amount that the applicant is prepared to pay to the Minister, in addition to the fee referred to in section 24(1)(a), in respect of the grant of a permit to him on the application; and
  - (e) may set out any other matters that the applicant wishes the Minister to consider.

- (5) The Minister may, at any time, by notice in writing served on an applicant, require him to furnish, within the time specified in the notice, further information in writing in connection with his application.

#### **24 Application fee, &c.**

- (1) An application made under section 23 shall be accompanied by:
- (a) the prescribed fee; and
  - (b) a deposit of 10% of the amount specified in the application under section 23(4)(d).
- (2) Where a permit is not granted on the application, the amount of the deposit shall, subject to subsection (3), be refunded to the applicant.
- (3) Where an applicant who has been served with a notice under section 25 does not request the Minister in accordance with section 26 to grant to him the permit referred to in the notice, the deposit shall not, unless the Minister otherwise determines, be refunded to the applicant.

#### **25 Consideration of applications**

- (1) Where, at the expiration of the period specified in a notice under section 23(1), only one application has been made under that subsection in respect of the block or blocks specified in the notice, the Minister may reject or grant the application.
- (2) Where, at the expiration of the period specified in a notice under section 23(1), 2 or more applications have been made under that subsection in respect of the block or blocks specified in the notice, the Minister may reject any or all of the applications and, if he does not reject all of the applications, may:
- (a) if only one application remains unrejected – by notice in writing served on the applicant; or
  - (b) if 2 or more applications remain unrejected – by notice in writing served on the applicant, or on one of the applicants, whose application has not been rejected and who has specified as the amount that he is prepared to pay in respect of the grant of a permit to him an amount that is not less than the amount specified by any other applicant whose application has not been rejected,

inform him that he is prepared to grant to him a permit in respect of that block or those blocks.

- (3) Where an application is made under section 23(2), the Minister may reject or grant the application.
- (5) A notice under this section shall contain:
  - (a) a summary of the conditions subject to which the permit is to be granted; and
  - (b) a statement to the effect that the application will lapse if the applicant does not:
    - (i) make a request under section 26(1); and
    - (ii) pay the balance of the amount to be paid in respect of the grant of the permit to the applicant or enter into an agreement under section 109 in respect of that balance.

**26 Request by applicant for grant of permit in respect of advertised blocks**

- (1) An applicant who has been served with a notice under section 25 may, within a period of 3 months after the date of service of the notice on him, or within such further period, not exceeding 3 months, as the Minister, on application in writing served on him before the expiration of the first-mentioned period of 3 months, allows:
  - (a) by notice in writing served on the Minister, request the Minister to grant to him the permit referred to in the first-mentioned notice; and
  - (b) pay the balance of the amount to be paid in respect of the grant of the permit to him or enter into an agreement under section 109 in respect of that balance.
- (2) Where an applicant who has been served with a notice under section 25:
  - (a) has not made a request under subsection (1); and
  - (b) has not paid the balance of the amount to be paid in respect of the grant of the permit to him or entered into an agreement under section 109 in respect of that balance,within the period applicable under subsection (1), the application lapses upon the expiration of that period.

- (3) Where the application lapses, as provided by subsection (1), of an applicant who has been served with a notice under section 25(2), subsection (2) applies in respect of the application or applications, if any, then remaining unrejected.

## **27 Grant of permit on request**

Where a person who has been served with a notice under section 25:

- (a) has made a request under section 26(1); and
- (b) has paid the balance of the amount to be paid in respect of the grant of a permit to him or has entered into an agreement under section 109 in respect of that balance,

within the period applicable under section 25(1), the Minister shall grant to that person a permit in respect of the block or blocks specified in the notice.

## **28 Rights conferred by permit**

A permit, while it remains in force, authorizes the permittee, subject to this Act and the Regulations and in accordance with the conditions to which the permit is subject, to explore for petroleum, and to carry on such operations and execute such works as are necessary for that purpose, in the permit area.

## **29 Term of permit**

Subject to this Part, a permit remains in force:

- (a) in the case of a permit granted otherwise than by way of the renewal of a permit – for a period of 6 years commencing on the day on which the permit is granted or, if a later day is specified in the permit as being the day on which the permit is to come into force, on that later day; and
- (b) in the case of a permit granted by way of the renewal of a permit – for a period of 5 years commencing on the day on which the permit is granted or, if a later day is specified in the permit as being the day on which the permit is to come into force, on that later day.

## **30 Application for renewal of permit**

- (1) Subject to section 31, a permittee may, from time to time, make an application to the Minister for the renewal of the permit in respect of such of the blocks the subject of the permit as are specified in the application.

- (2) An application for the renewal of a permit:
  - (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) subject to subsection (3), shall be made in an approved manner not less than 3 months before the date of expiration of the permit; and
  - (c) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Minister may receive an application for the renewal of a permit less than 3 months before, but not in any case after, the date of expiration of the permit.

**31 Application for renewal of permit to be in respect of reduced area**

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), the number of blocks in respect of which an application for the renewal of a permit may be made shall not exceed the number calculated as follows:
  - (a) where the number of blocks in respect of which the permit is in force is a number that is divisible by 2 without remainder – one-half of that number; or
  - (b) where the number of blocks in respect of which the permit is in force is a number that is one less or one more than a number that is divisible by 4 without remainder – one-half of that last-mentioned number.
- (2) A block that is, or is included in, a location and in respect of which a permit is in force shall not be regarded as a block in respect of which the permit is in force for the purpose of making a calculation under subsection (1).
- (3) An application for the renewal of a permit may include, in addition to the blocks referred to in subsection (1), a block that is, or is included in, a location and in respect of which the permit is in force, or 2 or more such blocks.
- (4) The blocks specified in an application for the renewal of a permit shall be blocks that are constituted by or are within graticular sections that:
  - (a) constitute a single area or a number of discrete areas; and
  - (b) are such that each graticular section in the area, or in each area, has a side in common with at least one other graticular section in that area.

- (5) Where the number of blocks in respect of which an application for the renewal of a permit may be made is 16 or more, each area constituted by blocks in respect of which the application is made shall be constituted by not less than 16 blocks.
- (6) Where the maximum number of blocks in respect of which an application for the renewal of a permit may be made in accordance with the preceding provisions of this section is less than 16, the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the permittee:
  - (a) inform the permittee that the number of blocks in respect of which the application may be made is such number, not exceeding 16, as is specified in the notice; and
  - (b) give such directions as he thinks fit concerning the blocks in respect of which the application may be made.
- (7) The Minister may:
  - (a) direct that subsections (4) and (5) do not apply to or in relation to a proposed application for the renewal of a permit; and
  - (b) give such directions concerning the blocks in respect of which that application may be made.

### **32 Grant or refusal of renewal of permit**

- (1) Where an application has been made under section 30 for the renewal of a permit, the Minister:
  - (a) shall, if the conditions to which the permit is, or has from time to time been, subject and the provisions of this Part and the Regulations have been complied with; or
  - (b) may, if:
    - (i) any of the conditions to which the permit is, or has from time to time been, subject or any of the provisions of this Part and the Regulations have not been complied with; and
    - (ii) the Minister is, nevertheless, satisfied that special circumstances exist that justify the granting of the renewal of the permit,

by notice in writing served on the person who is then the permittee, inform the person that he is prepared to grant to the person the renewal of the permit.

- (2) If any of the conditions to which the permit is, or has from time to time been, subject or any of the provisions of this Part or the Regulations have not been complied with and if the Minister is not satisfied that special circumstances exist that justify the granting of the renewal of the permit, the Minister shall, subject to subsection (3), by notice in writing served on the person who is then the permittee, refuse to grant the renewal of the permit.
- (3) The Minister shall not refuse to grant the renewal of a permit unless:
- (a) he has, by notice in writing served on the permittee, given not less than one month's notice of his intention to refuse to grant the renewal of the permit;
  - (b) he has served a copy of the notice on such other persons, if any, as he thinks fit;
  - (c) he has, in the notice:
    - (i) given particulars of the reasons for the intention; and
    - (ii) specified a date on or before which the permittee or a person on whom a copy of the notice is served may, by notice in writing served on the Minister, submit any matters that he wishes the Minister to consider; and
  - (d) he has taken into account any matters so submitted to him on or before the specified date by the permittee or by a person on whom a copy of the first-mentioned notice has been served.
- (4) A notice referred to in subsection (1) shall contain:
- (a) a summary of the conditions to which the permit, on the grant of the renewal, is to be subject; and
  - (b) a statement to the effect that the application will lapse if the permittee does not make a request under subsection (5).
- (5) A permittee who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) may, within a period of one month after the date of service of the notice on him, by notice in writing served on the Minister, request the Minister to grant to the permittee the renewal of the permit.
- (6) Where a permittee who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) has made a request under subsection (5) within the period referred to in subsection (5), the Minister shall grant to him the renewal of the permit.



- (7) Where a permittee who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) has not made a request under subsection (5) within the period referred to in subsection (5), the application lapses upon the expiration of that date.
- (8) Where:
- (a) an application for the renewal of a permit has been made; and
  - (b) the permit expires:
    - (i) before the Minister grants, or refuses to grant, the renewal of the permit; or
    - (ii) before the application lapses as provided by subsection (7),

the permit shall be deemed to continue in force in all respects:

- (c) until the Minister grants, or refuses to grant, the renewal of the permit; or
  - (d) until the application so lapses,
- whichever first occurs.

### **33 Conditions of permit**

- (1) A permit may be granted subject to such conditions as the Minister thinks fit and specifies in the permit.
- (2) The conditions referred to in subsection (1) may include conditions with respect to:
- (a) work to be carried out by the permittee in or in relation to the permit area during the term of the permit; and
  - (b) amounts to be expended by the permittee in carrying out such work,

and the conditions may require the permittee to comply with directions given in accordance with the permit concerning the matters referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b).

- (3) A permit shall be deemed to contain a condition that the permittee will comply with the provisions of this Act relating to the payment of royalty as in force from time to time.

### **34 Discovery of petroleum to be notified**

- (1) Where petroleum is discovered in a permit area, the permittee:
  - (a) shall forthwith inform the Minister of the discovery; and
  - (b) shall, within a period of 3 days after the date of the discovery, furnish to the Minister particulars in writing of the discovery.
- (2) Where petroleum is discovered in a permit area, the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in writing served on the permittee, direct the permittee to furnish to him, within the period specified in the notice, particulars in writing of any one or more of the following:
  - (a) the chemical composition and physical properties of the petroleum;
  - (b) the nature of the subsoil in which the petroleum occurs; and
  - (c) any other matters relating to the discovery that are specified by the Minister in the notice.
- (3) A person on whom a notice is served under subsection (2) shall comply with the notice.

Penalty: \$10,000.

### **35 Directions by designated authority on discovery of petroleum**

- (1) Where petroleum is discovered in a permit area, the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the permittee, direct the permittee to do, within the period specified in the notice, such things as the Minister thinks necessary and specifies in the notice to determine the chemical composition and physical properties of that petroleum and to determine the quantity of petroleum in the petroleum pool to which the discovery relates or, if part only of that petroleum pool is within the permit area, in such part of that petroleum pool as is within the permit area.
- (2) A person on whom a notice is served under subsection (1) shall comply with the notice.

Penalty: \$10,000.

### **36 Nomination of blocks as location**

- (1) Where a petroleum pool is identified in a permit area, the permittee may nominate the block in which the pool is situated, or the blocks (being blocks within the permit area) to which the pool extends, for declaration as a location.

- (2) Where 2 or more petroleum pools are identified in a permit area, the permittee may, instead of making a nomination under subsection (1) in relation to each pool, nominate all of the blocks to which the pools extend, or to which any 2 or more of the pools extend, for declaration as a single location.
- (3) A nomination may not be made under subsection (2) unless, in the case of each of the pools to which the nomination relates, at least one of the blocks to which the pool extends immediately adjoins a block to which the other, or another, of those pools extends.
- (4) A nomination by a permittee shall be in writing and served on the Minister.
- (5) A nomination may not be made by a permittee unless the permittee or another person has, whether within or outside the permit area, recovered petroleum from the petroleum pool to which the nomination relates or, if the nomination relates to more than one pool, from each of those pools.
- (6) Where:
  - (a) the Minister is of the opinion that a permittee is entitled to nominate a block or blocks under subsection (1) or (2); and
  - (b) the permittee has not done so,the Minister may require the permittee to exercise the permittee's right to nominate the block or blocks within 3 months after the date of the making of the requirement.
- (7) A requirement by the Minister under subsection (6) shall be by written notice served on the permittee.
- (8) On written request by a permittee within the period fixed by subsection (6), the Minister may extend the time for compliance with a requirement under that subsection by not more than 3 months.
- (9) If a permittee fails to comply with a requirement under subsection (6), the Minister may, by written notice served on the permittee, nominate the block or blocks for declaration as a location.

### **37 Declaration of location**

- (1) Where:
  - (a) a permittee has made a nomination under section 36; and

- (b) the Minister is of the opinion that the permittee is entitled under that section to nominate the block or blocks specified in the nomination,

the Minister shall, by notice in the *Gazette*, declare the block or blocks to which the nomination relates to be a location.

- (2) Where the Minister has made a nomination under subsection 36(9), the Minister shall, by notice in the *Gazette*, declare the block or blocks to which the nomination relates to be a location.
- (3) The Minister may, at the request of the permittee, revoke a declaration.
- (4) The Minister may vary a declaration:
- (a) by adding to the location a block in the permit area to which, in the opinion of the Minister, a petroleum pool within the location extends; or
- (b) deleting from the location a block to which, in the opinion of the Minister, no petroleum pool within the location extends.
- (5) The Minister may not vary a declaration unless:
- (a) the Minister has caused to be served on the permittee notice in writing of the proposed variation, identifying the block to be added to, or deleted from, the location;
- (b) the period of 30 days after the date of service of the notice has expired; and
- (c) the Minister has considered any matters submitted to the Minister by the permittee in relation to the proposed variation.
- (6) Subsection (5) does not apply where a variation is made at the request of the permittee.

### **38 Immediately adjoining blocks**

For the purposes of section 36, a block immediately adjoins another block if the graticular section that constitutes or includes that block and the graticular section that constitutes or includes that other block:

- (a) have a side in common; or
- (b) are joined together at one point only.

## **Division 2A Retention leases for petroleum**

### **38A Application by permittee for lease**

- (1) A permittee whose permit is in force in respect of a block that constitutes, or the blocks that constitute, a location may, within the application period, make an application to the Minister for the grant of a lease in respect of that block, or in respect of one or more of those blocks, as the case may be.
- (2) An application under subsection (1):
  - (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) shall be made in an approved manner;
  - (c) shall be accompanied by particulars of:
    - (i) the proposals of the applicant for work and expenditure in respect of the area comprised in the blocks specified in the application; and
    - (ii) the commercial viability of the recovery of petroleum from the area comprised in the blocks specified in the application at the time of the application, and particulars of the possible future commercial viability of the recovery of petroleum from that area;
  - (d) may set out any other matters that the applicant wishes to be considered; and
  - (e) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Minister may, at any time, by instrument in writing served on the applicant, require the applicant to furnish, within the time specified in the instrument, further information in writing in connection with the application.
- (4) The application period in respect of an application under this section by a permittee is:
  - (a) the period of 2 years after the date on which the block that constitutes the location concerned was, or the blocks that constitute the location concerned were, declared to be a location; or
  - (b) such other period, being not less than 2 years or more than 4 years after that date, as the Minister, on application in writing by the permittee, served on the Minister before the end of the first-mentioned period of 2 years, allows.

**38B Grant or refusal of lease in relation to application**

- (1) Where:
- (a) an application has been made under section 38A;
  - (b) the applicant has furnished any further information as and when required by the Minister under section 38A(3); and
  - (c) the Minister is satisfied that recovery of petroleum from the area comprised in the blocks specified in the application:
    - (i) is not, at the time of the application, commercially viable; and
    - (ii) is likely to become commercially viable within 15 years after that time,

the Minister shall, by instrument in writing served on the applicant, inform him:

- (d) that he is prepared to grant to him a lease in respect of the block or blocks specified in the application.
- (2) Where an application has been made under section 38A and:
- (a) the applicant has not furnished any further information as and when required by the Minister under section 38A(3); or
  - (b) the Minister is not satisfied as to the matters referred to in subsection (1)(c) in relation to the blocks specified in the application,

the Minister shall, by instrument in writing served on the applicant, refuse to grant a lease to him.

- (3) An instrument under subsection (1) shall contain:
- (a) a summary of the conditions subject to which the lease is to be granted; and
  - (b) a statement to the effect that the application will lapse if the applicant does not make a request under subsection (4) in respect of the grant of the lease.
- (4) An applicant on whom there has been served an instrument under subsection (1) may, within a period of one month after the date of service of the instrument, or within such further period, not exceeding one month, as the Minister, on application in writing served on him before the end of the first-mentioned period of

one month, allows, by instrument in writing served on the Minister request the Minister to grant the lease to the applicant.

- (5) Where an applicant on whom there has been served an instrument under subsection (1) has made a request under subsection (4) within the period applicable under subsection (4), the Minister shall grant to him a retention lease in respect of the block or blocks specified in the instrument.
- (6) Where an applicant on whom there has been served an instrument under subsection (1) has not made a request under subsection (4) within the period applicable under subsection (4), the application lapses upon the expiration of that period.
- (7) On the day on which a lease granted under this section in respect of a block or blocks comes into force, the permit in respect of the block or blocks ceases to be in force in respect of those blocks.

#### **38BA Application of sections 38A and 38B where permit transferred**

Where:

- (a) after an application has been made under section 38A(1) in relation to a block or blocks in respect of which a permit is in force; and
- (b) before a decision has been made by the Minister under section 38B(1) or (2) in relation to the application,

a transfer of the permit is registered under section 78, sections 38A and 38B have effect, after the time of the transfer, as if a reference in those sections to the applicant were a reference to the transferee.

#### **38C Rights conferred by lease**

A lease, while it remains in force, authorizes the lessee, subject to this Act and the Regulations and in accordance with the conditions to which the lease is subject, to explore for petroleum, and to carry on such operations and execute such works as are necessary for that purpose, in the lease area.

#### **38D Term of lease**

Subject to this Part, a lease (whether granted by way of renewal of a lease or otherwise) remains in force for a period of 5 years commencing on the day on which it was granted or, if a later day is specified in the lease as being the day on which the lease is to come into force, on that later day.

### **38E Notice of intention to cancel lease**

(1) Where:

- (a) a lessee has been given a notice of the kind referred to in section 38H(3)(b) during the term of the lease and has carried out, and has informed the Minister of the results of, the re-evaluation required by the notice;
- (b) the lessee has not made an application for the renewal of the lease; and
- (c) after consideration of the results of the re-evaluation referred to in paragraph (a) and such other matters as the Minister thinks fit, the Minister is of the opinion that recovery of petroleum from the lease area is commercially viable,

the Minister may serve on the lessee and on such other persons as he thinks appropriate an instrument in writing:

- (d) informing the lessee or the other person that the Minister has formed that opinion and that he intends to cancel the lease; and
- (e) stating that the lessee or the other person may serve an instrument in writing on the Minister within the period specified in the first-mentioned instrument, not being a period ending earlier than one month after the date of service of the first-mentioned instrument, setting out any matters that the lessee or the other person, as the case may be, wishes to be considered.

(2) Where:

- (a) an instrument under subsection (1) is served on a lessee; and
- (b) he does not, within the period referred to in subsection (1)(e), serve on the Minister an instrument setting out matters that he wishes to be considered, or the Minister after consideration of matters set out in such an instrument served on the Minister by the lessee within that period, determines that the lease should be cancelled,

the Minister shall, by instrument in writing served on the lessee, cancel the lease.



- (3) The cancellation of a lease under subsection (2) has effect:
- (a) in a case to which paragraph (b) does not apply – at the end of the period of 12 months commencing on the date of service of the instrument of cancellation; or
  - (b) in a case where the lessee makes an application for a licence in respect of one or more of the blocks comprised in the lease within the period referred to in paragraph (a) – when the Minister grants, or refuses to grant, the licence or when the application lapses, whichever first occurs.
- (4) Where a lease is cancelled under subsection (2), the lease shall be deemed to continue in force in all respects until the cancellation has effect in accordance with subsection (3).

**38F Application for renewal of lease**

- (1) A lessee may, from time to time, make an application to the Minister for the renewal of a lease.
- (2) An application for the renewal of a lease:
- (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) subject to subsection (3), shall be made in an approved manner not less than 6 months or more than 12 months before the day on which the lease ceases to be in force;
  - (c) shall be accompanied by particulars of:
    - (i) the proposals of the applicant for work and expenditure in respect of the lease area; and
    - (ii) particulars of the commercial viability of recovery of petroleum from the lease at the time of the application and particulars of the possible future commercial viability of recovery of petroleum from the lease area; and
  - (d) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Minister may, for reasons that he thinks sufficient, receive an application for the renewal of a lease less than 6 months before, but not in any case after, the day on which the lease ceases to be in force.

- (4) Where an application has been made for the renewal of a lease, the Minister may, at any time, by instrument in writing served on the lessee, require the lessee to furnish, within the time specified in the instrument, further information in writing in connection with the application.

**38G Grant or refusal of renewal of lease**

- (1) Where:
- (a) an application for the renewal of a lease has been made under section 38F;
  - (b) any further information required by the Minister under section 38F(4) has been furnished in accordance with that section; and
  - (c) the Minister is satisfied that recovery of petroleum from the lease area:
    - (i) is not, at the time of the application, commercially viable; and
    - (ii) is likely to become commercially viable within 15 years after that time,

the Minister:

- (d) shall, if the conditions to which the lease is, or has from time to time been, subject and the provisions of this Part and the Regulations have been complied with; or
- (e) may, if:
  - (i) any of the conditions to which the lease is, or has from time to time been, subject or any of the provisions of this Part and the Regulations have not been complied with; and
  - (ii) the Minister is, nevertheless, satisfied that special circumstances exist that justify the granting of the renewal of the lease,

by instrument in writing served on the person who is then the lessee, inform the person that he is prepared to grant to the person the renewal of the lease.

- (2) Subject to subsection (3), where an application for the renewal of a lease has been made under section 38F and:
- (a) any further information required by the Minister under section 38F(4) has not been furnished in accordance with that section;
  - (b) the Minister is not satisfied as to the matters referred to in subsection (1)(c); or
  - (c) any of the conditions to which the lease is, or has from time to time been, subject or any of the provisions of this Part or the Regulations have not been complied with and the Minister is not satisfied that special circumstances exist that justify the granting of the renewal of the lease,

the Minister shall, by instrument in writing served on the person who is then the lessee, refuse to grant the renewal of the lease.

- (3) The Minister shall not refuse to grant the renewal of a lease unless:
- (a) he has, by instrument in writing served on the lessee, given not less than one month's notice of his intention to refuse to grant the renewal of the lease;
  - (b) he has served a copy of the instrument on such other persons, if any, as he thinks fit;
  - (c) he has, in the instrument:
    - (i) given particulars of the reasons for the intention; and
    - (ii) specified a date on or before which the lessee or a person on whom a copy of the instrument is served may, by instrument in writing served on the Minister, submit any matters that the lessee wishes to be considered; and
  - (d) he has taken into account any matters so submitted on or before the specified date by the lessee or by a person on whom a copy of the first-mentioned instrument has been served.
- (4) An instrument referred to in subsection (1) shall contain:
- (a) a summary of the conditions to which the lease, on the grant of the renewal, is to be subject; and
  - (b) a statement to the effect that the application will lapse if the lessee does not make a request under subsection (6).

- (5) An instrument under subsection (2) shall, where the Minister refuses to grant the renewal of a lease by reason only that he is not satisfied as to the matter referred to in subsection (1)(c)(i), contain a statement to the effect that the lessee may, within the period of 12 months after the date of service of the instrument, make an application for a licence in respect of one or more of the blocks comprised in the lease.
- (6) A lessee on whom there has been served an instrument under subsection (1) may, within the period of one month after the date of service of the instrument on him, by instrument in writing served on the Minister, request the Minister to grant the renewal of the lease to the lessee.
- (7) Where a lessee on whom there has been served an instrument under subsection (1) has made a request under subsection (6) within the period referred to in subsection (6), the Minister shall grant to the lessee the renewal of the lease.
- (8) Where a lessee on whom there has been served an instrument under subsection (1) has not made a request under subsection (6) within the period referred to in subsection (6), the application lapses upon the expiration of that period.
- (9) Where:
- (a) an application for the renewal of a lease has been made; and
  - (b) the lease expires:
    - (i) before the Minister grants, or refuses to grant, the renewal of the lease; or
    - (ii) before the application lapses as provided by subsection (8),

the lease shall be deemed to continue in force in all respects:

- (c) until the Minister grants, or refuses to grant, the renewal of the lease; or
- (d) until the application so lapses,

whichever first occurs.

- (10) Where the Minister refuses to grant the renewal of a lease by reason only that the Minister is not satisfied as to the matter referred to in subsection (1)(c)(i), the lease shall be deemed to continue in force in all respects:
- (a) in a case to which paragraph (b) does not apply – until 12 months after the date of service of the instrument under subsection (2); or
  - (b) in a case where the lessee makes an application for a licence in respect of one or more of the blocks comprised in the lease within the period of 12 months after the date referred to in paragraph (a) – until it grants, or refuses to grant, the licence or until the application lapses, whichever first occurs.

### **38H Conditions of lease**

- (1) A lease may be granted subject to such conditions as the Minister thinks fit and are specified in the lease.
- (2) The conditions referred to in subsection (1) may include conditions with respect to work to be carried out by the lessee in or in relation to the lease area during the term of the lease, or amounts to be expended by him in the carrying out of such work, or conditions with respect to both of those matters, including conditions requiring him to comply with directions given in accordance with the lease concerning those matters.
- (3) A lease shall be deemed to contain a condition that the lessee:
  - (a) will comply with the provisions of this Act relating to the payment of royalty as in force from time to time; and
  - (b) will, within the period of 3 months after the receipt of a written notice from the Minister requesting him to do so or within such further period as the Minister, on application in writing served on the Minister before the end of the first-mentioned period, allows, re-evaluate the commercial viability of petroleum production in the lease area (otherwise than by the drilling of wells) and inform the Minister in writing of the results of the re-evaluation.
- (4) Where a lessee has complied with 2 notices of the kind referred to in subsection (3)(b) during the term of the lease, the Minister shall not give to the lessee a further notice of that kind until such time, if ever, as that term is extended.

**38J Discovery of petroleum to be notified**

- (1) Where petroleum is discovered in a lease area, the lessee:
  - (a) shall inform the Minister of the discovery forthwith; and
  - (b) shall, within a period of 3 days after the date of the discovery, furnish to the Minister particulars in writing of the discovery.
- (2) Where petroleum is discovered in a lease area, the Minister may, from time to time, by instrument in writing served on the lessee, direct the lessee to furnish to the Minister, within the period specified in the instrument, particulars in writing of any one or more of the following:
  - (a) the chemical composition and physical properties of the petroleum;
  - (b) the nature of the subsoil in which the petroleum occurs; and
  - (c) any other matters relating to the discovery that are specified by the Minister in the instrument.
- (3) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (2) shall comply with the direction.

Penalty: \$10,000.

**38K Directions by designated authority on discovery of petroleum**

- (1) Where petroleum is discovered in a lease area, the Minister may, by instrument in writing served on the lessee, direct the lessee to do, within the period specified in the instrument, such things as the Minister thinks necessary and specifies in the instrument to determine the chemical composition and physical properties of that petroleum and to determine the quantity of petroleum in the petroleum pool to which the discovery relates or, if part only of that petroleum pool is within the lease area, in such part of that petroleum pool as is within the lease area.
- (2) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (1) shall comply with the direction.

Penalty: \$10,000.

## **Division 3 Production licences for petroleum**

### **39 Recovery of petroleum in adjacent area**

A person shall not carry on operations for the recovery of petroleum in an adjacent area except:

- (a) under and in accordance with a licence; or
- (b) as otherwise permitted by this Part.

Penalty: \$50,000 or imprisonment for 5 years.

### **40 Application by permittee for licence**

(1) A permittee whose permit is in force in respect of a block that constitutes, or the blocks that constitute, a location may, within the application period, make an application to the Minister for the grant of a licence:

- (a) where 9 or more blocks constitute the location concerned – in respect of 5 of those blocks;
- (b) where 8 or 7 blocks constitute the location concerned – in respect of 4 of those blocks;
- (c) where 6 or 5 blocks constitute the location concerned – in respect of 3 of those blocks;
- (d) where 4 or 3 blocks constitute the location concerned – in respect of 2 of those blocks;
- (e) where 2 blocks constitute the location concerned – in respect of one of those blocks; or
- (f) where one block constitutes the location concerned – in respect of that block.

(2) A permittee whose permit is in force in respect of blocks that constitute a location:

- (a) instead of making an application under subsection (1) in respect of his primary entitlement may, within the application period, make an application to the Minister for the grant of a licence in respect of a number of those blocks that is less than his primary entitlement; and
- (b) being the holder of a licence referred to in paragraph (a), may, from time to time within that period, make an application to the Minister for a variation of that licence to include in the licence

area a number of those blocks that does not exceed the number, if any, by which his primary entitlement exceeds the number of blocks in respect of which that licence was granted and the number of blocks, if any, included in that licence by reason of any previous variation of that licence.

(3) Where:

- (a) a permittee makes an application under subsection (1) in respect of his primary entitlement; or
- (b) a permittee who is the holder of a licence in respect of a number of blocks that is less than his primary entitlement makes an application under subsection (2) for a variation of that licence, and the number of blocks in respect of which the licence was granted, together with the number of blocks included, and sought to be included, in the licence area by reason of applications under that subsection, is his primary entitlement,

the permittee may, within the application period, make an application to the Minister for the grant of a licence in respect of any of the other blocks forming part of the location concerned.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), the application period in respect of an application under this section by a permittee is:

- (a) the period of 2 years after the date on which the block that constitutes the location concerned was, or the blocks that constitute the location concerned were, declared to be a location; or
- (b) such other period, being not less than 2 years or more than 4 years after that date, as the Minister, on application by the permittee in writing served on the Minister before the expiration of the first-mentioned period of 2 years, allows.

(5) Where:

- (a) a permittee applies for the grant by the Joint Authority of a licence in respect of a block or blocks in respect of which the permittee has applied for a lease under section 38A; and
- (b) an instrument refusing to grant the lease is served on the permittee pursuant to section 38B(2),

the application period shall be:

- (c) the period that is applicable under subsection (4); or



- (d) the period of 12 months after the day of service of the instrument,

whichever period last expires.

#### **40A Application for licence by holder of lease**

- (1) A lessee whose lease is in force may make an application to the Minister for the grant of a licence where the lease is:
  - (a) in respect of 9 blocks – in respect of 5 of those blocks;
  - (b) in respect of 8 or 7 blocks – in respect of 4 of those blocks;
  - (c) in respect of 6 or 5 blocks – in respect of 3 of those blocks;
  - (d) in respect of 4 or 3 blocks – in respect of 2 of those blocks;
  - (e) in respect of 2 blocks – in respect of one of those blocks; or
  - (f) in respect of one block – in respect of that block.
- (2) At any time while a lease is in force, the lessee may, instead of making an application under subsection (1) in respect of his primary entitlement, make an application to the Minister for the grant of a licence in respect of a number of blocks that is less than his primary entitlement.
- (3) Where an application has been made under subsection (1) in respect of his primary entitlement, the person who is then the lessee may, at any time while the lease concerned is in force, make an application to the Minister for the grant of a licence in respect of any of the other blocks forming part of the lease.

#### **41 Application for licence**

- (1) An application made under section 40 or 40A:
  - (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) shall be made in an approved manner;
  - (c) shall be accompanied by particulars of the proposals of the applicant for work and expenditure in respect of the area comprised in the blocks specified in the application;
  - (d) may set out any other matters that the applicant wishes the Minister to consider; and
  - (e) shall, in the case of an application for the grant of a licence, be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

- (2) The Minister may, at any time, by notice in writing served on the applicant, require him to furnish, within the period specified in the notice, further information in writing in connection with the application.

#### **42 Determination of rate of royalty**

- (1) Where an application for a primary licence has been made and, before or after the grant of the primary licence, the applicant makes an application for a secondary licence, the Minister shall determine a rate at which royalty is to be payable in respect of petroleum recovered, whether under the primary licence or under the secondary licence, being a rate that is not less than 11% or more than 12½% of the value of that petroleum at the well-head.
- (2) The Minister shall not, under subsection (1), determine the rate at which royalty is to be payable unless he has given to the applicant an opportunity to confer with him concerning that rate.

#### **43 Notification as to grant of licence**

- (1) Where an application for the grant of a licence has been made under section 40 or 40A and the applicant has furnished further information as and when required by the Minister under section 41(2), the Minister, by notice in writing served on the applicant, shall inform the applicant that he is prepared to grant to the applicant a licence in respect of the blocks specified in the application.
- (2) A notice served under subsection (1) shall:
- (a) contain a summary of the conditions subject to which the licence is to be granted;
  - (b) if the notice relates to an application for a secondary licence – specify the rate of royalty determined by the Minister in pursuance of section 42(1); and
  - (c) contain a statement to the effect that the application will lapse if the applicant does not make a request under section 44(1) in respect of the grant of the licence.

#### **44 Grant of licence**

- (1) An applicant who has been served with a notice under section 43(1) may, within a period of 3 months after the date of service of the notice on him, or within such further period not exceeding 3 months, as the Minister, on application in writing served on him before the expiration of the first-mentioned period of 3 months, allows, by notice in writing served on the Minister, request the Minister to grant

to the applicant the licence referred to in the first-mentioned instrument.

- (2) Where an applicant who has been served with a notice under section 43(1) has made a request under subsection (1) within the period applicable under that subsection, the Minister shall grant to the applicant a licence in respect of the blocks specified in the application.
- (3) A secondary licence shall not be granted to a permittee or lessee in respect of any one or more of the blocks that constitute a location unless:
  - (a) a primary licence has been granted in respect of a block or blocks forming part of that location; and
  - (b) the number of blocks in respect of which the primary licence was granted, together with the number of blocks included in that licence by reason of variations of the licence under section 45, is the permittee's or lessee's primary entitlement.
- (4) Where an applicant who has been served with a notice under section 43(1) has not made a request under subsection (1) within the period applicable under that subsection, the application lapses upon the expiration of that period.
- (5) On the day on which a licence granted under this section comes into force, the permit or lease in respect of the blocks in respect of which the licence was granted ceases to be in force in respect of those blocks.

#### **44A Application of sections 41 to 44 where permit, &c., transferred**

Where:

- (a) after an application has been made:
  - (i) under section 40 for the grant of a licence in respect of a block in respect of which a permit is in force; or
  - (ii) under section 40A for the grant of a licence in respect of a block in respect of which a lease is in force; and
- (b) before a decision has been made by the Minister under section 43(1) in relation to the application,

a transfer of the permit or lease (as the case may be) is registered under section 78, then, after the time of the transfer, sections 41 to 44 (inclusive) have effect in relation to the application as if a reference in those sections to the applicant were a reference to the transferee.

#### **45 Variation of licence area**

- (1) Where an application is made under section 40(2) for a variation of a licence, the Minister shall, by notice in writing served on the licensee, vary the licence to include in the licence area the blocks specified in the application.
- (2) On and from the day on and from which a variation of a licence under this section has effect:
  - (a) the blocks included in the licence area by reason of the variation are, subject to this Part, for the remainder of the term of the licence, blocks in respect of which the licence is in force; and
  - (b) the permit that is in force in respect of the blocks so included ceases to be in force in respect of those blocks.

#### **46 Determination of permit or lease as to block not taken up**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), where:
  - (a) a permittee who may make an application under section 40 in respect of a block does not, within the application period, make the application; or
  - (b) all applications made by a permittee under that section in respect of a block have lapsed,the permit is determined as to that block and the determination has effect:
  - (c) in a case referred to in paragraph (a) – upon the expiration of the application period; and
  - (d) in a case referred to in paragraph (b):
    - (i) upon the expiration of the application period; or
    - (ii) upon the lapsing of the last of the applications referred to in that paragraph,whichever is the later.

- (1A) Subject to subsection (2), where all applications made by a lessee under section 40A in respect of a block have lapsed, the lease is determined as to that block and the determination has effect on the lapsing of the last of those applications.
- (2) Where a permittee or lessee makes an application for a secondary licence:
- (a) the permit or lease is determined as to any blocks forming part of the location concerned that are not the subject of that application or of any application for a primary licence or for the variation of such a licence; and
  - (b) the determination has effect upon the making of the application.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), where a block or blocks constituting or forming part of a location is or are no longer the subject of a permit or lease, the Minister shall, by instrument in the *Gazette*:
- (a) in a case where that block or those blocks constitutes or constitute that location – revoke the declaration made under section 37 in respect of that location; or
  - (b) in a case where that block or those blocks forms or form part of that location – revoke the declaration made under section 37 in respect of that location to the extent that it relates to that block or those blocks.
- (4) Subsection (3) does not apply in relation to a block:
- (a) in respect of which an application for the grant of a lease or licence has been made, being an application that has not lapsed and in relation to which a decision has not been made by the Minister; or
  - (b) in respect of which a lease or licence is in force.
- (5) Where a lease is granted in respect of a block or blocks forming part of a location, the Minister shall, by notice in the *Gazette*, revoke the declaration made under section 37 to the extent that it relates to the block that is or blocks that are not within the lease area.
- (6) Where:
- (a) the Minister refuses to grant a lease in respect of a block or blocks constituting or forming part of a location; and

- (b) the reason, or one of the reasons, for the refusal is that the Minister is not satisfied as to the matter referred to in section 38B(1)(c)(ii),

the Minister shall, by notice in the *Gazette*, revoke the declaration made under section 37 in respect of that location.

**47 Application for licence in respect of surrendered blocks, &c.**

- (1) Where:

- (a) a licence is surrendered or cancelled as to a block; or
- (b) a permit or lease is surrendered, cancelled or determined as to a block:
  - (i) that, at the time of the surrender, cancellation or determination was, or was included in, a location; and
  - (ii) in which, in the opinion of the Minister, there is petroleum,

the Minister may, at any subsequent time, by notice in the *Gazette*:

- (c) invite applications for the grant of a licence in respect of that block; and
  - (d) specify a period within which applications may be made.
- (2) The Minister shall, in a notice under subsection (1), state:
- (a) that an applicant is required to specify an amount that he would be prepared to pay in respect of the grant of a licence to him on his application; or
  - (b) that an applicant is required to specify a rate of royalty that he would be prepared to pay, if the licence were granted to him on his application, in respect of petroleum recovered under the licence, being a rate that exceeds 10% of the value of that petroleum at the well-head.
- (3) Where the Minister, in a notice under subsection (1), states that an applicant is required to specify a rate of royalty as mentioned in subsection (2)(b), the Minister may, in that notice, state that an applicant on whose application he is prepared to grant a licence will also be required to pay to him, in respect of the grant of the licence, the amount specified in that behalf in that notice.

- (6) An application made under this section:
- (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) shall be made in an approved manner;
  - (c) shall be accompanied by the particulars referred to in section 41(1)(c);
  - (d) in the case of an application under subsection (1), shall specify, in accordance with the requirement in the notice by which applications were invited, the amount or the rate of royalty, that the applicant would be prepared to pay; and
  - (f) may set out any other matters that the applicant wishes the Minister to consider.
- (7) The Minister may, at any time, by notice in writing served on the applicant, require him to furnish, within the period specified in the notice, further information in connection with his application.

**48 Application fee, &c.**

- (1) An application made under section 47 shall be accompanied by:
- (a) the prescribed fee; and
  - (b) a deposit:
    - (i) if the applicant has specified an amount that he would be prepared to pay in respect of the grant of a licence to him on the application – of 10% of that amount; or
    - (ii) if the Minister has, in the notice by which the applications were invited, stated an amount that the applicant will be required to pay in respect of the grant of a licence – of 10% of that amount.
- (2) Where a licence is not granted on the application, the amount of the deposit shall, subject to subsection (3), be refunded to the applicant.
- (3) Where an applicant who has been served with a notice under section 49(1) does not request the Minister, under section 49(6), to grant to him the licence referred to in the notice, the deposit shall not, unless the Minister otherwise determines, be refunded to the applicant.

**49 Request by applicant for grant of licence**

- (1) Where, at the expiration of the period specified in a notice under section 47(1), only one application has been made under that subsection in respect of the block specified in the notice, the Minister may reject or grant the application.
- (2) Where, at the expiration of the period specified in a notice under section 47(1), 2 or more applications have been made under that subsection in respect of the block specified in the notice, the Minister may reject any or all of the applications and, if he does not reject all of the applications, may:
  - (a) if only one application remains unrejected – by notice in writing served on the applicant; or
  - (b) if 2 or more applications remain unrejected – by notice in writing served on the applicant, or on one of the applicants, whose application has not been rejected and who has specified in his application an amount, or a rate of royalty, that he would be prepared to pay that is not less than the amount, or the rate of royalty, specified in the application of any other applicant whose application has not been rejected,  
  
inform the applicant:
    - (c) that he is prepared to grant to him a licence; and
    - (d) that the applicant will be required to pay:
      - (i) the amount specified in the application;
      - (ii) royalty at the rate specified in the application; or
      - (iii) royalty at the rate specified in the application and the amount specified in the notice under section 47(1),  
  
as the case may be.
- (5) A notice under any of the preceding provisions of this section shall contain:
  - (a) a summary of the conditions subject to which the licence is to be granted;
  - (b) a statement of the balance of the amount, if any, that the applicant will be required to pay in respect of the grant of the licence to him; and



- (c) a statement to the effect that the application will lapse:
  - (i) if the applicant does not make a request under subsection (6); or
  - (ii) in a case where the notice contains a statement referred to in paragraph (b) – if the applicant does not pay the balance of the amount referred to in that statement or enter into an agreement under section 109 in respect of that balance.
- (6) An applicant who has been served with a notice under any of the preceding provisions of this section may, within a period of 3 months after the date of service of the notice on him, or within such further period, not exceeding 3 months, as the Minister, on application in writing served on him before the expiration of the first-mentioned period of 3 months, allows:
  - (a) by notice in writing served on the Minister, request the Minister to grant to him the licence; and
  - (b) if the first-mentioned notice contains a statement of the balance of an amount that the applicant will be required to pay in respect of the grant of the licence to him – pay that balance or enter into an agreement under section 109 in respect of that balance.
- (7) Where an applicant who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) or (2):
  - (a) has not made a request under subsection (6); or
  - (b) if the notice contains a statement of the balance of an amount that the applicant will be required to pay in respect of the grant of a licence to him – has not paid that balance or entered into an agreement under section 109 in respect of that balance,within the period applicable under subsection (6), the application lapses upon the expiration of that period.
- (8) Where the application lapses, as provided by subsection (7), of an applicant who has been served with a notice under subsection (2), subsection (2) applies in respect of the application or applications, if any, then remaining unrejected.

**50 Grant of licence on request**

Where an applicant who has been served with a notice under section 49:

- (a) has made a request under section 49(6); and
- (b) if the notice contains a statement of the balance of an amount that the applicant will be required to pay in respect of the grant of a licence to him – has paid that balance or entered into an agreement under section 109 in respect of that balance,

within the period applicable under section 49(6), the Minister shall grant to him a licence in respect of the block specified in the notice.

**51 Grant of licences in respect of individual blocks**

- (1) Where a licence (in this section called the *original licence*) is in force in respect of 2 or more blocks (not being blocks that form, or form part of, a location), the licensee may make an application to the Minister for the grant to him of 2 or more licences in respect of the blocks the subject of the original licence in exchange for the original licence.
- (2) An application under subsection (1):
  - (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) shall be made in an approved manner;
  - (c) shall specify the number of licences required;
  - (d) shall specify the block or blocks the subject of the original licence in respect of which each licence is sought; and
  - (e) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (4) Where a licensee has made an application under this section, the Minister shall grant to the licensee licences in accordance with the application.
- (5) A licence granted on an application under this section:
  - (a) remains in force, subject to this Part, but notwithstanding section 53, for the remainder of the term of the original licence; and
  - (b) shall be granted subject to conditions corresponding as nearly as may be to the conditions to which the original licence was subject.

- (6) Where licences are granted on an application under this section the original licence is determined and the determination has effect on and from the day on which those licences come into force.

## **52 Rights conferred by licence**

A licence, while it remains in force, authorizes the licensee, subject to this Act and the Regulations and in accordance with the conditions to which the licence is subject:

- (a) to recover petroleum in the licence area and to recover petroleum from the licence area in another area to which he has lawful access for that purpose;
- (b) to explore for petroleum in the licence area; and
- (c) to carry on such operations and execute such works in the licence area as are necessary for those purposes.

## **53 Term of licence**

Subject to this Part, a licence remains in force:

- (a) in the case of a licence granted otherwise than by way of renewal of a licence – for a period of 21 years commencing on the day on which the licence is granted or, if a later day is specified in the licence as being the day on which the licence is to come into force, on that later day;
- (b) in the case of a licence granted by way of the first renewal of a licence – for a period of 21 years commencing on the day on which the licence is granted or, if a later day is specified in the licence as being the day on which the licence is to come into force, on that later day; and
- (c) in the case of a licence granted by way of a renewal, other than the first renewal, of a licence – for such period, commencing on the day on which the licence is granted or, if a later day is specified in the licence as being the day on which the licence is to come into force, on that later day, as the Minister determines and specifies in the licence, being a period not exceeding 21 years.

## **54 Application for renewal of licence**

- (1) A licensee may, from time to time, make an application to the Minister for the renewal of a licence.

- (2) An application for the renewal of a licence:
- (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) subject to subsection (3), shall be made in an approved manner not less than 6 months before the day on which the licence ceases to be in force;
  - (c) shall be accompanied by particulars of the proposals of the licensee for work and expenditure in respect of the licence area; and
  - (d) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Minister may receive an application for the renewal of a licence less than 6 months before, but not in any case after, the day on which the licence ceases to be in force.

## **55 Grant or refusal of licence**

- (1) Where:
- (a) an application for the renewal of a licence has been made under section 54; and
  - (b) the conditions to which the licence is, or has from time to time been, subject and the provisions of this Part and the Regulations have been complied with,
- the Minister:
- (c) shall, if the application is in respect of the first renewal of the licence; or
  - (d) may, if the application is in respect of a renewal other than the first renewal of the licence,
- by instrument in writing served on the person who is then the licensee, inform the person that he is prepared to grant to the person the renewal of the licence.
- (2) Where:
- (a) an application for the renewal of a licence has been made under section 54; and
  - (b) any of the conditions to which the licence is, or has from time to time been, subject or any of the provisions of this Part or the Regulations have not been complied with, but the Minister is, nevertheless, satisfied that special circumstances exist that

justify the granting of the renewal of the licence,

the Minister may, by instrument in writing served on the person who is then the licensee, inform the person that he is prepared to grant to the person the renewal of the licence .

- (3) If any of the conditions to which the licence is, or has from time to time been, subject or any of the provisions of this Part or the Regulations have not been complied with, and if the Minister is not satisfied that special circumstances exist that justify the granting of the renewal of the licence, the Minister shall, subject to subsection (4), by notice in writing served on the person who is then the licensee, refuse to grant the renewal of the licence.
- (4) The Minister shall not, under subsection (3), refuse to grant the renewal of a licence unless:
  - (a) he has, by notice in writing served on the licensee, given not less than one month's notice of his intention to refuse to grant the renewal of the licence;
  - (b) he has served a copy of the notice on such other persons, if any, as he thinks fit;
  - (c) he has, in the notice:
    - (i) given particulars of the reasons for the intention; and
    - (ii) specified a date on or before which the licensee or a person on whom a copy of the notice is served may, by notice in writing served on the Minister, submit any matters that he wishes the Minister to consider; and
  - (d) he has taken into account any matters so submitted to him on or before the specified date by the licensee or by a person on whom a copy of the first-mentioned notice has been served.
- (5) Where an application has been made under section 54 in respect of a renewal other than the first renewal of a licence, the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the person who is then the licensee, refuse to grant the renewal of the licence.
- (7) A notice under subsection (1) or (2) shall contain:
  - (a) a summary of the conditions to which the licence, on the grant of the renewal, is to be subject; and
  - (b) a statement to the effect that the application will lapse if the applicant does not make a request under subsection (8).

- (8) A licensee who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) or (2) may, within a period of one month after the date of service of the notice on him, by notice in writing served on the Minister, request the Minister to grant the renewal of the licence to the licensee.
- (9) Where a licensee who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) or (2) has made a request under subsection (8) within the period referred to in subsection (8), the Minister shall grant to him the renewal of the licence.
- (10) Where a licensee who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) or (2) has not made a request under subsection (8) within the period referred to in subsection (8), the application lapses upon the expiration of that period.
- (11) Where:
- (a) an application for the renewal of a licence is made under section 54; and
  - (b) a licence expires:
    - (i) before the Minister grants, or refuses to grant, the renewal of the licence; or
    - (ii) before the application lapses as provided by subsection (10),

the licence shall be deemed to continue in force in all respects:

- (c) until the Minister grants, or refuses to grant, the renewal of the licence; or
  - (d) until the application so lapses,
- whichever first happens.

## **56 Conditions of licence**

- (1) A licence may be granted subject to such conditions as the Minister thinks fit and specifies in the licence.
- (2) A licence shall be deemed to contain a condition that the licensee will comply with the provisions of this Act relating to the payment of royalty as in force from time to time.

## 58 Directions as to recovery of petroleum

- (1) Where petroleum is not being recovered in a licence area and the Minister is satisfied that there is recoverable petroleum in that area, he may, by notice in writing served on the licensee, direct the licensee to take all necessary and practicable steps to recover that petroleum.
- (2) Where the Minister is not satisfied with the steps taken or being taken by a licensee to whom a direction has been given under subsection (1), the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the licensee, give to the licensee such directions as the Minister thinks necessary for or in relation to the recovery of petroleum in the licence area.
- (3) Where petroleum is being recovered in a licence area, the Minister may, for reasons that he thinks sufficient, by notice in writing served on the licensee, direct the licensee to take all necessary and practicable steps to increase or reduce the rate at which petroleum is being recovered in the licence area or from a petroleum pool in the licence area to such rate as the Minister specifies in the notice.
- (4) Where the Minister is not satisfied with the steps taken or being taken by a licensee to whom a direction has been given under subsection (3), the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the licensee, give to the licensee such directions as the Minister thinks necessary for or in relation to the increase or reduction of the rate at which petroleum is being recovered in the licence area or from a petroleum pool in the licence area.
- (5) Without limiting the matters that may be taken into account by the Minister in determining whether to give a direction under subsection (3) or (4), the Minister may take into account matters relating to the effects on the revenue of the Territory of the proposed direction, but the Minister shall not give a direction under subsection (3) or (4) if the direction would require action to be taken that is contrary to good oil-field practice.

## 59 Unit development

- (1) In this section, the expression ***unit development***:
  - (a) applies in relation to a petroleum pool that is partly in a particular licence area of a licensee and partly in a licence area of another licensee or in an area that is not within an adjacent area but in which a person other than the first-mentioned licensee is lawfully entitled to carry on operations for the recovery of petroleum from the pool; and

- (b) means the carrying on of operations for the recovery of petroleum from that pool under co-operative arrangements between the persons entitled to carry on such operations in each of those areas.
- (2) A licensee may, from time to time, enter into an agreement in writing for or in relation to the unit development of a petroleum pool, but nothing in this subsection derogates from the operation of section 81(2).
- (3) The Minister of his own motion or on application made to him in writing by:
- (a) a licensee in whose licence area there is a part of a particular petroleum pool; or
  - (b) a person who is lawfully entitled to carry on operations for the recovery of petroleum in an area outside an adjacent area that includes part of a particular petroleum pool that extends into the adjacent area,

may for the purpose of securing the more effective recovery of petroleum from the petroleum pool, direct any licensee whose licence area includes part of the petroleum pool, by instrument in writing served on the licensee, to enter into an agreement in writing, within the period specified in the notice, for or in relation to the unit development of the petroleum pool and to lodge an application in accordance with section 81 for approval of any dealing to which the agreement relates.

- (4) Where:
- (a) a licensee who is directed, under subsection (3), to enter into an agreement for or in relation to the unit development of a petroleum pool does not enter into such an agreement within the specified period; or
  - (b) the licensee enters into such an agreement but an application for approval of a dealing to which the agreement relates is not lodged with the Minister or, if an application is so lodged, the dealing is not approved under section 81,

the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the licensee, direct the licensee to submit to him, within the period specified in the notice, a scheme for or in relation to the unit development of the petroleum pool.

- (5) At any time after the expiration of the period within which a scheme for or in relation to the unit development of a petroleum pool is to be submitted by a licensee under subsection (4), the Minister may, by



notice in writing served on the licensee, give to the licensee such directions as the Minister thinks necessary for the purpose of securing the more effective recovery of petroleum from the petroleum pool.

- (6) Where a person is the licensee in respect of 2 or more licence areas in each of which there is part of a particular petroleum pool, the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the licensee, give to the licensee such directions as the Minister thinks necessary for the purpose of securing the more effective recovery of petroleum from the petroleum pool.
- (7) Where an agreement under this section is in force or the Minister has given directions under subsection (5) or (6), the Minister may, having regard to additional information that has become available, by notice in writing served on the licensee or licensees concerned, give to the licensee or licensees such directions, or further directions, as the case may be, as he thinks necessary for the purpose of securing the more effective recovery of petroleum from the petroleum pool.
- (8) The Minister shall not give a direction under subsection (6) or (7) unless he has given to the licensee or licensees concerned an opportunity to confer with him concerning the proposed direction.
- (9) Directions given under subsection (5), (6) or (7) may include directions as to the rate at which petroleum is to be recovered.
- (10) In this section, **dealing** means a dealing to which section 81 applies.
- (11) The Minister shall:
  - (a) if a petroleum pool extends, or is reasonably believed by him to extend, from an adjacent area into lands to which the laws of another State relating to the exploitation of petroleum resources apply, consult with the appropriate authority of that State concerning the exploitation of the petroleum pool;
  - (b) if a petroleum pool extends, or is reasonably believed by him to extend, from an adjacent area into the adjacent area in respect of a State within the meaning of the Commonwealth Act, consult with the Designated Authority under the Commonwealth Act in respect of that State concerning the exploitation of the petroleum pool; or
  - (c) if both paragraphs (a) and (b) apply, comply with both of those paragraphs.

- (12) Where subsection (11) applies in relation to a petroleum pool, the Minister shall not approve an agreement under this section, or give a direction under this section, in relation to that petroleum pool except with the approval of any other authority or Designated Authority required by that subsection to be consulted.

## **Division 4 Pipeline licences**

### **60 Construction, &c., of pipelines, &c.**

- (1) A person shall not, in the adjacent area:
- (a) commence or continue the construction, or the alteration or reconstruction, of a pipeline; or
  - (b) operate a pipeline,
- except under and in accordance with a pipeline licence.
- (2) A person shall not, in the adjacent area:
- (a) commence or continue the construction, or the alteration or reconstruction, of a secondary line or water line; or
  - (b) operate a secondary line or water line,
- except with and in accordance with a consent in writing of the Minister.
- (3) A person shall not, in the adjacent area:
- (a) commence or continue the construction, or the alteration or reconstruction, of a pumping station, tank station or valve station; or
  - (b) operate a pumping station, tank station or valve station,
- except under and in accordance with a pipeline licence or with and in accordance with a consent in writing of the Minister.
- (4) A person shall not, in the adjacent area, commence to operate a pipeline, a secondary line or a water line unless:
- (a) in the case of a pipeline, it has been constructed and tested in accordance with the pipeline licence;
  - (b) in the case of a secondary line or water line it has been constructed and tested in accordance with a consent in writing of the Minister; and

- (c) the Minister has certified in writing that he is satisfied that the pipeline, secondary line or water line, as the case may be, has been so constructed and tested and is fit to be operated.
- (5) A person shall not, in the adjacent area, recommence to operate a pipeline, a secondary line or a water line, the previous operation of which was discontinued, except with and in accordance with a consent in writing of the Minister.
- (6) The Minister may refuse to give a consent or certificate for the purposes of this section and, where he gives a consent, may attach conditions to it.

Penalty for an offence against this section: \$50,000 or imprisonment for 5 years.

#### **61 Acts done in emergency, &c.**

It is not an offence against section 60:

- (a) if, in an emergency in which there is a likelihood of loss or injury, or for the purpose of maintaining a pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line in good order or repair, a person does an act to avoid the loss or injury or to maintain the pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line in good order and repair and:
  - (i) as soon as practicable notifies the Minister of the act done; and
  - (ii) complies with any directions given to him by the Minister; or
- (b) if a person does an act in compliance with a direction under this Act or the Regulations.

#### **62 Removal of pipeline, &c., constructed in contravention of Act**

- (1) Where:
  - (a) the construction of a pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line is commenced, continued or completed in contravention of this Act; or
  - (b) a pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line is altered or reconstructed in contravention of this Act,

the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the appropriate person, direct him:

- (c) to make such alterations to the pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line as are specified in the notice; or
- (d) to move the pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line to a specified place in, or to remove it from, the adjacent area,

within the period specified in the notice.

- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the appropriate person is:
  - (a) if the construction of a pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line has been completed – the owner of the pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line; or
  - (b) if the construction of a pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line has not been completed – the person for whom the pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line is being constructed.
- (3) Where a person who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) does not, within the period specified in the notice or within such further period, if any, as the Minister, on application in writing served on him before the expiration of the first-mentioned period, allows, comply with the direction, the Minister may do all or any of the things required by the direction to be done.
- (4) Costs and expenses incurred by the Minister under subsection (3) are a debt due by the person referred to in that subsection to the Territory and are recoverable in a court of competent jurisdiction.

### **63 Terminal station**

The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, declare a pumping station, a tank station or a valve station in the adjacent area to be a terminal station.

### **64 Application for pipeline licence**

- (1) An application for a pipeline licence:
  - (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) shall be made in an approved manner;

- (c) shall be accompanied by particulars of:
    - (i) the proposed design and construction of the pipeline;
    - (ii) the proposed size and capacity of the pipeline;
    - (iii) the proposals of the applicant for work and expenditure in respect of the construction of the pipeline;
    - (iv) the technical qualifications of the applicant and of his employees;
    - (v) the technical advice available to the applicant;
    - (vi) the financial resources available to the applicant; and
    - (vii) any agreements entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the applicant for or in relation to the supply or conveyance of petroleum by means of the pipeline;
  - (d) shall be accompanied by a plan, drawn to an approved scale, showing:
    - (i) the routes to be followed by the pipeline;
    - (ii) the sites of pumping stations, tank stations and valve stations to be used in connection with the pipeline; and
    - (iii) the site of any pumping station, tank station or valve station that the applicant desires to be declared under section 63 to be a terminal station in connection with the pipeline;
  - (e) may set out any other matters that the applicant wishes the Minister to consider; and
  - (f) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (2) Where a notice is published in the *Gazette*:
- (a) of an application by a person other than the licensee for a pipeline licence in respect of the construction of a pipeline for the conveyance of petroleum recovered in a licence area; or
  - (b) of an application by a person other than the pipeline operator under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law for a pipeline licence in respect of the construction of a pipeline for the conveyance of petroleum recovered in a licence area under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law,

the licensee or, as the case may be, the pipeline operator under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law may, within a period of 3 months after the date of publication of the notice, or within such further period, not exceeding 3 months, as the Minister, on application in writing served on him before the expiration of the first-mentioned period of 3 months, allows, make an application for a pipeline licence referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), as the case requires, and in the application request that the application referred to in the notice be rejected.

- (3) Where:
- (a) a notice referred to in subsection (2) is published in the *Gazette*; and
  - (b) a pipeline licence is granted to a licensee or to a pipeline operator under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law on an application under subsection (2),

the Minister shall, by notice in writing served on the applicant, reject the application referred to in the notice.

- (4) The Minister may, at any time, by notice in writing served on a person who has made an application under this section, require him to furnish, within the time specified in the notice, further information in writing in connection with his application.
- (5) In this section, ***pipeline operator under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law*** has the same meaning as in section 65.

## **65 Grant or refusal of pipeline licence**

- (1) Where a person makes an application in accordance with section 64, the Minister may, if that person is not the licensee and the application has not been rejected under section 64(3), inform the applicant, by notice in writing served on him, that the Minister is prepared to grant a pipeline licence to him.
- (2) Where an application for a pipeline licence in respect of the construction in an adjacent area of a pipeline for the conveyance of petroleum recovered in a licence area is made in accordance with section 64 by the licensee, the Minister:
- (a) shall, if the conditions to which the licence is, or has from time to time been, subject and the provisions of this Part and the Regulations have been complied with; or

- (b) may, if:
- (i) any of the conditions to which the licence is, or has from time to time been, subject or any of the provisions of this Part or the Regulations have not been complied with; and
  - (ii) the Minister is, nevertheless, satisfied that special circumstances exist that justify the granting of a pipeline licence,

by instrument in writing served on the person who is then the licensee, inform the person that he is prepared to grant to the person a pipeline licence.

- (3) Where an application for a pipeline licence in respect of the construction in an adjacent area of a pipeline for the conveyance of petroleum recovered in a licence area is made in accordance with section 64 by the licensee, the Minister shall, if:
- (a) any of the conditions to which the licence is, or has from time to time been, subject or any of the provisions of this Part or the Regulations have not been complied with; and
  - (b) the Minister is not satisfied that special circumstances exist that justify the granting of a pipeline licence,

by instrument in writing served on the person who is then the licensee, refuse to grant a pipeline licence.

- (4) The Minister shall not, under subsection (3), refuse to grant a pipeline licence to a licensee unless:
- (a) he has, by notice in writing served on the licensee, given not less than one month's notice of his intention to refuse to grant the pipeline licence;
  - (b) he has served a copy of the notice on such other persons, if any, as he thinks fit;
  - (c) he has, in the notice:
    - (i) given particulars of the reasons for the intention; and
    - (ii) specified a date on or before which the licensee or a person on whom a copy of the notice is served may, by notice in writing served on the Minister, submit any matters that he wishes the Minister to consider; and

- (d) he has taken into account any matters so submitted to him on or before the specified date by the licensee or by a person on whom a copy of the first-mentioned notice has been served.
- (5) Where a person other than a licensee or a pipeline operator under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law makes an application in accordance with section 64 for a pipeline licence in respect of the construction of a pipeline for the conveyance of petroleum recovered in a licence area or, as the case may be, a licence area under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law, the Minister may, by instrument in writing served on the applicant, refuse to grant a pipeline licence.
- (7) A notice under subsection (1) or an instrument under subsection (2):
  - (a) shall specify the route to be followed by the pipeline;
  - (b) shall contain a summary of the conditions subject to which a pipeline licence is to be granted; and
  - (c) shall contain a statement to the effect that the application will lapse if the applicant does not make a request under subsection (9).
- (8) The route to be specified in a notice under subsection (1) or an instrument under subsection (2) shall be:
  - (a) the route shown in the plan accompanying the application; or
  - (b) if the Minister is of the opinion that, for any reason, that route is not appropriate – a route that, in the opinion of the Minister, is appropriate.
- (9) A person who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) or an instrument under subsection (2) may, within a period of 3 months after the date of service of the notice on him, or within such further period, not exceeding 3 months, as the Minister, on application in writing served on him before the expiration of the first-mentioned period of 3 months, allows, by notice in writing served on the Minister, request the Minister to grant to him the pipeline licence.
- (10) Where a person who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) or an instrument under subsection (2) has made a request under subsection (9) within the period applicable under subsection (9), the Minister shall grant to that person a licence to construct and operate a pipeline in respect of the pipeline specified in the notice or instrument.



- (11) Where a person who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) or an instrument under subsection (2) has not made a request under subsection (9) within the period applicable under subsection (9), the application lapses upon the expiration of that period.
- (13) In this section, ***pipeline operator under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law*** means a person who is entitled under the Commonwealth Act or a corresponding law to carry on operations for the recovery of petroleum in an area outside the adjacent area and who the Minister is satisfied is or will be entitled to construct a pipeline from the first-mentioned area to the boundary of the adjacent area.

## **66 Rights conferred by pipeline licence**

A pipeline licence, while it remains in force, authorizes the pipeline licensee, subject to this Act and the Regulations and in accordance with the conditions to which the pipeline licence is subject:

- (a) to construct in an adjacent area:
- (i) a pipeline of the design, construction, size and capacity specified in the pipeline licence along the route, and in the position in relation to the sea-bed in the adjacent area, so specified; and
  - (ii) the pumping stations, tank stations and valve stations so specified in the positions so specified;
- (b) to operate that pipeline and those pumping stations, tank stations and valve stations; and
- (c) to carry on such operations, to execute such works and to do all such other things in the adjacent area as are necessary for or incidental to the construction and operation of that pipeline and of those pumping stations, tank stations and valve stations.

## **67 Term of pipeline licence**

- (1) Subject to this Part, a pipeline licence remains in force:
- (a) for a period of 21 years; or
  - (b) where the Minister is of the opinion that, having regard to the dates of expiration of the licences that relate to the licence areas from which petroleum is, or is to be, conveyed by means of the pipeline, it is not necessary for the pipeline licence to remain in force for a period of 21 years – for such

period less than 21 years as the Minister determines and specifies in the pipeline licence

- (2) A pipeline licence comes into force on the day on which it is granted or, if a later day is specified in the pipeline licence as being the day on which it is to come into force, on that later day.

#### **68 Application for renewal of pipeline licence**

- (1) A pipeline licensee may, from time to time, make an application to the Minister for the renewal of the pipeline licence.
- (2) An application for the renewal of a pipeline licence:
- (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) subject to subsection (3), shall be made in an approved manner not less than 6 months before the day on which the pipeline licence ceases to be in force; and
  - (c) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Minister may receive an application for the renewal of a pipeline licence less than 6 months before, but not in any case after, the day on which the pipeline licence ceases to be in force.

#### **69 Grant or refusal of renewal of pipeline licence**

- (1) Where an application has been made under section 68 for the renewal of a pipeline licence, the Minister:
- (a) shall, if the conditions to which the pipeline licence is, or has from time to time been, subject and the provisions of this Part and the Regulations have been complied with; or
  - (b) may, if:
    - (i) any of the conditions to which the pipeline licence is, or has from time to time been, subject or any of the provisions of this Part or the Regulations have not been complied with; and
    - (ii) the Minister is, nevertheless, satisfied that special circumstances exist that justify the granting of the renewal of the pipeline licence,

by instrument in writing served on the person who is then the pipeline licensee, inform the person:

(c) that he is prepared to grant to him the renewal of the pipeline licence.

(2) Where an application has been made under section 68 for the renewal of a pipeline licence, the Minister shall, if:

(a) any of the conditions to which the pipeline licence is, or has from time to time been, subject or any of the provisions of this Part or the Regulations have not been complied with; and

(b) the Minister is not satisfied that special circumstances exist that justify the granting of the renewal of the pipeline licence,

by instrument in writing served on the person who is then the pipeline licensee, refuse to grant the renewal of the pipeline licence.

(3) The Minister shall not refuse to grant the renewal of the pipeline licence unless:

(a) he has, by notice in writing served on the pipeline licensee, given not less than one month's notice of his intention to refuse to grant the renewal of the pipeline licence;

(b) he has served a copy of the notice on such other persons, if any, as he thinks fit;

(c) he has, in the notice:

(i) given particulars of the reasons for the intention; and

(ii) specified a date on or before which the pipeline licensee or a person on whom a copy of the notice is served may, by notice in writing served on the Minister, submit any matters that he wishes the Minister to consider; and

(d) he has taken into account any matters so submitted to him on or before the specified date by the pipeline licensee or by a person on whom a copy of the first-mentioned notice has been served.

(4) A notice under subsection (1) shall contain:

(a) a summary of the conditions to which the pipeline licence, on the grant of the renewal, is to be subject; and

- (b) a statement to the effect that the application will lapse if the pipeline licensee does not make a request under subsection (5).
- (5) A pipeline licensee who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) may, within a period of one month after the date of service of the notice on him, by notice in writing served on the Minister, request the Minister to grant to him the renewal of the pipeline licence.
- (6) Where a pipeline licensee who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) has made a request under subsection (5) within the period referred to in subsection (5), the Minister shall grant to him the renewal of the pipeline licence.
- (7) Where a pipeline licensee who has been served with a notice under subsection (1) has not made a request under subsection (5) within the period referred to in subsection (5), the application lapses upon the expiration of that period.
- (8) Where:
- (a) an application for the renewal of a pipeline licence is made under subsection (7); and
  - (b) the pipeline licence expires:
    - (i) before the Minister grants, or refuses to grant, the renewal of the pipeline licence; or
    - (ii) before the application lapses as provided by subsection (7),

the pipeline licence shall be deemed to continue in force in all respects:

- (c) until the Minister grants, or refuses to grant, the renewal of the pipeline licence; or
  - (d) until the application so lapses,
- whichever first happens.

## **70 Conditions of pipeline licence**

- (1) A pipeline licence may be granted subject to such conditions as the Minister thinks fit and specifies in the pipeline licence.

- (2) The conditions referred to in subsection (1) may include a condition that the pipeline licensee shall complete the construction of the pipeline within the period specified in the pipeline licence.
- (3) This section extends to a pipeline licence granted by way of the renewal of a pipeline licence and, in the case of a pipeline licence so granted, the conditions may include conditions varying or adding to the conditions of the previous licence and conditions requiring reconstruction or modification of the pipeline or of associated works.

**71 Variation of pipeline licence on application by pipeline licensee**

- (1) A pipeline licensee may, at any time, make an application to the Minister for the variation of the pipeline licence.
- (2) An application under this section:
  - (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) shall be made in an approved manner;
  - (c) shall be accompanied by particulars of the proposed variation;
  - (d) shall specify the reasons for the proposed variation; and
  - (e) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Minister may, at any time, by notice in writing served on a person who has made an application under this section, require him to furnish, within the period specified in the notice, further information in writing in connection with his application.
- (4) The Minister shall, by notice in the *Gazette* of an application under this section, specify a period within which a person may submit to the Minister, in writing, any matters that he wishes the Minister to consider in connection with the application.
- (5) After considering any matters submitted to him under subsection (4) the Minister may, by notice in writing, vary the pipeline licence to such extent as he thinks necessary or may refuse to vary the pipeline licence.

## **72 Variation of pipeline licence by designated authority**

- (1) The Minister may:
- (a) at the request of:
    - (i) a Minister or a Minister of State of the Commonwealth;  
or
    - (ii) a body established by a law of the Commonwealth or a Territory or of a State; and
  - (b) if, in his opinion, it is in the public interest so to do,

by notice in writing served on a person who is a pipeline licensee or the holder of a notice of consent under section 60, direct that person to make such changes in the design, construction, route or position of the pipeline, or of a water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line to which the pipeline licence or notice of consent relates, as are specified in the first-mentioned notice, within the period specified in the first-mentioned notice and, if the person so directed is a pipeline licensee, shall vary the pipeline licence accordingly.

- (2) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (1) shall comply with the direction.

Penalty: \$50,000 or imprisonment for 5 years.

- (3) Where the Minister gives a direction under subsection (1), and the person to whom the direction was given has complied with the direction, that person may bring an action in the Supreme Court against the Minister or Minister of State of the Commonwealth or body making the request.
- (4) The Supreme Court shall hear the action, without a jury, and shall determine whether it is just that the whole or a portion of the reasonable cost of complying with the direction ought to be paid to the plaintiff by the defendant.
- (5) If the Supreme Court determines that it is just that such a payment ought to be made, the Supreme Court shall determine the amount of the payment and give judgment accordingly.

## **73 Common carrier**

- (1) The Minister may, by notice in writing served on a pipeline licensee, direct the pipeline licensee to be a common carrier of petroleum in respect of the pipeline and thereupon the pipeline licensee is a common carrier of petroleum in respect of the pipeline.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a pipeline, or a part of a pipeline, that is a Covered Pipeline within the meaning of the Gas Pipelines Access (Northern Territory) Law as defined in the *Gas Pipelines Access (Northern Territory) Act*.

#### **74 Ceasing to operate pipeline**

- (1) Except with the consent in writing of the Minister and subject to compliance with such conditions, if any, as are specified in the notice of consent, a pipeline licensee shall not cease to operate the pipeline.

Penalty: \$50,000 or imprisonment for 5 years.

- (2) It is not an offence against subsection (1) if the failure of the pipeline licensee to operate the pipeline:
- (a) was in the ordinary course of operating the pipeline;
  - (b) was for the purpose of repairing or maintaining the pipeline; or
  - (c) was in an emergency in which there was a likelihood of loss or injury.

### **Division 5 Registration of instruments**

#### **74A Interpretation**

In this Division, *title* means a permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence or access authority.

#### **75 Register of certain instruments to be kept**

For the purposes of this Part, the Minister shall keep a register of titles and special prospecting authority granted by him.

#### **76 Particulars to be entered in register**

- (1) The Minister shall enter in the register a memorial in respect of each title or special prospecting authority:
- (a) specifying the name of the holder of the title or special prospecting authority;
  - (b) in the case of a permit, lease or licence, setting out an accurate description (including, where convenient, a map) of the permit area, lease area or licence area;

- (c) in the case of a special prospecting authority or an access authority, setting out an accurate description (including, where convenient, a map) of the area in respect of which the special prospecting authority or access authority is in force;
  - (d) in the case of a pipeline licence, setting out a description of the route of the pipeline;
  - (e) specifying the term of the title and special prospecting authority;
  - (f) setting out such other matters and things as are required by this Part to be entered in the register; and
  - (g) setting out such further matters relating to the registered holder or to the terms and conditions of the title or special prospecting authority as the Minister deems proper and expedient in the public interest.
- (2) The Minister shall enter in the register a memorial of:
- (a) any notice varying, cancelling, surrendering or otherwise affecting a title or special prospecting authority;
  - (b) any notice under section 59(5), (6) or (7);
  - (c) any agreement under section 109; and
  - (d) any notice or instrument varying or revoking a notice or instrument referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).
- (3) It is sufficient compliance with the requirements of subsection (1) or (2) if the Minister enters a copy of the title, special prospecting authority or instrument in the register.
- (5) The Minister shall endorse on the memorial or copy of the title, special prospecting authority or instrument a memorandum of the date upon which the memorial or copy was entered in the register.

**77 Memorials to be entered of permits, &c., determined, &c.**

Where:

- (a) a permit or lease ceases to be in force in respect of a block in respect of which a licence is granted;
- (b) a permit or lease has been wholly determined or partly determined; or



- (c) a permit, licence, pipeline licence or access authority has expired,

the Minister shall enter in the register a memorial of the fact.

## **78 Approval and registration of transfers**

- (1) A transfer of a title is of no force or effect until it has been approved by the Minister and an instrument of transfer is registered as provided by this section.
- (2) Where it is desired that a title be transferred, one of the parties to the proposed transfer may make an application in writing to the Minister for approval of the transfer.
- (3) An application for approval of a transfer of a title shall be accompanied by:
  - (a) an instrument of transfer in the prescribed form executed by the registered holder or, if there are 2 or more registered holders, by each registered holder and by the transferee or, if there are 2 or more transferees, by each transferee;
  - (b) in a case where the transferee or one or more of the transferees is not a registered holder or are not registered holders of the title, an instrument setting out:
    - (i) the technical qualifications of that transferee or those transferees;
    - (ii) details of the technical advice that is or will be available to that transferee or those transferees; and
    - (iii) details of the financial resources that are or will be available to that transferee or those transferees; and
  - (c) a copy of the application and of the instruments referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b).
- (4) The Minister shall not approve the transfer of a title unless the application was lodged with the Minister within 3 months after the day on which the party who last executed the instrument of transfer so executed the instrument of transfer or within such longer period as the Minister, in special circumstances, allows.
- (5) Where an application for approval of a transfer is made in accordance with this section, the Minister shall enter a memorandum in the register of the date on which the application was lodged and may make such other notation in the register as he considers appropriate.

- (6) The Minister shall consider each application for approval of the transfer of a title and determine whether to approve the transfer.
- (7) Where an application for approval of the transfer of a title is made in accordance with this section, the Minister shall, by notice in writing served on the person who made the application, inform the person of the decision of the Minister.
- (9) Where the Minister approves the transfer of a title, he shall forthwith endorse on the instrument of transfer and on one copy of the instrument a memorandum of approval and shall, on payment of the fee provided by this Act, enter in the register a memorandum of the transfer and the name of the transferee or of each transferee.
- (10) Upon the entry in the register of a memorandum of the transfer of a title and of the name of the transferee in accordance with subsection (9):
  - (a) the transfer shall be deemed to be registered; and
  - (b) the transferee becomes the registered holder, or the transferees become the registered holders, of the title.
- (11) Where the Minister refuses to approve the transfer of a title, he shall make a notation of the refusal in the register.
- (12) Where a transfer is registered:
  - (a) the copy of the instrument of transfer endorsed with the memorandum of approval shall be retained by the Minister and made available for inspection in accordance with this Division; and
  - (b) the instrument of transfer endorsed with the memorandum of approval shall be returned to the person who lodged the application for approval of the transfer.
- (13) The mere execution of an instrument of transfer of a title creates no interest in the title.

**79 Entries in register on devolution of title, &c.**

- (1) A person upon whom the rights of a registered holder of a particular title have devolved by operation of law may apply in writing to the Minister to have his name entered in the register as the holder of the title.
- (2) The Minister shall, if he is satisfied that the rights of a holder have devolved upon an applicant by operation of law and on payment of the prescribed fee enter the name of the applicant in the register as

the holder of the title and, upon that entry being so made, the applicant becomes the registered holder of the title.

(3) Where a company that is the registered holder of a particular title has changed its name, it may apply in writing to the Minister to have its new name substituted for its previous name in the register in relation to that title and, if:

(a) the Minister is satisfied that the company has so changed its name; and

(b) the company has paid the prescribed fee,

the Minister shall make the necessary alterations in the Register.

## **81 Approval of dealings relating to existing titles**

(1) This section applies to a dealing that would, but for subsection (2), have one or more of the following effects:

(a) the creation or assignment of an interest in an existing title;

(b) the creation or assignment of a right (conditional or otherwise) to the assignment of an interest in an existing title;

(c) the determining of the manner in which persons may exercise the rights conferred by, or comply with the obligations imposed by, or the conditions of, an existing title (including the exercise of those rights or the compliance with those obligations or conditions under co-operative arrangements for the recovery of petroleum);

(d) the creation or assignment of:

(i) an interest in or in relation to an existing permit, lease or licence, being an interest known as an overriding royalty interest, a production payment, a net profits interest or a carried interest; or

(ii) any other interest that is similar to an interest referred to in subparagraph (i), being an interest relating to petroleum produced from operations authorized by an existing permit, lease or licence or relating to revenue derived as a result of the carrying out of operations of that kind;

(e) the creation or assignment of an option (conditional or otherwise) to enter into a dealing, being a dealing that has one or more of the effects referred to in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d);

- (f) the creation or assignment of a right (conditional or otherwise) to enter into a dealing, being a dealing that has one or more of the effects referred to in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d); and
- (g) the alteration or termination of a dealing, being a dealing that has one or more of the effects referred to in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f),

but this section does not apply to a transfer to which section 78 applies.

- (2) A dealing to which this section applies is of no force or effect in so far as the dealing would, but for this subsection, have an effect of a kind referred to in subsection (1) in relation to a particular title until:
  - (a) the dealing, in so far as it relates to that title, has been approved by the Minister; and
  - (b) an entry has been made in the register in relation to the dealing by the Minister in accordance with subsection (12).
- (3) A party to a dealing to which this section applies may lodge with the Minister:
  - (a) in a case where the dealing relates to only one title, an application in writing for approval by the Minister of the dealing; or
  - (b) in any other case, a separate application in writing for approval by the Minister of the dealing in relation to each title to which the dealing relates.
- (4) An application under subsection (3) for approval of a dealing:
  - (a) shall be accompanied by the instrument evidencing the dealing or, if that instrument has already been lodged with the Minister for the purposes of another application, a copy of that instrument; and
  - (b) may be accompanied by an instrument setting out such particulars (if any) as are prescribed for the purposes of an application for approval of a dealing of that kind.
- (4A) An application under subsection (3) for approval of a dealing shall be accompanied by 2 copies of:
  - (a) the application;
  - (b) the instrument referred to in subsection (4)(a); and

- (c) any instrument lodged for the purposes of subsection (4)(b).
- (5) Subject to subsection (6), the Minister shall not approve a dealing unless the application for approval of the dealing is lodged with the Minister within the period of 3 months after the day on which the party who last executed the instrument evidencing the dealing so executed the instrument or such longer period as the Minister in special circumstances, allows.
- (6) Where a dealing relating to a title was, immediately before the title came into existence, a dealing referred to in section 81A(1), the Minister shall not approve the dealing unless:
- (a) a provisional application for approval of the dealing was lodged in accordance with section 81A(1); or
- (b) an application for approval of the dealing is lodged with the Minister in accordance with this section within 3 months after the day on which the title came into existence or such longer period as the Minister, in special circumstances, allows.
- (7) Where a dealing to which this section applies forms a part of the issue of a series of debentures, all of the dealings constituting the issue of that series of debentures shall, for the purposes of this section, be taken to be one dealing.
- (8) Where a dealing to which this section applies (including a dealing referred to in subsection (7)) creates a charge over some or all of the assets of a body corporate, the person lodging the application for approval of the dealing shall be deemed to have complied with subsection (4)(a), and with subsection (4A) in so far as that subsection requires 2 copies of the document referred to in subsection (4)(a) to accompany the application, if the person lodges with the application 3 copies of each document relating to the creation of that charge required to be lodged under section 100 of the *Companies Act* or with the National Companies and Securities Commission pursuant to section 201 of the *Companies Act 1981* of the Commonwealth or pursuant to the corresponding provision of a law of a State or another Territory of the Commonwealth.
- (9) On receipt of an application made under this section, the Minister shall enter a memorandum in the register on the date on which the application was lodged and may make such other notation in the register as the Minister considers appropriate.
- (10) The Minister may approve or refuse to approve a dealing to which this section applies in so far as the dealing relates to a particular title.

- (11) The Minister shall, by notice in writing served on the person who made an application for approval of a dealing, inform the person of the decision of the Minister.
- (12) If the Minister approves a dealing, he shall endorse on the original instrument evidencing the dealing and on one copy of that instrument or, if the original instrument was not lodged with the application, on 2 of the copies of that instrument a memorandum of approval and, on payment of the fee provided by this Act make an entry of the approval of the dealing in the register on the memorial relating to, or on the copy of, the title in respect of which the approval is sought.
- (13) Where an entry is made in the Register in relation to a dealing in accordance with subsection (12):
- (a) if the dealing was approved before the commencement of section 11 of the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1989* or the application for approval of the dealing was not accompanied by an instrument for the purpose of subsection (4)(b), one copy of the instrument evidencing the dealing endorsed with a memorandum of approval shall be retained by the Minister and made available for inspection in accordance with this Division;
  - (b) if the application for approval of the dealing was accompanied by an instrument for the purpose of subsection (4)(b), a copy of that instrument endorsed with a copy of the memorandum of approval of the dealing shall be retained by the Minister and made available for inspection in accordance with this Division but a copy of the instrument evidencing the dealing shall not be so made available; and
  - (c) the original instrument evidencing the dealing, or a copy of the original instrument, as the case requires, endorsed with a memorandum of approval and the instrument (if any) lodged for the purpose of subsection (4)(b) shall be returned to the person who made the application for approval.
- (13A) The approval of a dealing or the making of an entry in the Register in relation to a dealing is not rendered ineffective by a failure to comply, in relation to the application for approval of the dealing, with the requirements of this section.
- (14) Where the Minister refuses to approve a dealing, he shall make a notation of the refusal in the register.

- (15) In this section, **charge** and **debenture** have the same respective meanings as they have for the purposes of section 201 of the *Companies Act 1981* of the Commonwealth.

**81A Approval of dealings in future interests, &c.**

- (1) Where 2 or more persons enter into a dealing relating to a title that may come into existence in the future and that dealing would, if the title came into existence, become a dealing to which section 81 applies, a person who is a party to the dealing may, during the prescribed period in relation to the title, lodge with the Minister:
- (a) in a case where the dealing relates to only one title that may come into existence in the future, a provisional application in writing for approval by the Minister of the dealing; or
  - (b) in any other case, a separate provisional application in writing for approval by the Minister of the dealing in relation to each title that may come into existence in the future and to which the dealing relates.
- (2) Section 81(4), (7) and (8) applies to a provisional application lodged under subsection (1) of this section as if that provisional application were an application lodged under section 81(3).
- (3) Where:
- (a) the title to which a dealing referred to in subsection (1) relates comes into existence; and
  - (b) upon that title coming into existence, the dealing becomes a dealing to which section 81 applies,
- the provisional application lodged under subsection (1) in relation to the dealing shall be treated as if it were an application lodged under section 81(3) on the day on which that title came into existence.
- (4) A reference in subsection (1) to the prescribed period, in relation to a title, is a reference to the period:
- (a) commencing:
    - (i) in the case of a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence – on the day of service of an instrument informing the applicant for the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence that the Minister is prepared to grant the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence; or

(ii) in the case of an access authority – on the day on which the application for the grant of the access authority is made; and

(b) ending on the day on which the title comes into existence.

## **82 True consideration to be shown**

(1) A person who is a party to a transfer referred to in section 78, a dealing to which section 81 applies or a dealing referred to in section 81A(1) shall not lodge with the Minister:

(a) an instrument of transfer;

(b) an instrument evidencing the dealing; or

(c) an instrument of the kind referred to in section 81(4)(b),

that contains a statement relating to the consideration for the transfer or dealing, or to any other fact or circumstance affecting the amount of the fee payable in respect of the transfer or dealing under this Act, being a statement that is, to the knowledge of the person, false or misleading in a material particular.

Penalty: \$10,000.

(2) Where a person is found guilty of an offence against subsection (1), the Minister may make a fresh determination of the amount of the fee payable under section 92 in respect of the memorandum relating to the transfer or dealing.

(3) Section 91(2) and (3) applies in relation to a determination under subsection (2) as it applies in relation to a determination under section 91(1).

## **83 Minister not concerned with certain matters**

Neither the Minister nor a person acting under his direction or authority is concerned with the effect in law of any instrument lodged with him in pursuance of this Division nor does the approval of a transfer or dealing give to the transfer or dealing any force, effect or validity that the transfer or dealing would not have had if this Division had not been enacted.

## **84 Power of Minister to acquire information as to dealings**

(1) The Minister may require the person lodging an application for approval of a transfer or dealing or a provisional application for approval of a dealing under this Division to furnish to him in writing such information concerning the transfer or dealing as the Minister



considers necessary or advisable.

- (1A) The Minister may require a person who is a party to a dealing approved under section 81 to furnish to the Minister a statement in writing setting out such information concerning alterations in the interests or rights existing in relation to the title to which the approved dealing relates as the Minister considers necessary or advisable.
- (1B) The Minister may require a person making an application under section 79(1) or (3) or 87A(2) to furnish to the Minister in writing such information concerning the matter to which the application relates as the Minister considers necessary or advisable.
- (1C) A person shall not fail or refuse to comply with a requirement given under subsection (1), (1A) or (1B).
- (2) A person who is required to furnish information shall not knowingly furnish information that is false or misleading in a material particular.

Penalty: \$5,000.

## **85 Production and inspection of documents**

- (1) The Minister may require any person to produce to him or to make available for inspection by him any documents in the possession or under the control of that person and relating to a transfer or dealing in relation to which approval is sought under this Division.
- (1A) The Minister may require a person to produce to him or to make available for inspection by him a document in the possession or under the control of that person and relating to an application made under section 79(1) or (3) or 87A(2) to the Minister.
- (2) A person shall not fail or refuse to comply with a requirement given to him under subsection (1) or (1A).

Penalty: \$5,000.

## **86 Inspection of register and documents**

- (1) The register and all instruments or copies of instruments subject to inspection under this Division shall at all convenient times be open for inspection by any person upon payment of the fee prescribed or calculated in accordance with the Regulations.

## **87 Evidentiary provisions**

- (1) The register shall be received by all courts as evidence of all matters required or authorized by this Division to be entered in the register.
- (2) The Minister may, on payment of a fee calculated in accordance with the Regulations, supply copies of or extracts from the register or of or from any instrument lodged with him under this Division certified by writing under his hand, and such a copy or extract so certified is admissible in evidence in all courts and proceedings without further proof or production of the original.
- (3) The Minister may, on payment of the fee prescribed or calculated in accordance with the Regulations, by instrument in writing under his hand, certify that an entry, matter or thing required or permitted by or under this Division to be made or done or not to be made or done has or has not, as the case may be, been made or done and such a certificate is evidence in all courts and proceedings of the statements contained in the certificate.

## **87A Minister may make corrections to register**

- (1) The Minister may alter the register for the purposes of correcting a clerical error or an obvious defect in it.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the Minister may, on application being made in writing to him by a person or of his own motion, make such entries in the register as he considers appropriate for the purposes of ensuring that the register accurately records the interests and rights existing in relation to a title.
- (3) Where the Minister proposes to make an entry in the register in accordance with subsection (2), he shall cause to be published in the *Gazette* a notice:
  - (a) setting out the terms of the entry that he proposes to make; and
  - (b) inviting interested persons to give to him by such day as is specified in the notice, being a day not earlier than 45 days after the publication of the notice, submissions in writing relating to the making of the entry.
- (4) Where submissions are, in accordance with a notice under subsection (3), given to the Minister in relation to the proposed making of an entry in the register, he shall:
  - (a) take those submissions into account before making an entry in the register; and

- (b) after making an entry in the register, cause to be published in the *Gazette* a notice setting out the terms of the entry.

## **88 Appeals**

- (1) The Supreme Court may, on the application of a person aggrieved by:

- (a) the omission of an entry from the register;
- (b) an entry made in the register without sufficient cause;
- (c) an entry wrongly existing in the register; or
- (d) an error or defect in an entry in the register,

make such an order as it thinks fit directing the rectification of the register.

- (2) The Supreme Court may, in proceedings under this section, decide any question that it is necessary or expedient to decide in connection with the rectification of the register.
- (3) Notice of an application under this section shall be given to the Minister, who may appear and be heard and shall appear if so directed by the Supreme Court.
- (4) An office copy of an order made by the Supreme Court may be served on the Minister and the Minister shall, upon receipt of the order, rectify the register accordingly.

## **89 Minister not liable to certain actions**

Subject to section 88, neither the Minister nor a person acting under his direction or authority is liable to an action, suit or proceeding for or in respect of an act or matter bona fide done or omitted to be done in exercise or purported exercise of any power or authority conferred by this Division.

## **90 Offences**

A person who wilfully:

- (a) makes, causes to be made or concurs in making a false entry in the register; or
- (b) produces or tenders in evidence a document falsely purporting to be a copy of or extract from an entry in the register or of or from an instrument lodged with the Minister under this Division,

is guilty of an offence.

Penalty: \$5,000.

## **91 Assessment of fee**

- (1) The Minister may determine the amount of the fee payable under section 92 in respect of any memorandum.
- (2) A person dissatisfied with a determination of the Minister under subsection (1) may appeal to the Supreme Court against the determination.
- (3) Upon the hearing of an appeal under subsection (2), the Supreme Court may affirm, reverse or modify the determination of the Minister.

## **92 Imposition of registration fees**

- (1) In this section **title** means a permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence or access authority.
- (2) Subject to this section, there is payable to the Minister in respect of an entry in the register of a memorandum of the transfer of a title under section 78 a fee at the rate of 1.5% of:
  - (a) the value of the consideration for the transfer; or
  - (b) the value of the title transferred,whichever is the greater or, if the amount of that fee is less than the prescribed amount, a fee of the prescribed amount.
- (3) Where:
  - (a) a fee imposed by subsection (5) in respect of an entry of approval of a dealing, being a dealing pursuant to which the transfer of a title is agreed to, has been paid; and
  - (b) but for this subsection, the amount of the fee imposed by subsection (2) in respect of the entry of a memorandum of the transfer of the title, being a transfer executed for the purpose of giving effect to the dealing referred to in paragraph (a), would be greater than the prescribed amount,

the amount of the fee imposed by subsection (2) in respect of the entry of the memorandum of the transfer is the prescribed amount.

- (4) Where:
- (a) the parties to a transfer of a title lodged for approval under section 78 satisfy the Minister that:
    - (i) they are related corporations within the meaning of the Corporations Law;
    - (ii) the transfer was executed solely for the purpose of a reorganization of the corporations concerned or any of them or solely for the purpose of securing the better administration of the corporations concerned or any of them; and
    - (iii) the transfer was not executed substantially for the purpose of avoiding or reducing the registration fees that would, but for this subsection, be payable under subsection (2) in respect of the entry of a memorandum of the transfer; and
  - (b) but for this subsection, the amount of the fee imposed by subsection (2) in respect of the entry of the memorandum of the transfer of the title would be more than the prescribed amount,  
  
the amount of the fee imposed by subsection (2) in respect of the entry of the memorandum of the transfer is the prescribed amount.
- (5) Subject to this section, there is payable to the Minister in respect of an entry in the register of the approval of a dealing under section 81 a fee at the rate of 1.5% of:
- (a) the value of the consideration for the dealing or, if the Minister approves the dealing in relation to another title or other titles, an amount equal to the value of the consideration for the dealing divided by the number of titles in relation to which the dealing is approved; or
  - (b) in a case where:
    - (i) the entry of approval relates to an interest in a licence or pipeline licence;
    - (ii) the value of the interest is greater than the amount applicable under paragraph (a);
    - (iii) the dealing has an effect of the kind referred to in section 81(1)(a), (b) or (d); and

- (iv) the Minister is satisfied that the dealing was not made pursuant to another dealing, being a dealing that relates to that title and in respect of an entry of approval of which a fee imposed by this subsection has been paid,

the value of the interest.

(6) Where:

- (a) but for this subsection, the amount of the fee imposed by subsection (5) in relation to an entry of approval of a dealing would be less than the prescribed amount; or
- (b) an approval under section 81 is given in respect of a dealing that is a dealing to which that section applies by reason only that the dealing creates, varies or terminates a charge over some or all of the assets of a body corporate,

the amount of the fee imposed by subsection (5) in respect of the entry of that approval is the prescribed amount.

(7) Where:

- (a) the parties to a dealing lodged for approval under section 81 satisfy the Minister that:
  - (i) they are related corporations within the meaning of the Corporations Law;
  - (ii) the dealing was entered into solely for the purpose of a reorganization of the corporations concerned or any of them or solely for the purpose of securing the better administration of the corporations concerned or any of them; and
  - (iii) the dealing was not entered into substantially for the purpose of avoiding or reducing the registration fees that would, but for this subsection, be payable under subsection (5) in respect of the entry of approval of the dealing; and
- (b) but for this subsection, the amount of the fee imposed by subsection (5) in relation to the entry of approval of the dealing would be more than the prescribed amount,

the amount of the fee imposed by subsection (5) in respect of the entry of approval of that dealing is the prescribed amount.

(8) For the purposes of calculating the amount of the fee imposed by subsection (5) in respect of an entry of approval of a dealing, the

value, as determined by the Minister of any exploration works to be carried out pursuant to the dealing, being works that were, at the time when the application for approval of the dealing was lodged, required or permitted to be carried out by or under the relevant title, shall be deducted from the value of the consideration for the dealing or from the value of the interest in the relevant licence as the case requires.

**93 Exemption from stamp duty**

Duty under the *Stamp Duty Act* shall not be chargeable:

- (a) on a permit, licence, pipeline licence or access authority;
- (b) on a transfer of a permit, licence, pipeline licence or access authority to which section 78 applies; or
- (c) on any other instrument in so far as it relates to a legal or equitable interest in or affecting a permit, licence, pipeline licence or access authority.

**Division 6 General**

**94 Notice of grants of permits, &c., to be published**

The Minister shall cause notice of, and such particulars as he thinks fit of:

- (a) the grant, and the grant of the renewal, of a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence;
- (b) the variation of a licence or pipeline licence;
- (c) the surrender or cancellation of a permit, lease or licence as to all or some of the blocks in the permit area, lease area or licence area;
- (d) the determination of a permit or lease as to a block or blocks;
- (e) an application for a pipeline licence or for the renewal or variation of a pipeline licence;
- (f) the surrender or cancellation of a pipeline licence as to the whole or a part of the pipeline; and
- (g) the expiry of a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence,

under this Part to be published in the *Gazette*.

**95 Date of effect of permits, &c.**

- (2) The surrender or cancellation of a permit, lease or licence as to all or some of the blocks in the permit area, lease area or licence area has effect on and from the day on which notice of the surrender or cancellation is published in the *Gazette*.
- (3) The surrender or cancellation of a pipeline licence as to the whole or a part of the pipeline has effect on and from the day on which notice of the surrender or cancellation is published in the *Gazette*.
- (4) A variation of a licence or pipeline licence has effect on and from the day on which notice of the variation is published in the *Gazette*.

**96 Commencement of works**

- (1) Where a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence is granted subject to a condition that works or operations specified in the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence are to be carried out, the permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee, as the case may be, shall commence to carry out those works or operations within a period of 6 months after the day on which the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence, as the case may be, comes into force.
- (2) The Minister may, by notice in writing served on the permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee:
  - (a) exempt him from compliance with the requirements of subsection (1); and
  - (b) direct him to commence to carry out the works or operations specified in the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence, as the case may be, within such period after the day on which the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence, as the case may be, comes into force as is specified in the notice.
- (3) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (2) shall comply with the direction.

Penalty: \$10,000.

**97 Work practices**

- (1) A permittee, lessee or licensee shall carry out all petroleum exploration operations and operations for the recovery of petroleum in the permit area, lease area or licence area in a proper and workmanlike manner and in accordance with good oilfield practice and shall secure the safety, health and welfare of persons engaged in those operations in or about the permit area, lease area or licence area.



- (2) In particular, and without limiting the generality of subsection (1), but subject to any authorization or requirement given or made by or under this Act or regulations or directions under this Act, a permittee, lessee or licensee shall:
- (a) control the flow and prevent the waste or escape in the permit area, lease area or licence area of petroleum or water;
  - (b) prevent the escape in the permit area, lease area or licence area of any mixture of water or drilling fluid with petroleum or any other matter;
  - (c) prevent damage to petroleum-bearing strata in an area, whether in the adjacent area or not, in respect of which the permit, lease or licence is not in force;
  - (d) keep separate:
    - (i) each petroleum pool discovered in the permit area, lease area or licence area; and
    - (ii) such of the sources of water, if any, discovered in that area as the Minister, by notice in writing served on that person, directs; and
  - (e) prevent water or any other matter entering any petroleum pool through wells in the permit area, lease area or licence area except when required by, and in accordance with, good oilfield practice.
- (3) A pipeline licensee shall operate a pipeline in a proper and workmanlike manner and shall secure the safety, health and welfare of persons engaged in operations in connection with the pipeline.
- (4) In particular, and without limiting the generality of subsection (3), a pipeline licensee shall prevent the waste or escape of petroleum or water from a pipeline or from any secondary line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or water line.
- (5) A person who is the holder of a special prospecting authority or an access authority shall carry out all petroleum exploration operations in the area in respect of which the special prospecting authority or access authority is in force in a proper and workmanlike manner and in accordance with good oilfield practice and shall secure the safety, health and welfare of persons engaged in those operations in or about that area.

- (7) It is a defence if a person charged with failing to comply with a provision of this section, or a defendant in an action arising out of a failure by the defendant to comply with a provision of this section, proves that he took all reasonable steps to comply with that provision.

Penalty for an offence against this section: \$10,000.

#### **97A Conditions relating to insurance**

- (1) The holder of a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence shall maintain, as directed by the Minister from time to time, insurance against expenses or liabilities or specified things arising in connection with, or as a result of, the carrying out of work, or the doing of any other thing, under the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence, including expenses of complying with directions with respect to the clean-up or other remedying of the effects of the escape of petroleum.
- (2) The conditions subject to which a special prospecting authority or access authority is granted may include a condition that the holder maintain, as directed by the Minister from time to time, insurance against expenses or liabilities or specified things arising in connection with, or as a result of, the carrying out of work, or the doing of any other thing, under the authority, including expenses of complying with directions with respect to the clean-up or other remedying of the effects of the escape of petroleum.
- (3) Where:
- (a) a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence was in force immediately before the commencement;
  - (b) the Minister has required the holder to maintain insurance under subsection (1); and
  - (c) the Minister is satisfied that the required insurance is in effect;
- the Minister shall issue a certificate that he is so satisfied.
- (4) Where the Minister issues a certificate under subsection (3), any security in force in relation to the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence, being a security that was required under this Act before the commencement of this section, is discharged.
- (5) The discharge of a security under subsection (4) has no effect on any liability arising under or in relation to the security before its discharge.

**98 Maintenance, &c., of property**

(1) In this section:

***operations area:***

- (a) in relation to an operator who is a permittee, lessee or licensee – means a permit area, lease area or licence area, as the case may be;
- (b) in relation to an operator who is a pipeline licensee – means the part of an adjacent area in which a pipeline is constructed; and
- (c) in relation to an operator who is the holder of a special prospecting authority or access authority – means the area in respect of which that authority is in force.

***operator*** means the permittee, lessee, licensee, pipeline licensee or holder of a special prospecting authority or access authority.

- (2) An operator shall maintain in good condition and repair all structures, equipment and other property in an operations area and used in connection with the operations in which he is engaged.
- (3) An operator shall remove from an operations area all structures, equipment or other property that are not either used or to be used in connection with the operations in which he is engaged.
- (4) Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply in relation to any structure, equipment or other property that was not brought into the operations area by or with the authority of the operator.

Penalty: \$10,000.

**99 Sections 97 and 98 to have effect subject to this Act, &c.**

Sections 97 and 98 have effect subject to:

- (a) any other provisions of this Act;
- (b) the Regulations;
- (c) a direction under section 101; and
- (d) any other law.

**100 Drilling near boundaries**

- (1) A permittee, lessee or licensee shall not make a well any part of which is less than 300 metres from the boundary of the permit area,

lease area or licence area, as the case may be, except with the consent in writing of the Minister and in accordance with such conditions, if any, as are specified in the notice of consent.

- (2) Where a permittee, lessee or licensee does not comply with subsection (1), the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the permittee, lessee or licensee, as the case may be, direct him to do one or more of the following, within the period specified in the notice:
  - (a) plug the well;
  - (b) close off the well; and
  - (c) comply with such directions relating to the making or maintenance of the well as are specified in the notice.
- (3) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (2) shall comply with the direction.

Penalty: \$10,000.

## **101 Directions**

- (1) The Minister may, by notice in writing served on the registered holder of a permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, special prospecting authority or access authority, give to the registered holder a direction as to any matter in respect of which regulations may be made.
- (2) A direction given under this section to a registered holder applies to the registered holder and may also be expressed to apply to:
  - (a) a specified class of persons, being a class constituted by or included in one or both of the following classes of persons:
    - (i) servants or agents of, or persons acting on behalf of, the registered holder;
    - (ii) persons performing work or services, whether directly or indirectly, for the registered holder; or
  - (b) a person (not being a person to whom the direction applies otherwise than in accordance with this paragraph) who is in the adjacent area for any reason touching, concerning, arising out of or connected with the exploration of the sea-bed or subsoil of the adjacent area for petroleum or the exploitation of the natural resources, being petroleum, of that sea-bed or subsoil or is in, on, above, below or in the vicinity of a vessel, aircraft, structure or installation, or equipment or other

property, that is in the adjacent area for a reason of that kind,

and where a direction so expressed is given, the direction shall be deemed to apply to each person included in that specified class or to each person who is in the adjacent area as mentioned in paragraph (b), as the case may be.

- (2A) Where a direction under this section applies to a registered holder and to a person referred to in subsection (2)(a), the registered holder shall cause a copy of the instrument by which the direction was given to be given to that other person or to be exhibited at a prominent position at a place in an adjacent area frequented by that other person.

Penalty: \$5,000.

- (2B) Where a direction under this section applies to a registered holder and to a person referred to in subsection (2)(b), the registered holder shall cause a copy of the instrument by which the direction was given to be exhibited at a prominent position at a place in an adjacent area.

Penalty: \$5,000.

- (2C) Where a direction under this section applies to a registered holder and to a person referred to in subsection (2)(b), the Minister may, by notice in writing given to the registered holder, require him to cause to be displayed at such places in an adjacent area, and in such manner, as are specified in the notice, copies of the instrument by which the direction was given, and the registered holder shall comply with that requirement.

Penalty: \$5,000.

- (3) The Minister shall not give a direction of a standing or permanent nature except after consultation with the Minister of State for the time being administering the Commonwealth Act, but the validity of a direction of the Minister shall not be called in question by reason only of a failure to comply with this subsection.
- (4) A direction under this section has effect and shall be complied with notwithstanding any previous direction under this section.
- (5) A direction under this section has effect and shall be complied with notwithstanding anything in the Regulations or the applied provisions.
- (6) Subsections (2A) and (2B) of section 151 apply in relation to directions made under this section in like manner as they apply to the Regulations.

- (7) A person who fails to comply with a direction in force under subsection (1) that applies to the person is guilty of an offence.

Penalty: \$10,000.

- (8) Where:

(a) a direction given under this section applies to a registered holder and another person and that other person is prosecuted for an offence against subsection (7) in relation to the direction; and

(b) the person adduces evidence that he did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to have known, of the existence of the direction,

he shall not be found guilty of the offence unless the prosecutor proves that the person knew, or could reasonably be expected to have known, of the existence of the direction.

## **102 Compliance with directions**

- (1) Where a person does not comply with a direction given or applicable to him under this Part or the Regulations the Minister may do all or any of the things required by the direction to be done.

- (2) Costs and expenses incurred by the Minister under subsection (1) in relation to a direction are a debt due by the person to whom the direction was given or was applicable to the Territory and are recoverable in a court of competent jurisdiction.

- (2A) Where:

(a) a direction given under section 101 applies to a permittee, lessee, licensee, pipeline licensee or the holder of a special prospecting authority or access authority and another person and an action under subsection (2) relating to the direction is brought against that other person; and

(b) the person adduces evidence that the person did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to have known, of the existence of the direction,

the person is not liable under subsection (2) unless the plaintiff proves that the person knew, or could reasonably be expected to have known, of the existence of the direction.

- (3) It is a defence if a person charged with failing to comply with a direction given or applicable to him under this Part or under the Regulations or a defendant in an action under subsection (2) proves that he took all reasonable steps to comply with the direction.

### **103 Exemption**

- (1) Where:
- (a) a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence is, under this Part, deemed to continue in force until the Minister grants, or refuses to grant, the renewal of the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence;
  - (b) a licence is varied under section 45;
  - (c) a licensee enters into an agreement under section 59 or a direction is given to a licensee under that section;
  - (d) a permit, lease or licence is partly cancelled, partly determined or surrendered as to one or more but not all of the blocks in respect of which it is in force;
  - (e) a pipeline licence is varied under section 71 or 72;
  - (f) a direction is given to a pipeline licensee under section 73;
  - (g) a pipeline licence is partly cancelled;
  - (h) an access authority is granted in respect of a block the subject of a permit, lease or licence, or an access authority as in force in respect of such a block is varied;
  - (j) a permittee, lessee, licensee, pipeline licensee or the holder of a special prospecting authority or access authority applies, by notice in writing served on the Minister:
    - (i) for a variation or suspension; or
    - (ii) for exemption from compliance with,  
  
any of the conditions to which the permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, special prospecting authority or access authority is subject; or
  - (k) the Minister under this Part or the Regulations gives a direction or consent to a permittee, lessee, licensee, pipeline licensee or the holder of a special prospecting authority or access authority,

the Minister may, at any time, by notice in writing served on the permittee, lessee, licensee, pipeline licensee or the holder of the special prospecting authority or access authority:

- (m) vary or suspend; or
- (n) exempt the permittee, lessee, licensee, pipeline licensee or the holder of the special prospecting authority or access authority from compliance with,

any of the conditions to which the permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, special prospecting authority or access authority is subject, upon such conditions, if any, as the Minister determines and specifies in the notice.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not authorize the making of an instrument to the extent that it would affect the term of a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence.
- (3) Where, in pursuance of subsection (1), the Minister suspends, or exempts the permittee or lessee from compliance with, any of the conditions to which a permit or lease is subject, the Minister may, if he considers that circumstances make it reasonable to do so, in the notice of suspension or exemption or by a later notice in writing served on the permittee or lessee, extend the term of the permit or lease by a period not exceeding the period of suspension or exemption.

#### **104 Surrender of permits, &c.**

- (1) The registered holder of an instrument, being a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence may, at any time, by application in writing served on the Minister, apply for consent to surrender the instrument:
  - (a) in the case of a permit or licence – as to all or some of the blocks in respect of which it is in force;
  - (aa) in the case of a lease – as to all of the blocks in respect of which it is in force; or
  - (b) in the case of a pipeline licence – as to the whole or a part of the pipeline in respect of which it is in force.



- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the Minister shall not give his consent to a surrender of an instrument under subsection (1) unless the registered holder:
- (a) has paid all fees and amounts payable by him under this Act, or has made arrangements that are satisfactory to the Minister for the payment of those fees and amounts;
  - (b) has complied with the conditions to which the instrument is subject and with the provisions of this Part and of the Regulations;
  - (c) has, to the satisfaction of the Minister, removed or caused to be removed from the area to which the surrender relates all property brought into that area by any person engaged or concerned in the operations authorized by the instrument, or has made arrangements that are satisfactory to the Minister with respect to that property;
  - (d) has, to the satisfaction of the Minister, plugged or closed off all wells made in the area by any person engaged or concerned in the operations authorized by the instrument;
  - (e) subject to this Part and to the Regulations, has made provision, to the satisfaction of the Minister, for the conservation and protection of the natural resources in the area; and
  - (f) has, to the satisfaction of the Minister, made good any damage to the sea-bed or subsoil in the area caused by any person engaged or concerned in the operations authorized by the instrument.
- (3) Where the registered holder of an instrument, being a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence, has not complied with the conditions to which the instrument is subject and with the provisions of this Part and of the Regulations, the Minister may give his consent to a surrender of the instrument under subsection (1) if he is satisfied that, although the registered holder has not so complied, special circumstances exist that justify the giving of consent to the surrender.
- (4) Where the Minister consents to an application under subsection (1), the applicant may, by notice in writing served on the Minister, surrender the instrument accordingly.

- (5) In this section, the ***area to which the surrender relates*** means:
- (a) in relation to a surrender of a permit, lease or licence – the area constituted by the blocks as to which the permit, lease or licence is proposed to be surrendered; and
  - (b) in relation to a surrender of a pipeline licence – the part of an adjacent area in which the pipeline, or the part of the pipeline, as to which the pipeline licence is proposed to be surrendered, is constructed.

#### **105 Cancellation of permits, &c.**

- (1) Where a permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee:
- (a) has not complied with a condition to which a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence is subject;
  - (b) has not complied with a direction given to him under this Part by the Minister;
  - (c) has not complied with a provision of this Part or of the Regulations; or
  - (d) has not paid any amount payable by him under the Act, within a period of 3 months after the day on which the amount became payable,

the Minister may, on that ground, by notice in writing served on the permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee, as the case may be:

- (e) in the case of a permit or licence – cancel the permit or licence as to all or some of the blocks in respect of which it is in force;
  - (ea) in the case of a lease – cancel the lease as to all the blocks in respect of which it is in force; or
  - (f) in the case of a pipeline licence – cancel the pipeline licence as to the whole or a part of the pipeline in respect of which it is in force.
- (2) The Minister shall not, under subsection (1), cancel a permit, licence or pipeline licence as to all or some of the blocks, or as to the whole or a part of the pipeline, in respect of which it is in force, or cancel a lease as to all of the blocks in respect of which it is in force, on a ground referred to in that subsection unless:

- (a) he has, by notice in writing served on the permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee, as the case may be, given not less than one month's notice of his intention so to cancel the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence on that ground;
- (b) he has served a copy of the notice on such other persons, if any, as he thinks fit;
- (c) he has, in the notice, specified a date on or before which the permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee or a person on whom a copy of the notice is served may, by notice in writing served on the Minister, submit any matters that he wishes the Minister to consider; and
- (d) he has taken into account:
  - (i) any action taken by the permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee, as the case may be, to remove that ground or to prevent the recurrence of similar grounds; and
  - (ii) any matters so submitted to him on or before the specified date by the permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee or by a person on whom a copy of the first-mentioned notice has been served.

**106 Cancellation of permit, &c., not affected by other provisions**

- (1) A permit, licence or pipeline licence may be wholly cancelled or partly cancelled, and a lease may be wholly cancelled, on the ground that the registered holder of the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence has not complied with a provision of this Part or of the Regulations notwithstanding that he has been found guilty of an offence by reason of his failure to comply with the provisions.
- (2) A person who was the registered holder of a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence that has been wholly cancelled, or is the registered holder of a permit, licence or pipeline licence that has been partly cancelled, on the ground that he has not complied with a provision of this Part or of the Regulations may be found guilty of an offence by reason of his failure to comply with the provision, notwithstanding that the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence has been so cancelled.
- (3) A permit, licence or pipeline licence may be wholly cancelled or partly cancelled, and a lease may be wholly cancelled, on the ground that the registered holder of the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence had not paid an amount payable by him under this Act within a period of 3 months after the day on which the amount became payable, notwithstanding that judgment for the amount has

been obtained or that the amount, or any part of the amount, has been paid or recovered.

- (4) A person who was the registered holder of a permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence that has been wholly cancelled, or is the registered holder of a permit, licence or pipeline licence that has been partly cancelled, on the ground that he has not paid an amount payable by him under this Act within a period of 3 months after the day on which the amount became payable continues to be liable to pay that amount, together with any additional amount payable by reason of late payment of that amount, notwithstanding that the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence has been so cancelled.

**107 Removal of property, &c., by permittee, &c.**

- (1) Where a permit, licence or pipeline licence has been wholly determined, partly determined, wholly cancelled or partly cancelled, or has expired, or a lease has been wholly determined, partly determined or wholly cancelled or has expired, the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the person who was, or is, as the case may be, the permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee, direct that person to do any one or more of the following things:
- (a) to remove or cause to be removed from the relinquished area all property brought into that area by any person engaged or concerned in the operations authorized by the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence or to make arrangements that are satisfactory to the Minister with respect to that property;
  - (b) to plug or close off, to the satisfaction of the Minister, all wells made in that area by any person engaged or concerned in those operations;
  - (c) subject to this Part and to the Regulations, to make provision, to the satisfaction of the Minister, for the conservation and protection of the natural resources in that area; and
  - (d) to make good, to the satisfaction of the Minister, any damage to the sea-bed or subsoil in that area caused by any person engaged or concerned in those operations.
- (2) The Minister may, by notice in writing served on a permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee, direct him to do any one or more of the following things:
- (a) to remove or cause to be removed from the permit area, lease area, licence area or part of the adjacent area in which the pipeline is constructed, as the case may be, all property brought into that area or part by any person engaged or

concerned in the operations authorized by the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence or to make arrangements that are satisfactory to the Minister with respect to that property;

- (b) to plug or close off, to the satisfaction of the Minister, all wells made in that area or part by any person engaged or concerned in those operations;
  - (c) subject to this Part and to the Regulations, to make provision, to the satisfaction of the Minister, for the conservation and protection of the natural resources in that area or part; and
  - (d) to make good, to the satisfaction of the Minister, any damage to the sea-bed or subsoil in that area or part caused by any person engaged or concerned in those operations.
- (3) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (1) or (2) shall comply with the direction:
- (a) in the case of a direction given under subsection (1) – within the period specified in the notice by which the direction was given; or
  - (b) in the case of a direction given under subsection (2) – on or before the date of expiration of the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence concerned.

Penalty: \$10,000.

### **108 Removal of property, &c., by Minister**

Where a permit, licence or pipeline licence has been wholly determined, partly determined, wholly cancelled or partly cancelled, or has expired, or a lease has been wholly determined, partly determined or wholly cancelled or has expired, and a direction under section 107 has not been complied with, or an arrangement under that section has not been carried out, in relation to a relinquished area:

- (a) the Minister may do all or any of the things required by the direction or arrangement to be done; and
- (b) if any property brought into that area by any person engaged or concerned in the operations authorized by the permit, lease, licence or pipeline licence has not been removed in accordance with the direction or arrangement, the Minister may, by instrument published in the *Gazette*, direct that the owner or owners of that property shall remove it from that area, or dispose of it to the satisfaction of the Minister, within the period specified in the notice and shall serve a copy of the

notice on each person whom he believes to be the owner of that property or any part of that property.

**109 Payment by instalments**

- (1) The Minister and a person who may request, or has requested, that a permit under section 27 or a licence under section 50 be granted to him may enter into an agreement in writing for or in relation to the payment, by instalments, of the amount to be paid in respect of the grant of the permit or licence, together with interest at the rate that is the specified rate from time to time on so much of that amount as from time to time remains unpaid.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the specified rate is 10% per annum or, if a lower rate is prescribed, that lower rate.
- (3) The period specified in an agreement under this section as the period within which an amount payable by instalments is to be paid shall not be greater than 21 years.
- (4) Where a person enters into an agreement under this section for or in relation to the payment of an amount in respect of the grant of a permit or licence, any instalment or interest that is due under the agreement and has not been paid is payable by the registered holder of the permit or licence, as the case may be.

**110 Penalty for late payments of instalments, &c.**

- (1) Where the liability of a person under section 109 to pay an amount, being an instalment or any interest, is not discharged at or before the time when the amount is payable, there is payable by that person an additional amount calculated at the rate of one-third of 1% per day upon so much of the first-mentioned amount as from time to time remains unpaid, to be computed from the time when the first-mentioned amount became payable until it is paid.
- (2) The Minister may, in a particular case, remit the whole or part of an amount payable under this section.

**111 Special prospecting authorities**

- (1) A person may make an application to the Minister for the grant of a special prospecting authority in respect of a block or blocks in respect of which a permit, lease or licence is not in force.
- (2) An application under this section:
  - (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) shall be made in an approved manner;

- (c) shall specify the operations that the applicant proposes to carry on and the block or blocks in respect of which the applicant proposes to carry on those operations; and
  - (d) shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Minister may:
- (a) grant to the applicant a special prospecting authority subject to such conditions as the Minister thinks fit and specifies in the authority; or
  - (b) refuse to grant the application.
- (4) A special prospecting authority, while it remains in force, authorizes the holder, subject to this Act and the Regulations and in accordance with the conditions to which the special prospecting authority is subject, to carry on in the blocks specified in the special prospecting authority the petroleum exploration operations so specified.
- (5) Nothing in a special prospecting authority authorizes the holder to make a well.
- (6) A special prospecting authority comes into force on the day specified for the purpose in the authority and, unless surrendered or cancelled, remains in force for such period, not exceeding 6 months, as is so specified.
- (6A) A special prospecting authority is not capable of being transferred.
- (6B) Where:
- (a) a person holds a special prospecting authority in respect of a block; and
  - (b) another special prospecting authority is granted to another person in respect of the block,
- the Minister shall, by notice in writing served on each of those persons, inform each of them of:
- (c) the petroleum exploration operations authorized by the special prospecting authority granted to the other person; and
  - (d) the conditions to which the special prospecting authority granted to the other person is subject.

- (7) A special prospecting authority:
- (a) may be surrendered by the holder at any time by notice in writing served on the Minister; and
  - (b) may, if the holder has not complied with a condition to which the authority is subject, be cancelled by the Minister by notice in writing served on the holder.
- (8) Where a special prospecting authority has been surrendered or cancelled or has expired, the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the person who was the holder of the special prospecting authority, direct that person to do any one or more of the following things:
- (a) to remove or cause to be removed from the relinquished area all property brought into that area by any person engaged or concerned in the operations authorized by the special prospecting authority or to make arrangements that are satisfactory to the Minister with respect to that property;
  - (b) subject to this Part and to the Regulations, to make provision, to the satisfaction of the Minister, for the conservation and protection of the natural resources in that area; and
  - (c) to make good, to the satisfaction of the Minister, any damage to the sea-bed or subsoil in that area caused by any person engaged or concerned in those operations.
- (9) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (8) shall comply with the direction.
- Penalty: \$10,000.
- (10) Section 108 applies to and in relation to a special prospecting authority as if:
- (a) a reference in that section to a permit were a reference to a special prospecting authority; and
  - (b) a reference in that section to a direction or an arrangement under section 107 were a reference to a direction or an arrangement under subsection (8).

## **112 Access authorities**

- (1) A permittee, lessee or licensee may make an application to the Minister for the grant of an access authority to enable him to carry on in an area, being part of an adjacent area that is not part of a permit area, lease area or licence area, petroleum exploration



operations or operations related to the recovery of petroleum in or from the permit area, lease area or licence area.

- (1A) A holder of a State title may make an application to the Minister for the grant of an access authority to enable the holder to carry on, in a part of the adjacent area, petroleum exploration operations or operations related to the recovery of petroleum in or from the area to which that State title relates.
- (1B) The holder of a special prospecting authority may make an application to the Minister for the grant of an access authority to enable the applicant to carry on petroleum exploration operations in an area, being part of the adjacent area not included in any block that is the subject of the special prospecting authority.
- (1C) The holder of a permit, lease, licence or special prospecting authority may make an application to the Minister for the grant of an access authority to enable the applicant to carry on, in a block or blocks within an adjoining adjacent area:
- (a) petroleum exploration operations; or
  - (b) where the applicant is the holder of a permit, lease or licence, operations related to the recovery of petroleum in or from any block within the adjacent area that is the subject of the permit, lease or licence.
- (2) An application under this section:
- (a) shall be in accordance with an approved form;
  - (b) shall be made in an approved manner;
  - (c) shall specify the operations that the applicant proposes to carry on and the area in which the applicant proposes to carry on those operations; and
  - (d) may set out any other matters that the applicant wishes the Minister to consider.
- (3) The Minister may:
- (a) if he is satisfied that it is necessary or desirable to do so for the more effective exercise of the rights, or for the proper performance of the duties, of a permittee, lessee, licensee, holder of a special prospecting authority or holder of a state title who has made an application under this section, grant to him an access authority subject to such conditions as the Minister thinks fit and specifies in the access authority; and

- (b) at any time, by notice in writing served on the registered holder of an access authority so granted, vary the access authority.
- (4) Subject to subsection (4AA), the Minister shall not grant an access authority on an application made under a provision of this section other than subsection (1C) in respect of a block that is the subject of a permit, lease, licence or special prospecting authority of which the registered holder is a person other than the applicant, or vary such an access authority as in force in respect of a block that is the subject of a permit, lease, licence or special prospecting authority of which the registered holder is a person other than the registered holder of the access authority, unless:
- (a) he has, by notice in writing served on that person, given not less than one month's notice of his intention to grant or vary, as the case may be, the access authority;
  - (b) he has served a copy of the notice:
    - (i) on such other persons, if any, as he thinks fit; and
    - (ii) in a case where he intends to vary an access authority – on the registered holder of the access authority;
  - (c) he has, in the notice:
    - (i) given particulars of the access authority proposed to be granted, or of the variation proposed to be made, as the case may be; and
    - (ii) specified a date on or before which a person on whom the notice, or a copy of the notice, is served may, by notice in writing served on the Minister, submit any matters that he wishes the Minister to consider; and
  - (d) he has taken into account any matters submitted to him under paragraph (c) on or before the specified date by a person on whom the first-mentioned notice, or a copy of that notice, has been served.
- (4AA) Subsection (4) does not apply if the holder of the permit, lease, licence or special prospecting authority has consented in writing to the grant of the access authority.
- (4A) The Minister shall not grant or vary an access authority on an application under subsection (1C) without the approval of the Minister of State administering the corresponding law in respect of the adjoining adjacent area within which the block or blocks to be specified in the access authority is or are situated.

- (4B) Where the approval of the Minister is sought in respect of:
- (a) an application under a corresponding law for the grant of an access authority in respect of a block within the adjacent area that is the subject of a permit, lease, licence or special prospecting authority of which the registered holder is a person other than the applicant; or
  - (b) a proposal to vary an access authority granted on an application under a corresponding law in respect of a block within the adjacent area that is the subject of a permit, lease, licence or special prospecting authority of which the registered holder is a person other than the registered holder of the access authority,
- the Minister shall not approve the grant or the variation unless:
- (c) the Minister has, by instrument in writing served on that person, given not less than one month's notice of the intention to grant or vary, as the case may be, the access authority;
  - (d) a copy of the instrument has been served:
    - (i) on such other persons, if any, as the Minister thinks fit; and
    - (ii) where it is proposed to vary an access authority – on the registered holder of the access authority;
  - (e) the instrument gives:
    - (i) particulars of the access authority that it is proposed to grant or vary, as the case may be; and
    - (ii) notice that a person on whom the instrument, or a copy of the instrument, has been served may, by instrument in writing served on the Minister on or before the date specified in the instrument, submit any matters that the person wishes the Minister to consider; and
  - (f) the Minister has taken into account any matters submitted in accordance with the notice referred to in paragraph (e)(ii).
- (5) An access authority, while it remains in force, authorizes the holder, subject to this Act and the Regulations and in accordance with the conditions to which the access authority is subject, to carry on, in the area specified in the access authority, the operations so specified.
- (6) Nothing in an access authority authorizes the holder to make a well.

- (7) An access authority comes into force on the day specified for the purpose in the access authority and, unless surrendered or cancelled, remains in force for such period as is so specified but may be extended by the Minister for a further period.
- (8) An access authority:
- (a) may be surrendered by the holder at any time by notice in writing served on the Minister; and
  - (b) may be cancelled by the Minister at any time by notice in writing served on the holder and on any person in whose permit area, lease area or licence area operations may be carried on in pursuance of the access authority.
- (9) Where an access authority has been surrendered or cancelled or has expired, the Minister may, by notice in writing served on the person who was the holder of the access authority, direct that person to do any one or more of the following things:
- (a) to remove or cause to be removed from the relinquished area all property brought into that area by any person engaged or concerned in the operations authorized by the access authority or to make arrangements that are satisfactory to the Minister with respect to that property;
  - (b) subject to this Part and to the Regulations, to make provision, to the satisfaction of the Minister, for the conservation and protection of the natural resources in that area; and
  - (c) to make good, to the satisfaction of the Minister, any damage to the sea-bed or subsoil in that area caused by any person engaged or concerned in those operations.
- (10) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (9) shall comply with the direction.

Penalty for an offence against this subsection: \$10,000.

- (11) The holder of an access authority shall, if the access authority is in force in respect of an area that consists of, or includes, a block that is the subject of a permit, lease or licence of which he is not the registered holder, furnish to the registered holder of that permit, lease or licence, within 28 days after the end of each month during which the access authority is in force in respect of that block, a full report, in writing, of the operations carried on in that block during that month and a summary of the facts ascertained from those operations.

Penalty for an offence against this subsection: \$5,000.

- (12) Section 108 applies to and in relation to an access authority as if:
- (a) a reference in that section to a permit were a reference to an access authority; and
  - (b) a reference in that section to a direction or an arrangement under section 107 were a reference to a direction or an arrangement under subsection (9).

- (13) In this section:

**adjoining adjacent area** means an adjacent area (within the meaning of a corresponding law) that adjoins the adjacent area.

**State Title** means an authority, however described, under a law of the Commonwealth, Western Australia or Queensland, to explore for, or to recover, petroleum.

### 113 Sale of property

- (1) Where a direction under section 108 has not been complied with in relation to any property, the Minister may do all or any of the following things:
- (a) remove, in such manner as he thinks fit, all or any of that property from the relinquished area concerned;
  - (b) dispose of, in such manner as he thinks fit, all or any of that property; and
  - (c) if he has served a copy of the notice by which the direction was given on a person whom he believed to be an owner of that property or part of that property, sell, by public auction or otherwise, as he thinks fit, all or any of that property that belongs, or that he believes to belong, to that person.
- (2) The Minister may deduct from the proceeds of a sale held under subsection (1) of property that belongs, or that he believes to belong, to a particular person:
- (a) all or any part of any costs and expenses incurred by him under that subsection in relation to that property;
  - (b) all or any part of any costs and expenses incurred by him in relation to the doing of any thing required by a direction under section 107, 111 or 112, as the case may be, to be done by that person; and
  - (c) all or any part of any fees or amounts due and payable under this Act by that person.

- (3) Costs and expenses incurred by the Minister under subsection (1):
- (a) if incurred in relation to the removal, disposal or sale of a property, are a debt due by the owner of the property to the Territory; or
  - (b) if incurred in relation to the doing of any thing required by a direction under section 107, 111 or 112, as the case may be, to be done by a person who is or was a permittee, lessee, licensee, pipeline licensee or holder of a special prospecting authority or access authority, are a debt due by that person to the Territory,
- and, to the extent to which they are not recovered under subsection (2), are recoverable in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (4) Subject to subsection (3), no action lies in respect of the removal, disposal or sale of property under this section.

**115 Minister, &c., may require information to be furnished, &c.**

- (1) Where the Minister or an inspector has reason to believe that a person is capable of giving information or producing documents relating to petroleum exploration operations, operations for the recovery of petroleum or operations connected with the construction or operation of a pipeline in an adjacent area, he may, by notice in writing served on that person, require that person:
- (a) to furnish to him in writing within the period and in the manner specified in the notice, any such information; or
  - (b) to attend before him or a person specified in the notice, at such time and place as is specified and there to answer questions relating to those operations and to produce such documents relating to those operations as are specified.
- (2) A person is not excused from furnishing information, answering a question or producing a document when required to do so under this section on the ground that the information so furnished, the answer to the question or the production of the document might tend to incriminate him or make him liable to a penalty, but the information so furnished or his answer to the question is not admissible in evidence against him in proceedings other than proceedings for an offence against section 117.

**116 Power to examine on oath**

- (1) The Minister or an inspector may administer an oath to a person required to attend before him in pursuance of section 115 and may examine that person on oath.

- (2) Where a person attending before the Minister or an inspector in pursuance of section 115 conscientiously objects to take an oath, he may make an affirmation that he conscientiously objects to take an oath and that he will state the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth to all questions asked him.
- (3) An affirmation made under subsection (2) is of the same force and effect, and entails the same penalties, as an oath.

**117 Failing to furnish information, &c.**

A person shall not:

- (a) refuse or fail to comply with a requirement in a notice under section 115 to the extent to which he is capable of complying with it;
- (b) in purported compliance with such a requirement, knowingly furnish information that is to his knowledge, false or misleading in a material particular; or
- (c) when attending before the Minister or an inspector in pursuance of such a requirement, knowingly make a statement or produce a document that is, to his knowledge, false or misleading in a material particular.

Penalty: \$10,000.

**118 Release of information**

- (1) The Minister may, at any time, make available to a Minister of State of the Commonwealth or of a State of the Commonwealth:
  - (a) any information contained in a document to which this section applies that has been furnished to the Minister; and
  - (b) any cores or cuttings from, or samples of, the sea-bed or subsoil in a block, or samples of petroleum recovered in a block, that have been furnished to the Minister.
- (1A) The Minister may, at any time after the grant or renewal, or refusal to grant or renew, a permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, access authority or special prospecting authority:
  - (a) make publicly known; or
  - (b) on request by a person and, if the Minister so requires, on payment of a fee calculated in accordance with the Regulations, make available to that person,

any information contained in, or accompanying, the application for the grant or renewal, as the case may be, but not including:

- (c) information of a kind referred to in subsection (2) or (5A); or
- (d) particulars of:
  - (i) the technical qualifications of the applicant and of the employees of the applicant;
  - (ii) the technical advice available to the applicant; or
  - (iii) the financial resources available to the applicant.

(2) The Minister may, at any time after the relevant day:

- (a) make publicly known; or
- (b) on request by a person and, if the Minister so requires, on payment of a fee calculated in accordance with the Regulations, make available to that person,

any information contained in a document to which this section applies that has been furnished to the Minister, being information that relates to the sea-bed or subsoil, or to petroleum, in a block, but not including any matter contained in a document to which this section applies that, in the opinion of the Minister, is a conclusion drawn, in whole or in part, from, or an opinion based, in whole or in part, on, any such information.

(3) The Minister may, at any time after the relevant day:

- (a) make publicly known any particulars of; or
- (b) on request by a person and, if the Minister so requires, on payment of a fee calculated in accordance with the Regulations, permit that person to inspect,

any cores or cuttings from, or samples of, the sea-bed or subsoil in a block, or samples of petroleum recovered in a block, that have been furnished to the Minister or have been made available to the Minister under subsection (1).

(4) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (3):

- (a) where:
  - (i) a permit or lease is in force in respect of the block; and



(ii) the document, core, cutting or sample was furnished to the Minister during the period during which any of the following were in force in respect of the block:

(A) the permit or lease;

(B) in a case where a lease is in force in respect of the block – the permit that ceased to be in force in respect of the block by virtue of section 38B(7) on the day on which the lease came into force,

the relevant day is the day on which the period of 2 years that commenced on the day on which the document, core, cutting or sample was furnished to the Minister expires;

(b) where:

(i) a licence is in force in respect of the block; and

(ii) the document, core, cutting or sample was furnished to the Minister during the period during which any of the following were in force in respect of the block:

(A) the licence;

(B) the permit or lease that ceased to be in force in respect of the block by virtue of section 44(5) on the day on which the licence came into force,

the relevant day is the day on which the period of 12 months that commenced on the day on which the document, core, cutting or sample was furnished to the Minister expires;

(c) where the document, core, cutting or sample was furnished to the Minister during a period during which a permit, lease or licence was in force in respect of the block and:

(i) the permit, lease or licence is surrendered, cancelled or determined as to the block; or

(ii) the permit, lease or licence expires but is not renewed in respect of the block,

the relevant day is the day on which the permit, lease or licence is so surrendered, cancelled or determined or expires, as the case may be, whether another permit, lease or licence is subsequently in force in respect of the block or not;

(d) where:

- (i) the document, core, cutting or sample was furnished to the Minister at a time when a permit, lease or licence was not in force in respect of the block; and
- (ii) the information in the document or the core, cutting or sample was collected for the purpose of the sale of information on a non-exclusive basis,

the relevant day is the day determined by the Minister, being a day not more than 5 days after the day on which the document, core, cutting or sample was furnished to the Minister; and

(e) where:

- (i) the document, core, cutting or sample was furnished to the Minister at a time when a permit, lease or licence was not in force in respect of the block; and
- (ii) paragraph (d)(ii) does not apply,

the relevant day is the day determined by the Minister, being a day not more than 2 years after the day on which the document, core, cutting or sample was furnished to the Minister.

(5) Where:

- (a) a document, core, cutting or sample referred to in subsection (1) was furnished to the Minister:
  - (i) during or in respect of a period during which a permit, lease or licence was in force in respect of a block; or
  - (ii) during or in respect of a period during which a special prospecting authority or access authority was in force in respect of a block but during which a permit, lease or licence was not in force in respect of the block; and
- (b) the permittee, lessee, licensee or holder of a special prospecting authority or access authority or, if the permit, lease, licence, special prospecting authority or access authority has ceased to be in force, the person who was the holder of the permit, lease, licence, special prospecting authority or access authority:

- (i) has made publicly known any information contained in the document or has consented in writing to any of that information being made publicly known; or
- (ii) has made publicly known any particulars of that core, cutting or sample or has consented in writing to any particulars of that core, cutting or sample being made publicly known or to that core, cutting or sample being made available for inspection,

the Minister to whom that information, core, cutting or sample has been made available under subsection (1) may, at any time after that information has, or those particulars have, been made publicly known or after that consent has been given:

- (c) make publicly known that information or, on request by another person and, if the Minister so requires, on payment of a fee calculated in accordance with the Regulations, make that information available to that other person; or
- (d) make publicly known those particulars or, on request by any other person and, if the Minister so requires, on payment of a fee calculated in accordance with the Regulations, permit that other person to inspect that core, cutting or sample,

as the case may be.

(5A) Subject to subsection (5F), the Minister may, at any time after 5 years after a document to which this section applies was furnished to him:

- (a) make publicly known; or
- (b) on request by a person and, if the Minister so requires, on payment of a fee calculated in accordance with the Regulations, make available to that person,

any information contained in the document, being information that relates to the sea-bed or subsoil, or to petroleum, in a block, and that, in the opinion of the Minister, is a conclusion drawn, in whole or in part, from, or an opinion based, in whole or in part, on any such information.

(5B) Before the Minister makes available or publicly known any information pursuant to subsection (5A) he shall

- (a) cause to be published in the *Gazette* a notice:
  - (i) stating that he proposes to make the information available or publicly known;

- (ii) inviting interested persons to give to him by such day as is specified in the notice, being a day not earlier than 45 days after the publication of the notice, a notice objecting to the whole or any part of the information being made available or publicly known; and
    - (iii) stating that, if a person does not make an objection in accordance with the invitation, the person will be taken to have consented to the information being made available or publicly known; and
  - (b) if it is practicable to do so, cause a copy of the notice so published in the *Gazette* to be served on the person who furnished the document containing the information.
- (5C) There shall be set out in a notice of objection under subsection (5B)(a)(ii) the reasons for making the objection.
- (5D) A person is not entitled to make an objection to information being made available or publicly known except on the grounds that to do so would disclose:
  - (a) a trade secret; or
  - (b) any other information the disclosure of which would, or could reasonably be expected to, adversely affect him in respect of his lawful business, commercial or financial affairs.
- (5E) Where a person makes an objection to the Minister in accordance with such an invitation, the Minister shall, within 45 days after the receipt of the notice of objection, consider the objection, and may disallow it or allow it in whole or in part, and shall cause to be served on the person written notice of the decision on the objection.
- (5F) The Minister shall not make available or make publicly known any information pursuant to subsection (5A) if there is in force an objection made in relation to the information being made available or publicly known but, where such an objection is in force, nothing in this section shall be taken to preclude a further invitation under subsection (5B) being made in relation to the information.
- (6) Except as provided by the preceding provisions of this section or for the purposes of the administration of this Act and the Regulations, the Minister shall not:
  - (a) make publicly known, or make available to any person (not being a Minister of State of the Commonwealth or another State), any information contained in a document to which this section applies; or

- (b) make publicly known any particulars of, or permit any person (not being a Minister referred to in paragraph (a)) to inspect any core, cutting or sample so referred to.
- (6A) This section applies to:
- (a) an application made under this Act to the Minister or a document accompanying such an application; and
  - (b) a report, return or other document relating to a block that has been furnished under this Act to the Minister.
- (7) In this section, a reference to a core, cutting or sample includes a reference to a portion of a core, cutting or sample.
- (8) For the purposes of this section:
- (a) cores and cuttings, and well data logs, sample descriptions and other documents relating to the drilling of a well shall be deemed to have been furnished to the Minister not later than one month after the drilling of the well was, in the opinion of the Minister, substantially completed; and
  - (b) geophysical or geochemical data relating to geophysical or geochemical surveys shall be deemed to have been furnished to the Minister not later than one year after the geophysical or geochemical field work was, in the opinion of the Minister, substantially completed.
- (9) Subsections (2) and (5A) apply to information contained in a document to which this section applies that was furnished to the Minister before or after the commencement of section 29 of the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1986*.
- (10) Subsection (3) applies to cores, cuttings and samples furnished to the Minister before or after the commencement of section 29 of the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1985*.

## **120 Discovery of water**

Where water is discovered in a permit area, a lease area or a licence area, the permittee, lessee or licensee, as the case may be, shall, within a period of one month after the date of the discovery, furnish to the Minister in writing particulars of the discovery.

Penalty: \$10,000.

**121 Survey of wells, &c.**

- (1) The Minister may, at any time, by notice in writing served on a permittee, lessee or licensee, direct the permittee, lessee or licensee:
  - (a) to carry out a survey of the position of the well, structure or equipment specified in the notice; and
  - (b) to furnish to him a report in writing of the survey.
- (2) Where the Minister is not satisfied with a report of a survey furnished to him under subsection (1) by a permittee, lessee or licensee, he may, by notice in writing served on the permittee, lessee or licensee, direct the permittee, lessee or licensee to furnish further information in writing in connection with the survey.
- (3) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (1) or (2) shall comply with the direction.

Penalty: \$10,000.

**122 Records, &c., to be kept**

- (1) The Minister may, by notice in writing served on a person carrying on operations in an adjacent area under a permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, special prospecting authority, access authority or notice of consent under section 123, direct that person to do any one or more of the following things:
  - (a) to keep such accounts, records and other documents in connection with those operations as are specified in the notice;
  - (b) to collect and retain such cores, cuttings and samples in connection with those operations as are specified; and
  - (c) to furnish to the Minister, or to such person as is so specified, in the manner so specified, such reports, returns, other documents, cores, cuttings and samples in connection with those operations as are specified.
- (2) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (1) shall comply with the direction.

Penalty: \$10,000.

### **123 Scientific investigations**

- (1) The Minister may, by notice in writing, consent to the carrying on in an adjacent area by any person of petroleum exploration operations in the course of scientific investigation.
- (2) A notice of consent given under subsection (1) may be made subject to such conditions, if any, as are specified in the notice.
- (3) A notice of consent in force under subsection (1) authorizes the person specified in the notice, subject to section 124 and in accordance with the conditions, if any, to which the notice is subject, to carry on, in an adjacent area, petroleum exploration operations specified in the course of the scientific investigation specified.

### **124 Interference with other rights**

A person carrying on operations in an adjacent area under a permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence, special prospecting authority, access authority or instrument of consent under section 123 shall carry on those operations in a manner that does not interfere with:

- (a) navigation;
- (b) fishing;
- (ba) registered native title rights and interests;
- (c) the conservation of the resources of the sea and sea-bed; or
- (d) any operations of another person being lawfully carried on by way of exploration for, recovery of or conveyance of a mineral, whether petroleum or not, or by way of construction or operation of a pipeline,

to a greater extent than is necessary for the reasonable exercise of the rights and performance of the duties of that first-mentioned person.

Penalty: \$10,000.

### **125 Inspectors**

- (1) The Minister may, by notice in writing, appoint a person to be an inspector for the purposes of this Act and the Regulations.
- (2) The Minister may furnish to an inspector a certificate stating that he is an inspector for the purposes of this Act and the Regulations.

- (3) Where the appointment of a person under this section expires or is revoked, that person shall forthwith surrender the certificate furnished to him under this section to the Minister or, if the Minister, by notice in writing served on that person, specifies another person to whom the certificate is to be surrendered, to that other person.

Penalty: \$500.

## **126 Powers of inspectors**

- (1) For the purposes of this Act and the Regulations, an inspector, at all reasonable times and on production of the certificate furnished to him under section 125:
- (a) shall have access to any part of the adjacent area and to any structure, ship, aircraft or building in that area that, in his opinion, has been, is being or is to be used in connection with petroleum exploration operations, operations for the recovery of petroleum or operations connected with the construction or operation of a pipeline in that area;
  - (b) may inspect and test any equipment that, in his opinion, has been, is being or is to be used in that area in connection with any of those operations; and
  - (c) may enter any structure, ship, aircraft, building or place in that area or in the State, in which, in his opinion, there are any documents relating to any of those operations and may inspect, take extracts from and make copies of any of those documents.
- (2) A person who is the occupier or person in charge of any building, structure or place, or is the person in charge of any ship, aircraft or equipment referred to in subsection (1), shall provide an inspector with all reasonable facilities and assistance for the effective exercise of his powers under this section.
- (3) A person shall not, without reasonable excuse, obstruct or hinder an inspector in the exercise of his powers under this section.

Penalty for an offence against this subsection: \$5,000.

## **127 Property in petroleum**

Subject to this Act, if petroleum is recovered by a permittee, lessee or licensee in the permit area, lease area or licence area:

- (a) the petroleum becomes the property of the permittee, lessee or licensee; and



- (b) it is not subject to any rights of other persons (other than any person to whom the permittee, lessee or licensee transfers, assigns or otherwise disposes of the petroleum or an interest in the petroleum).

**128 Suspension of rights conferred by permit**

- (1) Where the Minister is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in the public interest, he shall, by notice in writing served on a permittee, suspend, either for a specified period or indefinitely, all or any of the rights conferred by the permit.
- (2) Where any rights are suspended in accordance with subsection (1), any conditions required to be complied with in the exercise of those rights are also suspended.
- (3) The Minister may, by notice in writing served on the permittee, terminate a suspension of rights under subsection (1).
- (4) Where rights conferred by a permit are suspended in accordance with subsection (1), the Minister may, by the notice of suspension or by a later notice in writing served on the permittee, extend the term of the permit by a period not exceeding the period of suspension.

**129 Certain payments to be made by Territory to Commonwealth**

The Treasurer shall, not later than the last day of each month of the year, pay to the Commonwealth amounts ascertained in accordance with the formula:

$$\frac{4A}{B}$$

where:

- A is the amount of royalty payable under this Act, together with the amount, if any, payable under this Act by reason of late payment of that royalty, by a permittee, lessee or licensee in respect of petroleum recovered in the adjacent area under the permit, lease or licence and received by the Minister during the preceding month; and
- B is the percentage rate at which royalty is payable under this Act by the permittee, lessee or licensee in respect of that petroleum,

and the Consolidated Fund is hereby, to the necessary extent, appropriated accordingly.

**130 Determination to be disregarded in certain cases**

Where a determination has been made by the Minister under section 143 in relation to a well, that determination shall be disregarded in ascertaining the value of B for the purposes of section 129.

**131 Continuing offences**

- (1) Where an offence is committed by a person by reason of his failure to comply, within the period specified in a direction given to him under this Act or the Regulations, with the requirements specified in the direction, the offence, for the purposes of subsection (3), shall be deemed to continue so long as any requirement specified in the direction remains undone, notwithstanding that the period has elapsed.
- (2) Where an offence is committed by a person by reason of his failure to comply with a requirement made by this Act or the Regulations, the offence, for the purposes of subsection (3), shall be deemed to continue so long as that failure continues, notwithstanding that any period within which the requirement was to be complied with has elapsed.
- (3) Where, under subsection (1) or (2), an offence is deemed to continue, the person who committed the offence commits an additional offence against this Act on each day during which the offence is deemed to continue and is liable, upon being found guilty for such an additional offence, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

**133 Orders for forfeiture in respect of certain offences**

- (1) Where a person is found guilty by the Supreme Court of an offence against section 19, 39 or 60 the Court, arising under section 4, 8, 12, 13 or 16 of the Criminal Code in relation to an offence referred to in section 19, 39 or 60, the Court may, in addition to imposing a fine, make one or more of the following orders:
  - (a) an order for the forfeiture of a specified aircraft or vessel used in the commission of the offence;
  - (b) an order for the forfeiture of specified equipment used in the commission of the offence; and
  - (c) an order:
    - (i) for the forfeiture of specified petroleum recovered, or conveyed through a pipeline, as the case may be, in the course of the commission of the offence;

- (ii) for the payment by that person to the Territory of an amount equal to the proceeds of the sale of specified petroleum so recovered or conveyed; or
  - (iii) for the payment by that person to the Territory of an amount equal to the value at the well-head, assessed by the Court, of the quantity, so assessed, of petroleum so recovered or conveyed or for the payment of such part of that amount as the Court, having regard to all the circumstances, thinks fit.
- (2) Where the Court is satisfied that an order made under subsection (1)(c)(i) cannot, for any reason, be enforced, the Court may, upon the application of the person by whom the proceedings were brought, set aside the order and make either of the orders referred to in subsection (1)(c)(ii) or (iii).
- (3) The Court may, before making an order under this section, require notice to be given to, and hear, such persons as the Court thinks fit.

#### **134 Disposal of forfeited goods**

Goods in respect of which an order is made under section 133 shall be dealt with as the Attorney-General directs and, pending his direction, may be detained in such custody as the Court directs.

#### **135 Time for bringing proceedings for offences**

Proceedings in respect of an offence against this Act (being an offence arising under this Part or under the Criminal Code in relation to an offence referred to in this Part) or the Regulations may be brought at any time.

#### **136 Judicial notice**

- (1) All courts shall take judicial notice of the signature of a person who is, or has been, the Minister or a delegate of the Minister and of the fact that that person is, or has been, the Minister or a delegate of the Minister.
- (2) In this section, **court** includes all persons authorized by the law of the Territory or by consent of parties to receive evidence.

#### **137 Service**

- (1) A document required or permitted by this Act to be served on a person other than the Minister or a corporation shall be served:
  - (a) by delivering the document to that person personally;

- (b) by prepaying and posting the document as a letter addressed to that person at his last-known place of residence or business or, if he is carrying on business at 2 or more places, at one of those places;
  - (c) by leaving the document at the last-known place of residence of that person with some person apparently a resident of that place and apparently not less than 16 years of age; or
  - (d) by leaving the document at the last-known place of business of that person or, if he is carrying on business at 2 or more places, at one of those places, with some person apparently in the service of that person and apparently not less than 16 years of age.
- (2) A document required or permitted by this Act to be served on the Minister shall be served:
- (a) by prepaying and posting the document as a letter addressed to the Minister at a place of business of the Minister; or
  - (b) by leaving it at a place of business of the Minister with some person apparently employed in connection with the business of the Minister and apparently not less than 16 years of age.
- (3) A document required by this Act to be served upon a person, being a corporation, shall be served:
- (a) by prepaying and posting the document as a letter addressed to the corporation at its last-known place of business or, if it is carrying on business at 2 or more places, at one of those places; or
  - (b) by leaving it at that place, or at one of those places, with some person apparently in the service of the corporation and apparently not less than 16 years of age.

**137AA Service of documents on 2 or more permittees, &c.**

- (1) Where there are 2 or more registered holders of a title or special prospecting authority, those registered holders may, by notice in writing signed by each of them and served on the Minister, nominate one of the registered holders as being the person on whom documents relating to the title or special prospecting authority that are required or permitted by this Act to be served may be served.

- (2) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), where:
- (a) a document relating to a title or special prospecting authority is required or permitted by this Act to be served on the registered holder;
  - (b) there are 2 or more registered holders of the title or special prospecting authority; and
  - (c) the document is served on a person in respect of whom a nomination under subsection (1) is in force in relation to the title or special prospecting authority,

the document shall be deemed to have been served on each of those registered holders.

- (3) Where:
- (a) a person has been nominated under subsection (1) in relation to a title or special prospecting authority; and
  - (b) one of the registered holders of the title or special prospecting authority, by notice in writing served on the Minister, revokes that nomination,

that nomination ceases to be in force.

- (4) Where:
- (a) a person has been nominated under subsection (1) in relation to a title or special prospecting authority; and
  - (b) the person so nominated ceases to be one of the registered holders of the title or special prospecting authority,

that nomination ceases to be in force.

- (5) In this section, **title** means a permit, lease, licence, pipeline licence or access authority.

**137AB Liability for approval given under this Act, &c.**

- (1) This section applies to the following bodies and people:
- (a) the Minister;
  - (b) an inspector;
  - (c) a person acting under the direction or authority of the Minister.

- (2) A body or person to whom this section applies is not liable to an action, suit or proceeding for or in respect of an approval given in good faith under:
- (a) this Act;
  - (b) the Regulations; or
  - (c) a direction under this Act.
- (3) This section does not apply to a person or body merely because the person or body is acting in accordance with a proposal or plan (however described) that has been approved by or on behalf of the Minister.

## **Division 6A Safety zones**

### **137A Interpretation**

- (1) In this Division:

**authorized person** means:

- (a) a member or special member within the meaning of the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979* of the Commonwealth;
- (b) a member of the Police Force;
- (c) a member of the Police Force of a State of the Commonwealth;
- (d) a defence member within the meaning of the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982* of the Commonwealth; or
- (e) a person, or a person included in a class of persons, authorized under subsection (2) to perform duties under this Division.

**exempt vessel**, in relation to a safety zone, means a vessel:

- (a) that is excluded from the operation of section 137B in relation to that safety zone by virtue of the instrument establishing the safety zone; or
- (b) in respect of which there is in force a consent, under section 137B(1), of the Minister in relation to that safety zone.

**master**, in relation to a vessel, means the person having command or charge of the vessel.

**owner**, in relation to a vessel, means:

- (a) in a case to which paragraph (b) does not apply – the person who owns the vessel; or
- (b) where the vessel is being operated by a person (not being the person who owns the vessel) who has the whole possession and control of the vessel – the operator of the vessel.

**safety zone** means an area specified in a notice under section 137B(1).

- (2) The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, authorize a person, or a person included in a specified class of persons, to perform duties under this Division.

### **137B Safety zones**

- (1) For the purpose of protecting a well, structure or equipment, in an adjacent area, the Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, prohibit:

- (a) all vessels;
- (b) all vessels other than specified vessels; or
- (c) all vessels other than the vessels included in specified classes of vessels,

from entering or remaining in a specified area surrounding the well, structure or equipment without the consent in writing of the Minister.

- (2) A safety zone specified in a notice under subsection (1) may extend to a distance of 500 metres around the well, structure or equipment specified in the notice measured from each point of the outer edge of the well, structure or equipment.
- (3) Where a vessel enters or remains in a safety zone in contravention of a notice under subsection (1), the owner and the person in command or in charge of the vessel are each guilty of an offence against this section.

Penalty: \$100,000 or imprisonment for 10 years.

- (4) It is a defence to a prosecution for an offence against this section where the person charged satisfies the court that:
  - (a) an unforeseen emergency rendered it necessary for the vessel to enter or remain in the safety zone in order to attempt to secure the safety of the vessel, of another vessel, of a well, pipeline, structure or equipment or of human life; or

- (b) the vessel entered or remained in the safety zone in circumstances not under the control of the person who was in charge of the navigational watch of the vessel.

### **137C Powers of authorized persons**

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), an authorized person may:
  - (a) board a vessel that the authorized person has reasonable grounds to believe has been used, is being used or is about to be used, in contravention of section 137B;
  - (b) where, under paragraph (a), he has boarded a vessel:
    - (i) require a person on board the vessel to answer questions relating to the vessel or to the movements of the vessel;
    - (ii) require the master of the vessel to state whether there is in force in respect of the vessel a consent under section 137B(1) and, if so, to produce the consent;
    - (iii) if the vessel is registered under the *Shipping Registration Act 1981* of the Commonwealth – require the master of the vessel to produce the certificate of registration of the vessel; or
    - (iv) search the vessel for documents relating to the vessel or movements of the vessel;
  - (c) require the master of a vessel, being a vessel that is in a safety zone and that is not an exempt vessel in relation to the safety zone, to take the vessel outside the safety zone;
  - (d) require the master of a disabled vessel that is in a safety zone to permit the vessel to be towed away from the safety zone or to accept the giving of such other assistance to the vessel as the authorized person considers necessary; or
  - (e) detain a vessel that the authorized person has reasonable grounds to believe has been used in contravention of section 137B.
- (2) A person who:
  - (a) fails to facilitate, by all reasonable means, the boarding under subsection (1)(a) of a vessel by an authorized person;
  - (b) refuses to allow a search to be made under subsection (1)(b)(iv) by an authorized person;



- (c) refuses or neglects to comply with a requirement made under subsection (1) by an authorized person;
- (d) where, under subsection (1), an authorized person requires the person to give information, gives information that is, to the knowledge of the person, false or misleading in a material particular; or
- (e) resists or obstructs an authorized person who is acting in pursuance of subsection (1),

is guilty of an offence.

Penalty: \$5,000.

- (3) The powers, under subsection (1)(a), (b) and (e), of an authorized person in relation to a vessel shall not be exercised except:
  - (a) in pursuance of a warrant issued under section 137D;
  - (b) after obtaining the consent of the master of the vessel; or
  - (c) in circumstances of seriousness and urgency, under section 137E.

### **137D Search warrants**

- (1) Where an information on oath is laid before a magistrate alleging that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a vessel has been used, is being used or is about to be used, in contravention of section 137B and the information sets out those grounds and identifies the vessel, a magistrate may issue a warrant authorizing an authorized person named in the warrant, with such assistance as the authorized person thinks necessary, to exercise all or any of the powers referred to in section 137C(1)(a), (b) and (e) in relation to that vessel.
- (2) A magistrate shall not, under subsection (1), issue a warrant unless:
  - (a) the informant or some other person has given the magistrate either orally or by affidavit such further information (if any) as the magistrate requires concerning the grounds on which the issue of the warrant is being sought; and
  - (b) the magistrate is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for issuing the warrant.

- (3) A warrant issued under subsection (1) shall:
- (a) specify the purpose for which it is issued;
  - (b) set out a description of the vessel in relation to which it is issued; and
  - (c) specify a day, not being later than 7 days after the day on which it is issued, as being the day on which it ceases to have effect.

**137E Exercise of powers in serious circumstances**

An authorized person may exercise, in relation to a vessel, all or any of the powers under section 137C(1)(a), (b) and (e) where:

- (a) the authorized person has reasonable grounds to believe that:
  - (i) the vessel has been used, is being used or is about to be used, in contravention of section 137B; or
  - (ii) the exercise of those powers is necessary to prevent damage being caused to a well, structure or equipment in a safety zone; and
- (b) the circumstances are of such a serious nature as to require and justify the immediate exercise of those powers without the authority of a warrant issued under section 137D.

**Division 7 Fees and royalties**

**138 Fees**

- (1) The holder of:
- (a) an exploration permit;
  - (b) a retention lease;
  - (c) a production licence; or
  - (d) a pipeline licence;

shall pay a fee in respect of each year of the term of the permit, lease or licence.

- (2) The fee:
- (a) is payable to the Minister; and
  - (b) is to be calculated in accordance with the Regulations.

- (3) The fee for the first year of the term of the permit, lease or licence is payable within one month after the day on which the term commences.
- (4) The fee for a subsequent year of the term of the permit, lease or licence is payable within one month after the anniversary of the day on which the first year of the term commences.

#### **141 Time of payment of fees**

A fee under section 138 is payable within one month after:

- (a) in the case of the first year of the term of a permit, licence or pipeline licence – the day on which that term commenced; and
- (b) in the case of a year of the term of a permit, licence or pipeline licence other than the first – the anniversary of that day.

#### **142 Royalty**

- (1) A permittee, lessee or licensee shall, subject to this Division, pay to the Minister royalty at the prescribed rate in respect of all petroleum recovered by the permittee, lessee or licensee in the permit area, lease area or licence area.
- (2) Subject to the succeeding provisions of this section and section 143, the prescribed rate in respect of petroleum recovered under a permit, lease or licence is 10% of the value of the petroleum at the well-head.
- (3) The prescribed rate in respect of petroleum recovered under a secondary licence is the percentage determined by the Minister in pursuance of section 42(1) in respect of petroleum so recovered.
- (4) Where a secondary licence is granted to the holder of a primary licence, the prescribed rate in respect of petroleum recovered under the primary licence is, as from the commencement of the next royalty period after the day from which the secondary licence has effect, the same percentage as is applicable in respect of petroleum recovered under the secondary licence.
- (5) Where:
  - (a) a licence is granted on an application under section 47; and
  - (b) the notice served on the applicant under section 49 contains a statement that the applicant will be required to pay, in respect of petroleum recovered under that licence, royalty at the rate specified in that statement,

the prescribed rate in respect of petroleum recovered under that licence is the percentage specified in that statement.

- (6) Where a licence is granted on an application under section 51(1), the prescribed rate in respect of petroleum recovered under that licence is the same percentage as was applicable in respect of petroleum recovered under the original licence as defined by that subsection.
- (7) The prescribed rate in respect of petroleum recovered in the licence area referred to in a licence granted by way of renewal is the percentage that would be the prescribed rate of the previous licence.
- (8) A reference in this section or in a permit, lease or licence to royalty at the prescribed rate or royalty at the rate that is for the time being the prescribed rate shall be read as a reference to royalty at the rate that is or was the prescribed rate applicable in accordance with the provisions of this Act as in force from time to time.

#### **143 Reduction of royalty in certain cases**

- (1) Where the Minister is satisfied that the rate of recovery of petroleum from a well has become so reduced that, having regard to the rate or rates of royalty applicable under section 142, further recovery of petroleum from that well would be uneconomic, the Minister may, by notice in writing, determine that the royalty in respect of all or any of the petroleum recovered from that well on or after a date specified in the determination shall be at such rate (being a rate lower than the rate that would be applicable under section 142) as the Minister specifies.
- (2) The prescribed rate in respect of petroleum to which a determination under subsection (1) is applicable is the rate specified in the determination.
- (3) he Minister may, by notice in writing, revoke or vary a determination under subsection (1) and the revocation or variation applies to petroleum recovered on or after such date as is specified in the notice.

#### **144 Royalty not payable in certain cases**

- (1) Royalty under this Act:
  - (a) is not payable in respect of petroleum that the Minister is satisfied was unavoidably lost before the quantity of that petroleum was ascertained;

- (b) is not payable in respect of petroleum that is used by the permittee, lessee or licensee, as approved by the Minister, for the purposes of petroleum exploration operations; and
  - (c) is not payable in respect of petroleum that, with the approval of the Minister, is flared or vented in connection with operations for the recovery of petroleum.
- (2) Where petroleum that has been recovered by a permittee, lessee or licensee is, with the approval of the Minister, returned to a natural reservoir, royalty under this Act is not payable in respect of that petroleum by reason of that recovery but this subsection does not affect the liability of that or any other permittee, lessee or licensee to pay royalty in respect of petroleum that is recovered from that natural reservoir.

**145 Ascertainment of well-head**

For the purposes of this Act, the well-head, in relation to any petroleum, is such valve station as is agreed between the permittee, lessee or licensee and the Minister or, in default of agreement within such period as the Minister allows, is such valve station as is determined by the Minister as being that well-head.

**146 Ascertainment of value**

For the purposes of this Act, the value of any petroleum at the well-head is such amount as is agreed between the permittee, lessee or licensee and the Minister or, in default of agreement within such period as the Minister allows, is such amount as is determined by the Minister as being that value.

**147 Ascertainment of quantity of petroleum recovered**

For the purposes of this Act, the quantity of petroleum recovered by a permittee, lessee or licensee from a well during a period shall be taken to be:

- (a) the quantity measured during that period by a measuring device approved by the Minister and installed at the well-head or at such other place as the Minister approves; or
- (b) where no such measuring device is installed, or the Minister is not satisfied that the quantity of petroleum recovered by the permittee, lessee or licensee from that well has been properly or accurately measured by such a measuring device – the quantity determined by the Minister as being the quantity recovered by the permittee, lessee or licensee during that period.

**148 Payment of royalty**

Royalty under this Act in respect of petroleum recovered during a royalty period is payable not later than the last day of the next succeeding royalty period.

**149 Penalty for late payment**

- (1) Where a fee or an amount of royalty under this Act is not paid under this Division at or before the time when the fee or the amount of royalty is payable there is payable to the Minister by the permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee an additional amount calculated at the rate of one-third of 1% per day on the amount of the fee or royalty from time to time remaining unpaid to be computed from the time when the amount became payable until it is paid.
- (2) An additional amount in respect of royalty is not payable under subsection (1) or section 149B(2)(a) in respect of any period before the expiration of 7 days after the value of the petroleum was agreed or determined under section 146.

**149A Provisional payment of royalty**

- (1) Where, in relation to petroleum recovered during a royalty period, the value of the petroleum has not been agreed or determined under section 146, the Minister may determine a provisional value.
- (2) Where:
  - (a) a provisional value of any petroleum has been determined under subsection (1); and
  - (b) the value of that petroleum has not yet been agreed or determined under section 146;the Act operates in relation to that petroleum as if:
  - (c) the provisional value of the petroleum were its value; and
  - (d) the determination of the provisional value were an agreement or determination under section 146.

### **149B Adjustment of payment**

- (1) This section applies:
  - (a) where section 149A(2) has operated in relation to petroleum recovered during a royalty period and a value of the petroleum different to the provisional value is subsequently agreed or determined under section 146; or
  - (b) where an error has been made in the calculation of royalty due or in the application of a procedure by the application of which the value of the petroleum has been ascertained.
- (2) Where this section applies:
  - (a) if the determined royalty is greater than the provisional royalty, the difference is payable within 28 days; and
  - (b) if the determined royalty is less than the provisional royalty, the difference is deducted from any amount subsequently payable by the permittee, lessee or licensee concerned.
- (3) In this section:

***determined royalty*** means:

- (a) where subsection (1)(a) applies, the amount of royalty payable in relation to the petroleum on the basis of the value ascertained under section 146; and
- (b) where subsection (1)(b) applies, the amount of royalty payable in relation to the petroleum.

***provisional royalty*** means:

- (a) where subsection (1)(a) applies, the amount of royalty payable in relation to the petroleum on the basis of the provisional value; and
- (b) where subsection (1)(b) applies, the amount of royalty demanded in relation to petroleum as a result of the erroneous calculation.

### **150 Fees and penalties debts due to the Territory**

A fee, royalty or other amount payable under this Division is a debt due by the permittee, lessee, licensee or pipeline licensee to the Territory and is recoverable in a court of competent jurisdiction.

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**Part III                      Regulations****151                      Regulations**

- (1) The Administrator may make regulations not inconsistent with this Act prescribing all matters that by this Act are required or permitted to be prescribed or are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.
- (2) In particular, but without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the Regulations may make provision for securing, regulating, controlling or restricting all or any of the following matters:
  - (a) exploration for petroleum and the carrying on of operations and the execution of works for that purpose;
  - (b) recovery of petroleum and the carrying on of operations and the execution of works for that purpose;
  - (c) conserving and preventing the waste of natural resources whether petroleum or otherwise of the adjacent area;
  - (d) construction and operation of pipelines, water lines, secondary lines, pumping stations, tank stations or valve stations and the carrying on of operations, and the execution of works, for any of those purposes;
  - (e) construction, erection, maintenance, operation or use of installations or equipment;
  - (f) control of the flow or discharge, and the prevention of the escape, of petroleum, water or drilling fluid, or a mixture of water or drilling fluid with petroleum or any other matter;
  - (g) clean-up or other remedying of the effects of the escape of petroleum;
  - (h) prevention of damage to petroleum-bearing strata in an area, whether in the adjacent area or not, in respect of which a permit, lease or licence is not in force;
  - (j) keeping separate:
    - (i) each petroleum pool discovered in a permit area, lease area or licence area; and
    - (ii) each source of water discovered in a permit area, lease area or licence area;



- (k) prevention of water or other matter from entering a petroleum pool through wells;
  - (m) prevention of the waste or escape of petroleum or water from a pipeline, water line, secondary line, pumping station, tank station or valve station;
  - (n) maintaining in good condition and repair all structures, equipment and other property in the adjacent area used or intended to be used for or in connection with the exploration for, or the exploitation of, petroleum in the adjacent area; and
  - (p) removal from the adjacent area of structures, equipment and other property brought into the adjacent area for or in connection with exploration for, or the exploitation of, petroleum that are not used or intended to be used in connection with exploration for, or the exploitation of, petroleum in the adjacent area.
- (2A) The Regulations may make provision in relation to a matter by applying, adopting or incorporating, with or without modification, a code of practice or standard contained in an instrument (including an instrument issued or made outside Australia), as in force or existing at the time when the Regulations take effect or as in force or existing from time to time, being a code of practice or standard that is relevant to that matter.
- (2B) Regulations under this section may prohibit the doing of an act or thing either unconditionally or subject to conditions, including conditions requiring the grant, as prescribed by the Regulations, of the consent or approval of a person specified in the Regulations.
- (3) The Regulations may prescribe, in relation to the exploration for petroleum, and the exploitation of, the adjacent area, matters for carrying out or giving effect to the Convention.
- (4) The Regulations may provide, in respect of an offence against the Regulations, for the imposition of:
- (a) a fine not exceeding \$10,000; or
  - (b) a fine not exceeding \$10,000 for each day on which the offence occurs.

## Schedule 1

section 2

### SCHEME FOR TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

#### 1. Interpretation

(1) In this Scheme:

**altered arrangements** means the arrangements agreed on between the Commonwealth, the States and the Northern Territory with respect to the exploration for, and the exploitation of, the petroleum resources of certain submerged lands in lieu of the arrangements provided for by the agreement between the Commonwealth and the States dated 16 October 1967.

**commencing day** means the day on which the Commonwealth Act for giving effect to the altered arrangements comes into operation.

**Commonwealth Act** means the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967* of the Commonwealth, as amended from time to time;

**Commonwealth jurisdiction** means the areas comprised in the adjacent areas under the Commonwealth Act, as amended to give effect to the altered arrangements.

**new permit** means a permit that is to be deemed, under clause 2 of this Scheme, to be in force on and after the commencing day.

**new pipeline licence** means a pipeline licence that is to be deemed, under clause 4 of this Scheme, to be in force on and after the commencing day.

**pipeline** includes pumping stations, tank stations or valve stations related to a pipeline.

**State Act** means the Act of a State corresponding to the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967* of the Commonwealth, being that State Act as amended from time to time, or the Act of the Northern Territory enacted to give effect to the altered arrangements, as amended from time to time.

**State jurisdiction**, in relation to a State, means the area comprised in the adjacent area under the State Act of that State, as amended to give effect to the altered arrangements.

***subsisting permit*** means an exploration permit for petroleum subsisting under the Commonwealth Act immediately before the commencing day, being a permit in respect of an area that is partly in the Commonwealth jurisdiction and partly in a State jurisdiction.

***subsisting pipeline licence*** means a pipeline licence subsisting under the Commonwealth Act immediately before the commencing day, being a pipeline licence in respect of a pipeline that is, or is to be, partly in the Commonwealth jurisdiction and partly in the State jurisdiction.

- (2) References in this Scheme to a State shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be read as including references to the Northern Territory.

## **2. Subsisting permits to be deemed to be 2 permits**

- (1) On and after the commencing day but subject to the law relating to surrender, cancellation, variation or suspension of permits, each subsisting permit shall be deemed to comprise 2 permits, being:
  - (a) a permit under the Commonwealth Act, in respect of the portion of the permit area that is within the Commonwealth jurisdiction, for the balance of the period of the subsisting permit but otherwise in the same terms as the subsisting permit; and
  - (b) a permit under the State Act, in respect of the portion of the permit area that is within the State jurisdiction of a State, for the balance of the period of the subsisting permit but otherwise in the same terms as the subsisting permit.
- (2) The carrying out of work or the expenditure of money by the permittee in or in relation to the permit area of either of the new permits (whether before or after the commencing day) is to be taken into account as performance to the extent of that work or expenditure of the conditions of both the new permits.
- (3) For the purposes of any condition of a new permit relating to the carrying out of work or the expending of moneys by the permittee:
  - (a) a reference in that condition to a year of the permit shall be read as a reference to a year that was, or would have been, that year of the subsisting permit; and
  - (b) the new permits shall be deemed to have been in force during the whole of the year of the subsisting permit that is current on the commencing day.

- (4) A variation or suspension of, or an exemption from compliance with, any of the conditions of a new permit arising out of a subsisting permit shall not have effect unless the same variation, suspension or exemption is effected in respect of the other new permit arising out of the same subsisting permit.
- (5) In a matter arising under a State Act in relation to a new permit, being a matter of a kind that, if it arose under the Commonwealth Act, would be a matter for decision by, or could be referred to, a Joint Authority established under the Commonwealth Act, the Designated Authority under the State Act shall not take action except after consultation with the Commonwealth Minister.

**3. Renewal of permits**

- (1) A person who holds 2 new permits arising out of a subsisting permit may apply under the Commonwealth Act for renewal of the new permit under that Act and may apply under the State Act for renewal of the new permit under that Act, or may make either of such applications.
- (2) If a person who was the holder of 2 new permits arising out of a subsisting permit has ceased to be the holder of one of those permits, he may apply under the Commonwealth Act or the State Act, whichever is appropriate, for renewal of the other new permit, and the relevant Act shall apply in relation to such an application as if the new permit had been a permit granted under that Act in respect of the blocks that are comprised in the new permit.
- (3) Where the holder of 2 new permits arising out of a subsisting permit wishes to apply for renewal of either or both of the new permits, the blocks that were comprised in the subsisting permit that may be included, in whole or in part, in the application or applications shall be selected in accordance with the Commonwealth Act as if the new permits were one permit under the Commonwealth Act and the application or applications were an application under that Act for renewal of that permit.
- (4) For the purposes of subclause (3) of this clause the Designated Authority under the Commonwealth Act may exercise his powers under section 31(5) and (6) of the Commonwealth Act.
- (5) An application referred to in subclause (3) of this clause under the Commonwealth Act shall relate to the blocks selected in accordance with that subclause, and parts of those blocks, that are within the Commonwealth jurisdiction and an application referred to in that subclause under the State Act shall relate to the blocks and parts of those blocks so selected, that are within the State jurisdiction.

- (6) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this clause, an application under the Commonwealth Act made in accordance with this clause shall be dealt with under the Commonwealth Act and an application under the State Act made in accordance with this clause shall be dealt with under the State Act.
- (7) For the purposes of the application, in accordance with this clause, of the provisions of the Commonwealth Act or of a State Act relating to the renewal of permits, a reference in those provisions to compliance with the conditions to which the permit is subject shall be read as including a reference to compliance with the conditions to which the subsisting permit was subject before the commencing day.

**4. Subsisting pipeline licences to be deemed to be 2 licences**

- (1) On and after the commencing day but subject to the law relating to surrender, cancellation or variation of pipeline licences, each subsisting pipeline licence shall be deemed to comprise 2 pipeline licences, being:
  - (a) a pipeline licence under the Commonwealth Act, in respect of the portion of the pipeline that is, or is to be, within the Commonwealth jurisdiction, for the balance of the period of the subsisting pipeline licence but otherwise in the same terms as the subsisting pipeline licence, but so that those terms shall have effect only to the extent that they are applicable to or in relation to the portion of the pipeline that is, or is to be, within the Commonwealth jurisdiction; and
  - (b) a pipeline licence under the State Act, in respect of the portion of the pipeline that is, or is to be, within the State jurisdiction of a State, for the balance of the period of the subsisting pipeline licence but otherwise in the same terms as the subsisting pipeline licence, but so that those terms shall have effect only to the extent that they are applicable to or in relation to the portion of the pipeline that is, or is to be, within that State jurisdiction.
- (2) For the purposes of the application, in relation to a new pipeline licence, of the provisions of the Commonwealth Act or of a State Act relating to the renewal of pipeline licences, a reference in those provisions to compliance with the conditions to which the pipeline licence is subject shall be read as including a reference to compliance with the conditions to which the subsisting pipeline licence was subject before the commencing day.

**5. Transfer of permits and pipeline licences**

A transfer of a new permit arising out of a subsisting permit or of a new pipeline licence arising out of a subsisting pipeline licence shall not be made unless a transfer to the same transferee of the other new permit or new pipeline licence arising out of that subsisting permit or subsisting pipeline licence (if that other permit or licence is still in force) is made at the same time and neither of such transfers has effect before the other transfer has been approved in accordance with the Commonwealth Act, or the relevant State Act, as the case requires.

**6. Preservation of existing interests and rights**

All legal and equitable interests and rights that existed immediately before the commencing day in or in relation to a subsisting permit or subsisting pipeline licence, to the extent that those interests or rights were applicable, in relation to the permit area of a new permit arising out of that subsisting permit, or to the portion of the pipeline to which a new pipeline licence arising out of the subsisting pipeline licence relates, shall be deemed to continue in or in relation to that new permit or new licence.

**7. Saving of approvals, &c.**

Every approval, consent or direction given before the commencing day under or in relation to a subsisting permit or subsisting pipeline licence has effect, on and after the commencing day, in relation to each new permit or new pipeline licence arising out of that subsisting permit or subsisting pipeline licence, as if it were a corresponding approval, consent or direction given under or in relation to that new permit or new pipeline licence.

**8. Existing Register**

The Register kept and maintained by the Designated Authority for the purposes of the Commonwealth Act immediately before the commencing day shall continue to be the Register for the purposes of the Commonwealth Act and, except as provided in clause 9, shall cease on that day to be the Register for the purpose of a State Act.

**9. Registration of subsisting permits and pipeline licences, and instruments relating thereto**

(1) This clause applies to:

(a) every instrument being a subsisting permit or subsisting pipeline licence; and

- (b) any instrument by which such a permit or licence has been transferred or by which a legal or equitable interest in or affecting such a permit or licence has or may have been created, assigned, affected or dealt with, being an instrument in respect of which an entry or notation has been made before the commencing day in the Register kept for the purposes of the Commonwealth Act.
- (2) On the commencing day, the Designated Authority under the Commonwealth Act shall forthwith make such entries in the Register referred to in subclause (1) and on copies of instruments to which this clause applies that are kept by him as he thinks appropriate to indicate that instruments to which this clause applies have effect subject to the provisions of this Scheme.
- (3) For the purposes of a State Act but subject to subclause (4), the Commonwealth Register shall be deemed to be the State Register in relation to instruments to which this clause applies to the extent that they have effect under a State Act in accordance with this Scheme, transfers of interests under such instruments, and instruments by which legal or equitable interests in or affecting interests under such instruments are or may be created.
- (4) The Designated Authority under a State Act may, if he thinks fit to do so, make entries in the Register kept by him under the State Act, in accordance with the State Act, in respect of a subsisting permit or subsisting pipeline licence that has effect, in accordance with this Scheme, under the law of the State, and if he does so:
  - (a) he shall make an appropriate entry of the kind referred to in subclause (2); and
  - (b) the Commonwealth Register shall cease to be deemed to be the State Register in relation to that permit or licence to the extent that it has effect under the State Act in accordance with this Scheme, or in relation to instruments of the kind referred to in subclause (3) affecting that permit or licence as so having effect.

**10. Fees**

In the application in relation to, or to transactions in respect of, a new permit or new pipeline licence of the laws of the Commonwealth and of the States relating to fees:

- (a) a reference to a year of the term of the permit or licence shall be read as a reference to a year that would have been a year of the term of the subsisting permit or subsisting pipeline licence commencing on or after the commencing day;

- (b) fees in respect of a year of the term of the subsisting permit or subsisting pipeline licence that commenced before the commencing day and not paid before the commencing day shall be payable in accordance with the law that was in force immediately before that day; and
- (c) a person is not liable to pay by way of such fees in respect of any year or transaction, a greater total amount than would have been payable if the subsisting permit or subsisting licence had continued in force and the whole of the permit area or the whole of the pipeline, had been within the Commonwealth jurisdiction.



## Schedule 2

section 3

### TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

#### 1. Preservation of certain applications

- (1) This clause applies to:
  - (a) an application for an exploration permit for petroleum which, immediately before the commencement of this Act, was subsisting under section 23 of the Commonwealth Act in respect of blocks all of which are within the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act);
  - (b) an application for a production licence for petroleum which, immediately before the commencement of this Act, was subsisting under section 40 or 47 of the Commonwealth Act in respect of blocks all of which are within the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act); and
  - (c) an application for a pipeline licence which, immediately before the commencement of this Act, was subsisting under section 64 of the Commonwealth Act in respect of a pipeline no part of which is, or is to be, beyond the outer limits of the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act).
- (2) An application to which this clause applies continues to have effect under and subject to this Act.
- (3) An application to which this clause applies shall be dealt with by the Minister as an application under the relevant provision of this Act as if it had been addressed to the Minister.
- (4) Anything done before the commencement of this Act under or pursuant to a provision of the Commonwealth Act as then in force and, in accordance with that provision, for the purposes of or in relation to an application to which this clause applies, shall be as effectual for the purposes of this Act as it would be for the purposes of the Commonwealth Act if that Act had continued to be in force in the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act).

**2. Applications in respect of certain blocks**

For the purposes of section 47 of the Commonwealth Act, where, before the commencement of this Act:

- (a) a production licence for petroleum under the Commonwealth Act as then in force was surrendered or cancelled as to a block which is within the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act); or
- (b) an exploration permit for petroleum under the Commonwealth Act as then in force was surrendered, cancelled or determined as to a block:
  - (i) that, at the time of the surrender, cancellation or determination, was, or was included in, a location; and
  - (ii) in which, in the opinion of the Minister, there is petroleum,

being a block which is within the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act),

the grant and the surrender, cancellation or determination of the licence or permit shall, in so far as they relate to the block, be deemed to have taken place under and in accordance with this Act.

**3. Pipelines, &c., illegally constructed, &c.**

Where, in the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act):

- (a) the construction of a pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line was, before the commencement of this Act, commenced, continued or completed in contravention of the Commonwealth Act as then in force; or
- (b) a pipeline, water line, pumping station, tank station, valve station or secondary line was, before the commencement of this Act, altered or reconstructed in contravention of the Commonwealth Act as then in force,

the contravention of the Commonwealth Act shall, for the purposes of section 62 of this Act, be deemed to be a contravention of this Act.

**4. Powers of Minister in respect of certain wells**

Where, before the commencement of this Act, the registered holder of an exploration permit for petroleum or a production licence for

petroleum under the Commonwealth Act as then in force made a well any part of which is less than 300 metres from the boundary of the permit area or licence area without the consent in writing of the Designated Authority in respect of the adjacent area in respect of the Territory under section 100 of that Act as then in force, or without complying with the conditions, if any, specified in an instrument of consent under that section, the registered holder shall, if the well is within the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act), for the purposes of section 100(2) of this Act be deemed to have failed to comply with section 100(1) of this Act and the Minister may take action accordingly.

**5. Cancellation of certain new permits and new pipeline licences**

(1) Where:

- (a) an exploration permit is at the commencement of this Act, or was at any time before that commencement, in force in respect of a block which is within the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act);
- (b) a production licence for petroleum is at the commencement of this Act, or was at any time before that commencement, in force in respect of a block which is within the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act); or
- (c) a pipeline licence is at the commencement of this Act, or was at any time before that commencement, in force in respect of a pipeline, or part of a pipeline, which is within the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act),

and before the commencement of this Act the registered holder of the permit, licence or pipeline licence:

- (d) failed to comply with a direction given to him under the Commonwealth Act by the Designated Authority in respect of the adjacent area in respect of the Territory;
- (e) failed to comply with a provision of the Commonwealth Act, or the Regulations thereunder, as then in force; or
- (f) failed to pay an amount payable by him under a provision of the Commonwealth Act as then in force within a period of 3 months from the day on which it became payable,

the failure to comply or pay shall, for the purposes of section 105 of this Act, be deemed to be:

- (g) a failure to comply with a direction of the Minister under this Act;

- (h) a failure to comply with the corresponding provision of this Act or the Regulations made under this Act; or
- (j) a failure to pay an amount payable under the corresponding provisions of this Act within 3 months from the day on which it became payable,

as the case requires.

- (2) Where a person is by subclause (1) deemed to have failed to comply with a direction of the Minister or a provision of this Act or the Regulations, the failure to comply shall be deemed to have occurred on the day on which it occurred under the Commonwealth Act.
- (3) Where a person is by subclause (1) deemed to have failed to pay an amount payable under this Act within 3 months of the day on which it became payable, the period of 3 months shall be deemed to have ended on the day on which the period of 3 months from the day on which the amount became payable under the Commonwealth Act ended.

## **6. Application of section 107 to certain areas**

Where, before the commencement of this Act:

- (a) an exploration permit for petroleum;
- (b) a production licence for petroleum; or
- (c) a pipeline licence,

under the Commonwealth Act was wholly or partly cancelled or determined under the Commonwealth Act as then in force, or expired by virtue of that Act as then in force, and the relinquished area is wholly or partly within the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act), the cancellation or determination, or the expiration, of the permit, licence or pipeline licence shall, in so far as it relates to the relinquished area, or the part of the relinquished area that is within the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act), as the case may be, be deemed for the purposes of section 107 of this Act to have occurred under or by virtue of this Act.

## **7. Application of section 113(2), (3) and (4) to certain property**

Where, before the commencement of this Act, the Designated Authority in respect of the adjacent area in respect of the Territory exercised a power conferred upon him by section 113(1) of the Commonwealth Act as then in force in relation to property which is, or was, within the adjacent area (within the meaning of this Act), the

power shall, for the purposes of section 113(2), (3) and (4) of this Act, be deemed to have been exercised by the Minister under and in accordance with section 113(1) of this Act.

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**Schedule 3 Area that includes the adjacent area**

## section 4

The area the boundary of which commences at the point that is the intersection of the coastline at mean low water by the boundary between the Northern Territory of Australia and the State of Western Australia and runs thence northerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 14° 37' 30" South, Longitude 129° 01' 45" East, thence northerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 14° 32' 30" South, Longitude 129° 01' 15" East, thence north-westerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 14° 19' 30" South, Longitude 128° 53' East, thence north-westerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 14° South, Longitude 128° 42' 15" East, thence north-westerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 13° 49' 45" South, Longitude 128° 33' 15" East, thence north-westerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 13° 39' 45" South, Longitude 128° 30' 45" East, thence north-westerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 13° 15' 30" South, Longitude 128° 28' East, thence northerly along the meridian of Longitude 128° 28' East to its intersection by the parallel of Latitude 12° 55' 30" South, thence north-westerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 12° 32' 45" South, Longitude 128° 24' East, thence north-westerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 12° 26' 30" South, Longitude 128° 22' East, thence north-westerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 11° 48' South, Longitude 127° 53' 45" East, thence north-westerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 11° 13' 15" South, Longitude 127° 32' East, thence north-westerly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 10° 05' South, Longitude 126° 47' 30" East, thence north-easterly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 9° 53' 45" South, Longitude 127° 18' 30" East, thence north-easterly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 9° 28' South, Longitude 127° 56' East, thence north-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 9° 25' South, Longitude 128° East, thence easterly along the rhumb line which is on the parallel of Latitude 9° 25' South to its intersection by the meridian of Longitude 130° 10' East, thence north-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 8° 54' South, Longitude 133° 14' East, thence north-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 8° 53' South, Longitude 133° 23' East, thence south-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 9° 25' South, Longitude 134° 50' East, thence north-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 9° 22' South, Longitude 135° 03' East, thence north-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 9° 17' South, Longitude 135° 13' East, thence north-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 9° 08' South, Longitude 135° 29' East, thence south-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 9° 57' South, Longitude 137° 45' East, thence south-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 10° 09' South, Longitude 138° 13' East, thence south-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 10° 22' South, Longitude 138° 35' East, thence south-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 10° 24' South, Longitude 138° 38' East, thence south-easterly along the rhumb line to a point of Latitude 10° 50' South, Longitude 139° 12' East, thence south-easterly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 10° 51' South, Longitude 139° 12' 30" East, thence south-easterly along the

geodesic to a point of Latitude 11° South, Longitude 139° 15' East, thence southerly along the meridian of Longitude 139° 15' East to its intersection by the parallel of Latitude 14° 30' South, thence westerly along that parallel to its intersection by the meridian of Longitude 138° 30' East, thence southerly along that meridian to its intersection by the parallel of Latitude 15° 55' South, thence south-westerly along the geodesic to the intersection of the coastline at mean low water by the boundary between the Northern Territory of Australia and the State of Queensland, thence along the coastline of the Northern Territory of Australia at mean low water to the point of commencement.

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**ENDNOTES**
**1****KEY**

Key to abbreviations

<b>amd = amended</b>	<b>od = order</b>
<b>app = appendix</b>	<b>om = omitted</b>
<b>bl = by-law</b>	<b>pt = Part</b>
<b>ch = Chapter</b>	<b>r = regulation/rule</b>
<b>cl = clause</b>	<b>rem = remainder</b>
<b>div = Division</b>	<b>renum = renumbered</b>
<b>exp = expires/expired</b>	<b>rep = repealed</b>
<b>f = forms</b>	<b>s = section</b>
<b>Gaz = Gazette</b>	<b>sch = Schedule</b>
<b>hdg = heading</b>	<b>sdiv = Subdivision</b>
<b>ins = inserted</b>	<b>SL = Subordinate Legislation</b>
<b>lt = long title</b>	<b>sub = substituted</b>
<b>nc = not commenced</b>	

**2****LIST OF LEGISLATION*****Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1981 (Act No. 50, 1982)***

Assent date 20 August 1983  
Commenced 14 February 1983 (Cth Gaz 1983, No. S29, p 1)

***Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1985 (Act No. 23, 1985)***

Assent date 24 May 1985  
Commenced 1 July 1985 (s 2)

***Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1986 (Act No. 6, 1986)***

Assent date 19 May 1986  
Commenced 3 September 1986 (Gaz G35, 3 September 1986, p 6)

***Companies and Securities (Consequential Amendments) Act 1986 (Act No. 18, 1986)***

Assent date 30 June 1986  
Commenced 1 July 1986 (s 2)

***Statute Law Revision Act 1986 (Act No. 64, 1986)***

Assent date 19 December 1986  
Commenced 19 December 1986

***Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1989 (Act No. 19, 1989)***

Assent date 15 June 1989  
Commenced 2 August 1989 (Gaz G30, 2 August 1989, p 5)

***Corporations (Consequential Amendments) Act 1990 (Act No. 59, 1990)***

Assent date 14 December 1990  
Commenced 1 January 1991 (s 2, s 2 *Corporations (NT) Act 1990* (Act No. 56, 1990) and Gaz S76, 21 December 1990)

***Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1991 (Act No. 51, 1991)***

Assent date 26 September 1991  
Commenced 18 December 1991 (Gaz G50, 18 December 1991, p 3)



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***Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1994 (Act No. 69, 1994)***

Assent date 15 December 1994  
 Commenced 15 December 1994

***Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1995 (Act No. 40, 1995)***

Assent date 29 September 1995  
 Commenced 19 December 1995 (*Gaz S43, 19 December 1995*)

***Sentencing (Consequential Amendments) Act 1996 (Act No. 17, 1996)***

Assent date 19 April 1996  
 Commenced 1 July 1996 (s 2, s 2 *Sentencing Act 1995* (Act No. 39, 1995) and *Gaz S15, 13 June 1996*)

***Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1998 (Act No. 54, 1998)***

Assent date 28 August 1998  
 Commenced 1 October 1998 (*Gaz S37, 1 October 1998*)

***Statute Law Revision Act (No. 2) 1998 (Act No. 92, 1998)***

Assent date 11 December 1998  
 Commenced 11 December 1998

### 3 SAVINGS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

ss 15 and 17 *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1986* (Act No. 6, 1986)  
 s 8 *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1989* (Act No. 19, 1989)  
 s 40 *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1995* (Act No. 40, 1995)

### 4 LIST OF AMENDMENTS

Preamble amd No. 40, 1995, s 4  
 s 4 amd No. 23, 1985, s 4; No. 6, 1986, ss 4 and 34; No. 40, 1995, s 5; No. 54, 1998, s 4  
 s 7 amd No. 6, 1986, s 34  
 pt 1  
 div 3 hdg ins No. 54, 1998, s 5  
 ss 15A – 15C ins No. 54, 1998, s 5  
 s 18 amd No. 6, 1986, s 34  
 s 18A ins No. 69, 1994, s 2  
 s 19 amd No. 40, 1995, s 6  
 s 20 amd No. 19, 1989, s 4  
 s 21 amd No. 51, 1991, s 4  
 s 22 amd No. 40, 1995, s 7  
 s 23 amd No. 6, 1986, s 34; No. 19, 1989, s 5  
 s 24 amd No. 51, 1991, s 5  
 s 25 amd No. 40, 1995, s 8  
 s 26 amd No. 40, 1995, s 9  
 s 27 amd No. 40, 1995, s 10  
 s 29 amd No. 23, 1985, s 5  
 s 30 amd No. 51, 1991, s 6  
 s 32 amd No. 51, 1991, s 7; No. 40, 1995, s 11  
 s 36 amd No. 6, 1986, s 34  
 sub No. 19, 1989, s 6  
 s 37 amd No. 23, 1985, s 6  
 sub No. 19, 1989, s 6

## ENDNOTES

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s 38	amd No. 19, 1989, s 11
pt II	
div 2A hdg	ins No. 6, 1986, s 5
s 38A	ins No. 6, 1986, s 5 amd No. 51, 1991, s 8
s 38B	ins No. 6, 1986, s 5 amd No. 40, 1995, s 12
s 38BA	ins No. 51, 1991, s 9
ss 38C – 38E	ins No. 6, 1986, s 5
s 38F	ins No. 6, 1986, s 5 amd No. 51, 1991, s 10
s 38G	ins No. 6, 1986, s 5 amd No. 51, 1991, s 11; No. 40, 1995, s 13
ss 38H – 38K	ins No. 6, 1986, s 5
s 40	amd No. 6, 1986, s 6; No. 19, 1989, s 11; No. 51, 1991, s 12
s 40A	ins No. 6, 1986, s 7 amd No. 51, 1991, s 13
s 41	amd No. 6, 1986, s 8; No. 51, 1991, s 14
s 43	amd No. 6, 1986, s 9; No. 40, 1995, s 14
s 44	amd No. 23, 1985, s 7; No. 6, 1986, s 34; No. 40, 1995, s 15
s 44A	ins No. 51, 1991, s 15
s 45	amd No. 23, 1985, s 8
s 46	amd No. 23, 1985, s 9; No. 6, 1986, ss 10 and 34; No. 19, 1989, s 11
s 47	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34; No. 19, 1989, s 7
s 48	amd No. 19, 1989, s 11; No. 51, 1991, s 16
s 49	amd No. 19, 1989, s 11; No. 40, 1995, s 16
s 50	amd No. 40, 1995, s 17
s 51	amd No. 23, 1985, s 10; No. 51, 1991, s 17; No. 40, 1995, s 18
s 53	amd No. 23, 1985, s 11
s 54	amd No. 23, 1985, s 12; No. 51, 1991, s 18
s 55	amd No. 51, 1991, s 19; No. 40, 1995, s 19
s 57	rep No. 51, 1991, s 20
s 58	amd No. 23, 1985, s 13
s 59	amd No. 23, 1985, s 14; No. 6, 1986, s 11
s 64	amd No. 51, 1991, s 21
s 65	amd No. 51, 1991, s 22; No. 40, 1995, s 20
s 67	amd No. 23, 1985, s 15
s 68	amd No. 23, 1985, s 16; No. 51, 1991, s 23
s 69	amd No. 51, 1991, s 24; No. 40, 1995, s 21
s 71	amd No. 51, 1991, s 25
s 73	amd No. 92, 1998, s 14
s 74A	ins No. 6, 1986, s 12
s 75	amd No. 6, 1986, s 13
s 76	amd No. 23, 1985, s 17; No. 6, 1986, ss 14 and 34
s 77	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 78	sub No. 6, 1986, s 15 amd No. 19, 1989, s 11; No. 40, 1995, s 22
s 79	amd No. 6, 1986, s 16; No. 51, 1991, s 26
s 80	rep No. 6, 1986, s 17
s 81	sub No. 6, 1986, s 17 amd No. 19, 1989, ss 8 and 11
s 81A	ins No. 6, 1986, s 17
s 82	amd No. 6, 1986, s 18; No. 17, 1996, s 6
s 83	amd No. 6, 1986, s 19
s 84	amd No. 6, 1986, s 20; No. 40, 1995, s 23
s 85	amd No. 6, 1986, s 21
s 86	amd No. 6, 1986, s 22; No. 19, 1989, s 9; No. 51, 1991, s 27
s 87	amd No. 51, 1991, s 28

## ENDNOTES

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s 87A	ins No. 6, 1986, s 23
s 92	sub No. 6, 1986, s 24 amd No. 18, 1986, s 3; No. 59, 1990, s 4; No. 51, 1991, s 29
s 94	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 95	amd No. 23, 1985, s 18; No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 96	amd No. 23, 1985, s 19; No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 97	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34; No. 40, 1995, s 24
s 97A	ins No. 40, 1995, s 25
s 98	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 100	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 101	amd No. 23, 1985, s 20; No. 6, 1986, s 25; No. 17, 1996, s 6
s 102	amd No. 6, 1986, s 26
ss 103 – 105	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 106	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34; No. 17, 1996, s 6
ss 107 – 108	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 111	amd No. 23, 1985, s 21; No. 6, 1986, s 27; No. 51, 1991, s 30
s 112	amd No. 23, 1985, s 22; No. 6, 1986, ss 28 and 34; No. 19, 1989, s 11; No. 51, 1991, s 31; No. 40, 1995, s 26
s 113	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 114	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34; No. 51, 1991, s 32 rep No. 40, 1995, s 27
s 118	amd No. 23, 1985, s 23; No. 6, 1986, ss 29 and 34; No. 64, 1986, s 4; No. 19, 1989, ss 10 and 11; No. 51, 1991, s 33; No. 40, 1995, s 28
s 119	rep No. 23, 1985, s 24
ss 120 – 122	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 124	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34; No. 54, 1998, s 6
s 127	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34 sub No. 40, 1995, s 29
s 129	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 131	amd No. 17, 1996, s 6
s 132	sub No. 23, 1985, s 25 rep No. 40, 1995, s 30
s 133	amd No. 40, 1995, s 31; No. 17, 1996, s 6
s 135	amd No. 40, 1995, s 32
s 137AA	ins No. 6, 1986, s 30
s 137AB	ins No. 40, 1995, s 33
pt II	
div 6A hdg	ins No. 23, 1985, s 26
ss 137A – 137E	ins No. 23, 1985, s 26
s 138	amd No. 51, 1991, s 34 sub No. 40, 1995, s 34
s 138A	ins No. 6, 1986, s 31 amd No. 51, 1991, s 35 rep No. 40, 1995, s 35
s 139	amd No. 51, 1991, s 36 rep No. 40, 1995, s 35
s 140	amd No. 51, 1991, s 37 rep No. 40, 1995, s 35
s 141	amd No. 6, 1986, s 32; No. 40, 1995, s 36
s 142	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
ss 144 – 147	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 149	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34; No. 40, 1995, s 37
ss 149A – 149B	ins No. 40, 1995, s 38
s 150	amd No. 6, 1986, s 34
s 151	amd No. 6, 1986, ss 33 and 34; No. 64, 1986 s 4
sch 4	rep No. 40, 1995, s 39