

16 October 2025

Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee,

Submission to Inquiry into Decommissioning Oil and Gas Infrastructure

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) is a Learned Academy of independent, non-political experts helping Australians understand and use technology to solve complex problems. Bringing together 900 of Australia's leaders in applied science, technology and engineering, ATSE provides impartial, practical and evidence-based advice on how to achieve sustainable solutions and advance prosperity.

ATSE thanks the Parliament of Victoria's Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee for the invitation to make a submission to the Inquiry into Decommissioning Oil and Gas Infrastructure.

As the Australian decommissioning sector evolves, there is a role for state government to ensure the appropriate and timely decommissioning of facilities, uphold the safety of the sector's working environment, and minimise the decommissioned facilities' environmental impact. Alongside this, state governments have opportunities to bolster employment, including for displaced workers, and pursue meaningful engagement with Traditional Owners. Realising these opportunities requires using and enabling the development of the best possible technological innovations in the decommissioning sectors.

We recommend to you ATSE's report, [Offshore oil and gas decommissioning - Technologies](#) for consideration during this Inquiry.

This report, commissioned by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, explores the technologies and employment opportunities associated with the Australian offshore oil and gas facilities. It features a technology horizon scan for technologies that can support the decommissioning process over the next several decades. A copy of the report is attached to this letter. This report is the result of wide consultation with a diverse range of stakeholders and experts in the offshore oil and gas decommissioning sector. It was guided by a working group of distinguished ATSE Fellows, in collaboration with research practitioners and industry experts.

The report puts forward three overarching priorities that governments can pursue to support the decommissioning sector:

1. The Government can partner with mature decommissioning jurisdictions such as the UK, Norway, the United States and the Netherlands to leverage international expertise, enhancing national understanding and becoming an international leader in decommissioning knowledge-sharing.
2. The Government can progress the national decommissioning research agenda by playing an active knowledge- and partnership-brokerage role between industry and academia.
3. Industry and training providers should be supported to develop the technical, environmental, and related capabilities required for decommissioning in Australia now, and into the future.

It should be noted that the report's first priority has already been partially enacted. On December 9th, 2024, Australia and the United Kingdom signed a bilateral agreement to encourage cooperation and the sharing of expertise between decommissioning sectors.

In addition to the findings presented in *Offshore oil and gas decommissioning - Technologies*, ATSE also makes the following recommendations for the Victorian Government to regulate the decommissioning industry:

1. Institute a comprehensive public register of infrastructure due for decommissioning, as well as an inventory of all waste streams resulting from the process to support circular economy development.
2. Mandate operators' regular disclosure of facilities' condition, environmental risks, and leakage from both active and retired infrastructure.

Yours sincerely

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President

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