

A large offshore oil rig and a tanker ship are silhouetted against a dramatic sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds. The rig is on the right, and the tanker is on the left, both on the ocean.

Relief for petroleum exploration licences (SA, WA and QLD)

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Table 1: Relief for petroleum exploration licences (SA, WA and QLD)

Relief Measures	South Australia	Western Australia	Queensland (under consideration)
Relief from rents and fees	Yes. Immediate deferral of annual petroleum licence fees until 31 December 2020.	No change to existing regime.	Industry is seeking rent and fee relief.
Suspension of work obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No relief for Exploration Licences provided. Expansion of allowable expenditures towards minimum Petroleum Retention Licence requirements. 	No change to existing regime.	Industry is seeking clarification on treatment of variations to work programs (and expenditure commitments).
Compulsory relinquishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No general relief provided. Relinquishment relief may be sought on a case-by-case basis with the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM). 	No general relief provided.	Industry is seeking clarification on how requests to vary relinquishment obligations will be treated.
Automatic extension of licence term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No general relief provided. Potential relief on a case-by-case basis with the DEM. 	No general relief provided.	No change presently anticipated.
Other relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies should submit a COVID-19 Management plan if operating in the oil or gas sector. The Mining Regulations engagement timeline has been revised. Release date for public consultation has been moved back to Q3 2020. 	DMIRS has increased the scope of what applications and forms can be lodged online.	Industry requests DNRME investigate moving all notices online.

Relief Measures	South Australia	Western Australia	Queensland (under consideration)
Travel restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement into certain remote Aboriginal communities in South Australia for mineral explorers has been restricted. • DEM has advised that there is no current requirement to mandate quarantine arrangements for inbound workers to swing-based sites. • Interstate travel restrictions are anticipated to remain for an extended period of time with mandatory quarantine requirements. However, exemptions are available for essential services. • Other than in exceptional circumstances, which require an application for specific exemption, exploration activities do not satisfy the criteria for exemption for interstate FIFO/DIDO workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement between certain regional local government districts and Aboriginal communities is restricted. • Interstate travel restrictions are anticipated to remain for an extended period of time with mandatory quarantine requirements. However, exemptions are available for essential services which includes rostered workforces. • WA commenced a soft launch of the G2G Travel Pass program on 15 April to manage authorised travellers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement into certain remote Aboriginal communities in Queensland has been restricted. • Oil and gas workers are required to have an agreed biosecurity plan lodged with Queensland Health before they can enter certain remote communities. • Inbound FIFO workers travelling from interstate must self-isolate for 14 days after entry unless they are a Critical Resources Sector Employee (or are granted an exemption) and their employer has provided a compliant health plan.



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