

2025 Petroleum Exploration Permit tender

2025 APPLICATION FORM

The invitation

The Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources invites tender applications under and in accordance with the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2010* (Vic) for area VIC/25-1 and the *Petroleum Act 1998* for area VIC/25-2.

Applications for the offshore block VIC/25-1 that do not propose further seismic testing and rely on existing data will be preferred.

Registered Aboriginal Parties have cultural responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* for land and sea Country. The relevant Registered Aboriginal Party for area VIC/25-1 is the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation for area VIC/25-2.

Permit holders are expected to engage early and meaningfully with Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owners in accordance with published consultation protocols, such as those provided by RAPs. Engagement should reflect principles of free, prior, and informed consent and respect cultural rights under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Overview of process

Tender applications will be assessed against the following evaluation criteria. Applications will then be ranked based on overall merit.

Achieving the highest ranking does not automatically result in the granting of a petroleum exploration permit.

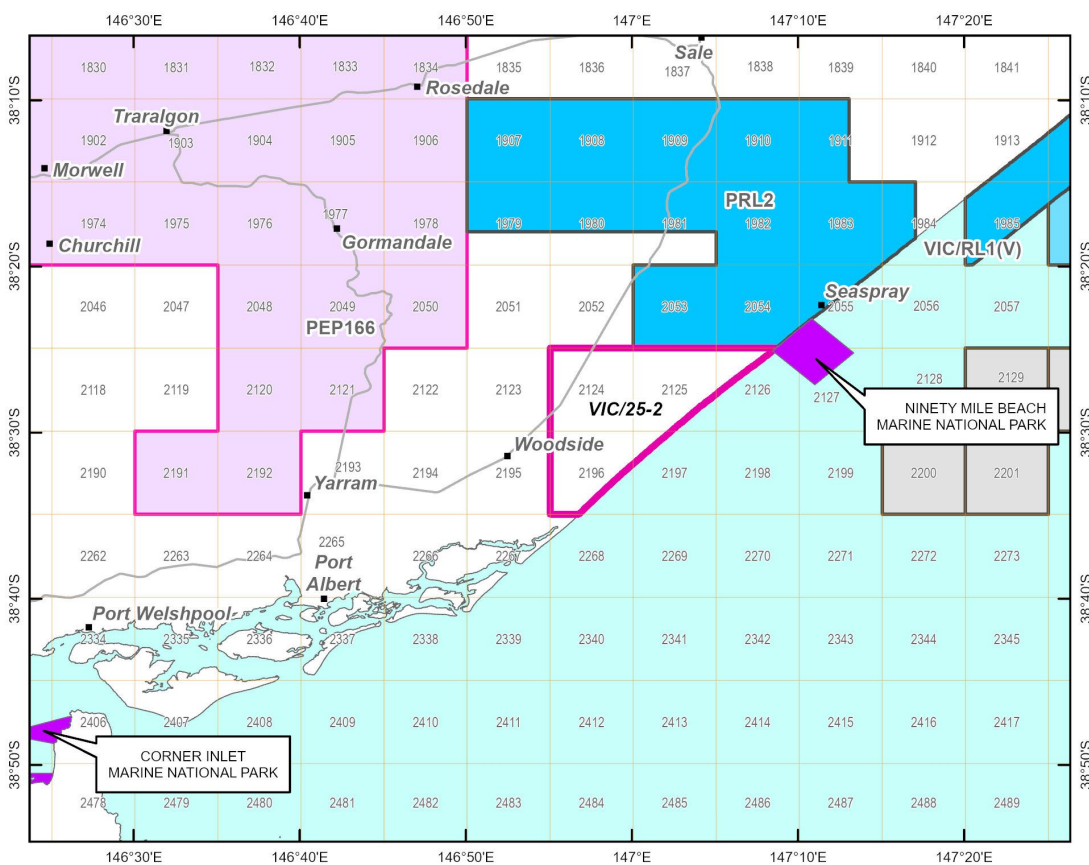
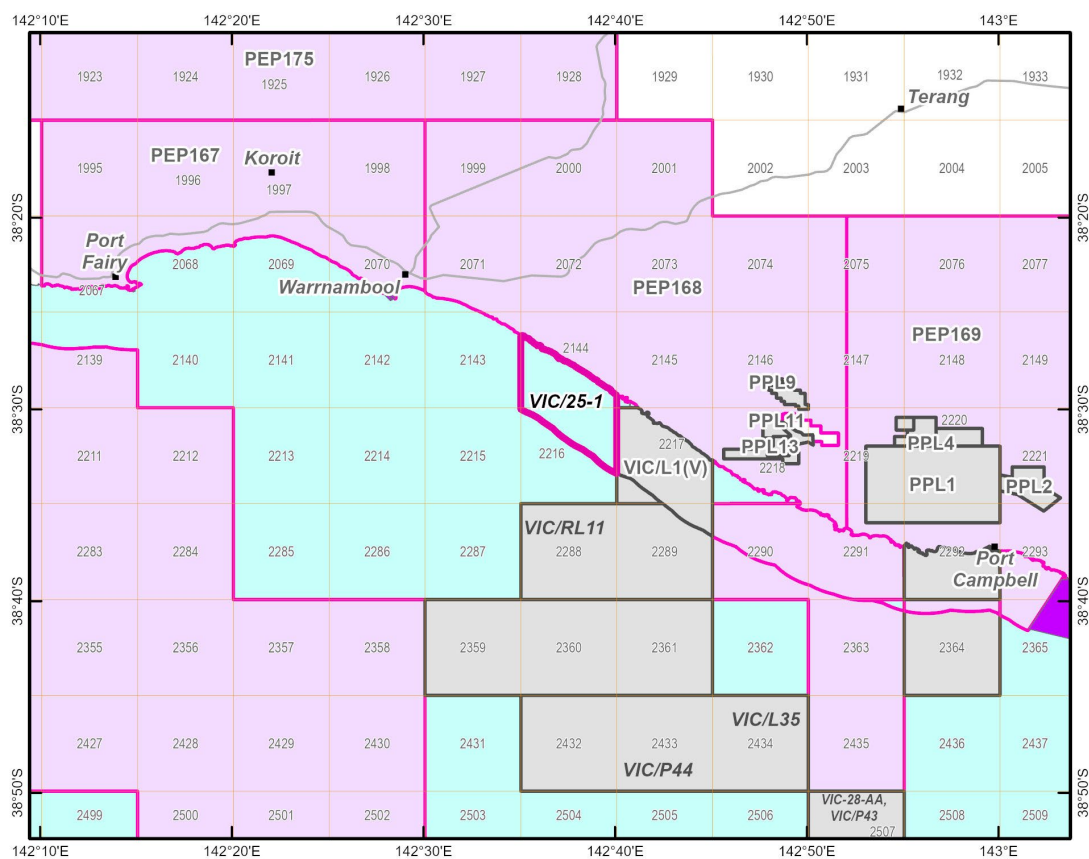
Should a permit be granted, the holder must then seek and obtain further approvals from Resources Victoria to undertake any field-based exploration activity.

Areas available

Applications for work-bid petroleum exploration permits are invited for:

- Area VIC/25-1 for an initial six year term (offshore Otway Basin) (Figure 1)
- Area VIC/25-2 for a five year term (onshore Gippsland Basin) (Figure 2)

Applications close Wednesday 11 February 2026 at 5pm AEDT



Key evaluation criteria

Applicant's performance

- **Past performance in Victoria, Australia and overseas adhering to relevant acts, including a fit-and-proper review**

Merits of the work program

- **Proposal of work and corresponding expenditure and how this will meet technical objectives**

Technical capabilities

- **Technical capacity, competence and experience of key personnel and subcontractors**

Financial resources

- **Evidence of existing financial resources and/or the ability to attract sufficient funding and a consideration of assets and liabilities**

Environmental and social risks, impacts and benefits

- **Including considerations regarding community engagement, climate change and decommissioning**

Area selected

C/

Detailed evaluation criteria

Written information that demonstrates how you meet the below evaluation criteria **must** accompany this application form.

Applicant's performance

1. Your cumulative experience in the upstream petroleum industry considering any leading roles (e.g. operator) or supporting roles.
2. Your experience in delivering exploration work programs.
3. Your past performance in complying with Victorian petroleum legislation.
4. The status of invoices issued under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2010* or the *Petroleum Act 1998*.
5. The relationship of any Director(s) that has / have held a role within the applicant company that has defaulted over the previous six years, and the extent of that relationship.
6. Your performance under Victorian, interstate or Commonwealth upstream petroleum legislation. This includes your health, safety and environmental incidents within Australia and those internationally that are public knowledge.

Merits of the work program

1. Your proposal for work each year and corresponding expenditure. Provide a summary of the proposed work program in Table 1.

Table 1 Work Program Summary.

Year	Minimum work requirement	Estimated expenditure (AU\$)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6*		

* only relevant for applications for area VIC/25-1

2. Your technical assessment of the petroleum resource potential of the area using existing data which demonstrates an understanding of potential petroleum systems and plays within the area. Includes:

- a. What data or information is the basis of your assessment and what studies were undertaken as part of the development of the application (some information is found in the prospectivity guide).
 - b. Details of future technical studies to improve your petroleum resource assessment, specifying any data reprocessing, the acquisition of new data during the work program and geomechanical studies to model reservoirs.
3. Your geoscientific rationale or supporting program of geological and geophysical work. Includes:
 - a. The location, timing, target and depth of any proposed wells.
 - b. Your justification of any wells that includes your basis for how the well will test play concepts.
 - c. Your consideration, if your application is for area VIC/25-2, of the revised *Code of Practice for the construction, operation and decommissioning of petroleum wells in Victoria*.
4. Your strategy to analyse all existing seismic data relevant to the area.

NOTE – applications for area VIC/25-1 that do not propose new seismic surveys will be preferred.
5. The objectives and extent of any proposed sampling program for the purposes of geochemical or other analysis, including planning for necessary operational approvals.
6. The extent to which the structure and timing of the proposed work program will systematically progress the petroleum potential of the area. Includes:
 - a. Your approach to integrate seismic, well, geochemical and regional data into a unified subsurface model.
 - b. Your intentions to use any advanced technologies (e.g. machine learning for seismic interpretation, remote sensing) and how they will improve efficiency or reduce uncertainty.
7. Relevance of the proposed work program against your technical (geological and prospectivity) evaluation and your exploration strategy.
8. Your mitigation measures to ensure that the minimum work requirements for each Year are executed within the allocated 12 months for each permit Year.

Technical capabilities

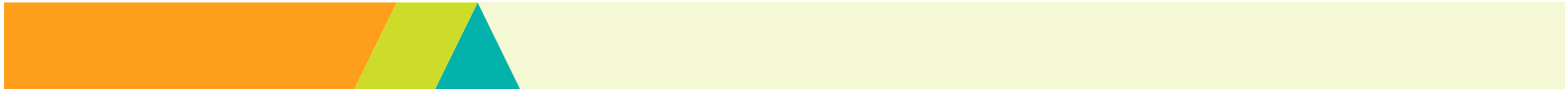
1. The technical qualifications of your current employees (i.e. names and their qualifications) and the technical advice available to you. This includes the technical capacity, competence and experience of key personnel and subcontractors.

Financial resources

1. How the work program will be funded, including evidence of existing financial resources (e.g. audited annual report) to fund the work program and/or the ability to attract sufficient funding for the work program. If applicable, this could include a letter of guarantee from the parent company or third party confirming that it will cover all expenses related to costs incurred and liabilities of the applicant.
2. Your assets and liabilities (including those for the company providing a letter of guarantee, if applicable) for authorities across Australia including:
 - a. Projected three year costs for all authorities to deliver the work programs.
 - b. Annual fees for the next three years of all authorities.
 - c. Any ongoing maintenance costs for the next three years of upstream petroleum infrastructure.
 - d. Any anticipated royalties for the next three years to be paid for producing assets.

Environmental and social risks, impacts and benefits

1. The regional economic, social and environmental risks and impacts associated with your work program. Includes your consideration of the feedback provided by the public, which was in response to the Minister consulting on the proposal to invite applications.

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2. Your engagement strategy with local communities, traditional owners, local businesses, government agencies, interest groups, academia and other relevant persons.
 3. Your consideration of the impacts your work program will have on climate change (including emissions) by having regard to the policy objectives set out in section 22 of the *Climate Action Act 2017* and guiding principles set out in sections 23-28.
 4. Regional benefits arising from the work program relative to its likely risks and impacts.
 5. Your strategy to realise the regional benefits.
 6. Your proposed measures to manage the risks and impacts at the regional level and the extent of your proposed measures.
 7. Your corporate strategy/provisions for decommissioning and rehabilitation.

Further information

Preparation

Further technical information about each area is available in the [prospectivity guide](#).

If you apply for area VIC/L25-1 and your application is successful, the work program will be a condition of the permit under section 75 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2010*.

If you apply for area VIC/L25-2 and your application is successful, the work program will be a condition of the exploration permit under section 100 of the *Petroleum Act 1998*. Certain elements of the work program will be declared to be the key object(s) under section 27 of the *Petroleum Act 1998*.

If a petroleum exploration permit makes a discovery and moves to develop the resource, the Victorian Government expects that Australian domestic consumers are provided an offer of petroleum on reasonable terms as a priority under any future production licence. In relation to area VIC/25-1, section 152A of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2010* mandates that this occurs.

Outcome

After the tender applications have been evaluated, the Minister for Energy and Resources will decide whether to offer petroleum exploration permits. The successful applicant will be provided an offer of a petroleum exploration permit.

If an offer is made and accepted, unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the outcome.

Application fee

Applications for area VIC/25-1 will be required to pay a fee of \$27,064.10

Applications for area VIC/25-2 will be required to pay a fee of \$65,643.05

An invoice will be issued to the applicant. If more than one company is applying for the petroleum exploration permit, please nominate which company is to receive the invoice.

The invoice will be due and payable within 2 days of receipt. If payment is not received within 2 days, the application will be invalid.

Applicant details

Include company contact details in Table 2. Duplicate Table 2 if more than one company is applying for the petroleum exploration permit.

Table 2 Company contact details.

Specifics	Details
Company name	
Company phone	
Registered address	
Billing address (if different from registered address)	
Primary contact name	
Position held	
Primary contact phone	
Primary contact email	

Signatures

Note – all companies must sign. Please duplicate the tables below if more than one company is applying for the petroleum exploration permit.

Declaration

I am / We are signing this application form as either:

- ☐ The Director/Directors and Secretary of an Australian registered company (Table 3).
- ☐ The Attorney appointed under a Power of Attorney of an Australian registered company (Table 3 and 4).
- ☐ The person(s) authorised to sign to legally bind a Foreign registered company (including foreign companies registered with ASIC) (Table 5).
- ☐ The Attorney appointed under a Power of Attorney of a Foreign registered company (Table 5 and 6).

Australian registered company

Table 3 Applicant details.

Specifics	Details
Company name	
ACN & ABN	
Position held	<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Director <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney #
Name of person holding position	
Signature	
Date	

If you are the Attorney, you must also complete Table 4.

Table 4 Attorney of applicant details.

Specifics	Details
Signed at (location)	
Name of witness	
Signature of witness	
Date	

Foreign registered company

Table 5 Applicant details.

Specifics	Details
Company name	
Country of registration	
Registration number in country of registration	
Australian Registered Body Number (ARBN)	
Position held	<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney ^
Name of person holding position	
Signature	
Date	

^ If you are the Attorney, you must also complete Table 6.

Table 6 Attorney of applicant details.

Specifics	Details
Signed at (location)	
Name of witness	
Signature of witness	
Date	

Lodgement

Application form and supporting documents must be submitted by 5pm AEDT on Wednesday 11 February 2026 to: resources@deeca.vic.gov.au

Emails should have the subject line – “2025 Petroleum Exploration Permit tender application”

Notes

1. Maximum size of incoming emails is 35Mb. If your email will be larger, you must split it into multiple emails no larger than 35Mb each. We suggest that for each email you ‘Request a Delivery Receipt’.
2. Resources Victoria accepts no responsibility for failure of email delivery.
3. Resources Victoria may require further information about the applicant to create an account in the [Resource Rights Allocation and Management \(RRAM\) portal](#).

Contact us

If you need to contact Resources Victoria regarding this invitation for any reason, contact via email is the only form accepted. Send your email to: resources@deeca.vic.gov.au

Emails should have the subject line – “2025 Petroleum Exploration Permit tender inquiry”