



Government
of South Australia
Department for
Energy and Mining

APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCEDURES AND FORMS

Otway Basin - OT2025 RSEL-A to E, GSEL-A to C and GEL-A Acreage Release

Required information

An application for a Regulated Substance Exploration Licence (RSEL), Gas Storage Exploration Licence (GSEL) or a Geothermal Exploration Licence (GEL) should include the information listed below and be prepared using the pro forma included herein. It must also be accompanied by a plan of the application area and the prescribed application fee.

Fee payment may be made by cheque made payable to the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM), or by electronic funds transfer to a DEM-nominated account (evidence of funds transfer must accompany the application). Please refer to the following web page from 1 July 2025 to determine the applicable application fee for FY 2025/2026, and for DEM banking details for payments made by electronic funds transfer: <https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/energy-resources/licensing-and-land-access/onshore/licensing/regulated-fees>

Alternatively, please email: DEM.EnergyResourcesAcreageRelease@sa.gov.au.

An application can be made by one or more individuals, one or more companies or a combination of both. Where a foreign company makes an application, that company must be able to lawfully conduct business in Australia. Information on company registration requirements pursuant to the Australian Corporations Law can be supplied on request.

Technical qualifications and experience

The applicant must submit with the application a summary of their technical qualifications and experience (or their consultants or agents) to satisfy requirements that the applicant is capable of compliance with the [Energy Resources Act 2000](#) and the terms and conditions of the licence.

The applicant's past performance in fulfilling work program commitments elsewhere in Australia may also be taken into account.

Financial position

Evidence of the financial resources available to the applicant is to be supplied to demonstrate ability to fulfill the work program. Such evidence can be in the form of the latest annual report or a verifiable statement from an independent accountant, auditor or financial institution for each applicant. If other known financial and exploration commitments over the next five years are such as to subsequently likely impact on the applicant's ability to carry out the program set out in the application, attention must be drawn to this fact and the implications briefly described.

Work program

In considering an application for an exploration licence, the Minister must consider the suitability of the applicant's proposed work program for evaluating the prospectivity of the licence area and discovering regulated resources. It is a requirement that a work program be submitted for each block applied for, including a statement of exploratory operations the applicant proposes to carry out in the first five-year term of the licence. A pro forma is attached for the five-year work program.

Special conditions

The **OT2025 RSEL**, **OT2025 GSEL** and **OT2025 GEL** permits will be offered under the [Energy Resources Act 2000](#) for an initial five-year term plus a right of renewal for a further two five-year terms (minimum 33.33% area relinquishment at each renewal, however the area to be relinquished may be reduced by an amount equal to the area of any regulated substance production licence or regulated substance retention licence granted during the preceding term of the exploration licence).

Security

DEM has revised its policy for managing the environmental liabilities undertaken pursuant to the [Energy Resources Act 2000](#) to be more holistic, risk and evidence-based.

Licensees are now required to account for the status of all regulated activities and plan how to manage environmental liabilities in annual reports or if there is material change in ownership.

Consistent with sections 66(2) and 76 of the [Energy Resources Act 2000](#), the Minister may require a licensee to give security, of a kind and amount acceptable to the Minister, for the satisfaction of obligations arising under the Act.

The Environmental Liability Management Policy is available at the [DEM website](#)

Award criteria

Winning bidders will be selected on the basis of the total five-year work program bid and the applicant's demonstrated capacity to fund the proposed work program. The work program must be completed within the overall area of the RSEL. It must include a statement of exploratory operations the applicant proposes to carry out in the first five-year licence term. It is expected that at least one petroleum exploration well would be included in the program.

The specific scoring scheme is detailed in the [OT2025 Bid Assessment Policy](#).

In general, it is important to note that the timing of well drilling and seismic or other data acquisition will be taken into account. Key assessment criteria include:

- The number of exploration wells to be drilled in the RSEL (***appraisal and development wells are not considered***).
- ***Only guaranteed work programs will be considered, e.g. the entire proposed term of the licence.***
- The extent to which proposed wells are supported by existing or proposed seismic data.
- The number of potential play/s to be addressed per well/s.
- The amount and nature of seismic surveying to be carried out and its timing.
- Other data acquisition (e.g. gravity, aeromagnetic or geochemical surveys).
- Seismic reprocessing to be carried out.
- Adequacy of financial resources and technical expertise available to the applicant.
- The applicant's past performance in fulfilling work program commitments elsewhere in Australia.

In the case of cascading bids (i.e. multiple or hybrid bids by one applicant or joint venture), only the highest bid will be considered.

The Minister is expected to announce the winning bidders, together with details of work programs, by the end of 2025.

Contact information

Comments and enquiries for the exploration licence should be made to:

Director, Geological Survey of South Australia
Department for Energy and Mining

DEM.EnergyResourcesAcreageRelease@sa.gov.au

Applications for an exploration licence should be made to:

Executive Director, Regulation and Compliance Division
Department for Energy and Mining

All applications must be made via email only to:

DEM.EnergyResourcesAcreageRelease@sa.gov.au

Submissions should be marked '**Confidential — contains RSEL application**', '**Confidential — contains GSEL application**' or '**Confidential — contains GEL application**' as appropriate.

Closing date and time

The closing date for OT2025 RSEL-A to E, OT2025 GSEL-A to C and OT2025 GEL-A applications is **5:00 pm Australian Central Daylight Time on Friday 31 October 2025**

Checklist

The following information must be included in the licence application:

- complete the attached *pro forma*
- application must be signed or executed by the applicant/s
- if applicant is a foreign company, the company must be registered as a foreign company under the provisions of the Australian Corporations Law
- include one copy of a plan of the application area
- include a summary of the technical qualifications of the applicant (or consultants or agents of the applicant)
- include evidence of the financial position of the applicant to demonstrate ability to fulfill the proposed work program (i.e. the latest annual report or a verifiable statement from an independent accountant, auditor or financial institution)
- using the *pro forma*, include a work program statement of exploratory operations the applicant proposes to carry out in each year of the initial five-year term of the licence
- include the prescribed fee for each licence applied for. (*Please refer to the following web page from 1 July 2025 to determine the applicable application fee for FY 2025/2026, and for DEM banking details for payments made by electronic funds transfer:*
<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/energy-resources/licensing-and-land-access/onshore-licensing/regulated-fees>.)
- *Alternatively, please email:* DEM.EnergyResourcesAcreageRelease@sa.gov.au
- ensure the envelope containing your application is marked '**Confidential – contains RSEL application**', '**Confidential — contains GSEL application**' or '**Confidential — contains GEL application**' as appropriate.