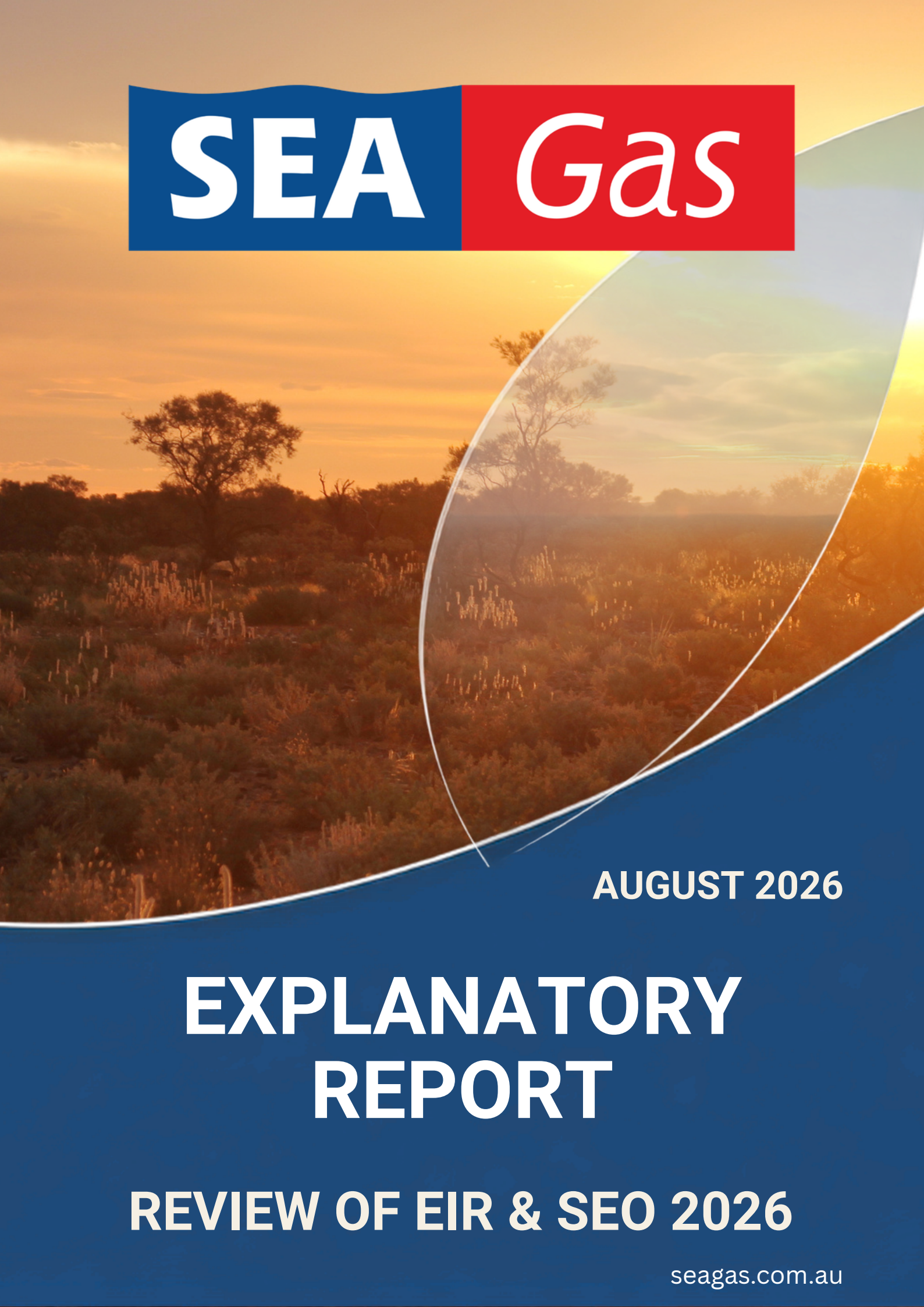




SEA

Gas

AUGUST 2026

EXPLANATORY REPORT

REVIEW OF EIR & SEO 2026

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Explanatory Report – Review of EIR & SEO 2026

SEA Gas					
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Distribution Register

Name	Position Title	Company

Modification Register

Date	Revision	Details of Change
03/08/2026	0	Initial issue

1 Introduction

The South East Australia Gas Pty Ltd (SEA Gas) Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO) was previously reviewed and updated in 2020/21 and gazetted in August 2021, to meet the requirements of the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000* and the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Regulations 2013*. It outlines the environmental objectives that SEA Gas is required to achieve and the criteria upon which the objectives are to be assessed in relation to the construction, commissioning, operations, maintenance and decommissioning of the SEA Gas Pipeline System, Pipeline Licence PL 13 (South Australia).

In 2024 the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000* and the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Regulations 2013* were superseded by the *Energy Resources Act 2000* (the Act) and the *Energy Resources Regulations 2013* (the Regulations). Regulation 13 of the *Energy Resources Regulations 2013* requires that an approved SEO must be reviewed at least every five years. Consequently, SEA Gas has undertaken a review of the SEO in accordance with Regulation 13.

The SEO and the supporting Environmental Impact Report (EIR) have been updated to align with the Act and the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) *Energy Regulatory Guideline (ERG) 015 - Environmental Impact Assessment Criteria (2024)*. The updated SEO introduces leading performance criteria and refined assessment criteria to improve clarity, measurability and auditability.

This Explanatory Report summarises the revisions (including updates from community consultations) made to the EIR and SEO.

2 Revisions to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

This section summarises the key changes made to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as part of the five-year review, based on a comparison between the 2020/21 and 2026 SEA Gas PL13 EIR.

2.1 Legislative Framework

The legislative framework has been updated to reflect changes to South Australian petroleum legislation since the previous EIR was approved.

Key changes include:

- Replacement of references to the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000* and the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Regulations 2013* with the *Energy Resources Act 2000* and *Energy Resources Regulations 2013*, respectively. This commenced in April 2024.
- Preparation in accordance with DEM's *Energy Regulatory Guideline (ERG) 015 - Environmental Impact Assessment Criteria (2024)*
- Addition of the Section 97 requirement in the Act to include an assessment of the environmental impact of regulated activities to which the report applies against the environmental impact assessment criteria, as determined by the minister or prescribed regulations
- Addition of the Section 97 requirement in the Act to include consultation of the proposed environmental impact report in accordance with the requirements of the regulations.

- Update of the *Energy Resource Regulations 2013* criteria to align with Regulation 10, including Information on any consultation that has occurred with the owner of the relevant land, any Aboriginal groups or representatives, any agency or instrumentality of the Crown, or any other relevant stakeholders, including specific details about relevant issues that have been raised and any response to those issues, but not including confidential information.
- Update of the determined and undetermined native title claims impacting the pipeline alignment.
- Addition of section 2.2.6 Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, addressing the interaction with development activities and the Gas and Liquid Petroleum Pipeline Overlays.
- Inclusion of additional relevant legislation referenced, introduced or amended since 2021, including:
 - *Radiation Protection and Control Act 2021*
 - *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*
 - *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*
 - *Native Title (South Australia) Act*
 - *Native Title (Cth) Act 1993*
 - *Coroners Act 2003*
 - *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act 2007*
 - *Electrical Safety Act 2002*
 - *Public Health Act 2011*
 - *Road Traffic Act 1961*
 - *Civil Aviation Act 1988*
 - *Civil Aviation Regulations 1988*
 - *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*
 - *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010 (Waste to Resources EPP)*
 - *Dangerous Substances Act 1979*
 - *Environmental Protection Regulations (South Australia) 2023*
 - *Controlled Substances (Pesticides) Regulations 2017*
 - *Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cth)*
 - *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010*
 - *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations*

These changes are primarily administrative and regulatory in nature and do not alter the scope or nature of the regulated activities assessed.

2.2 Description of Activities

The overall scope of activities covered by the EIR remains unchanged and continues to apply in relation to the construction, commissioning, operations, maintenance and decommissioning activities associated with the SEA Gas Pipeline (PL13). However, several updates and clarifications have been made to improve alignment with current operations and standards.

Key updates include:

- Update of the status of plant and equipment that has been isolated and operations suspended.
- Clearer specification that the EIR applies to decommissioning activities.
- Clearer specification that the EIR applies to relocation and extension of the pipelines and excludes significant pipeline addition.
- Addition of exclusions and limitations
- Updated references to Before You Dig Australia referral service
- Updates to the description on aerial inspection method

2.3 Description of the Environment

The description of environment has been updated to reflect:

- Recent meteorological data
- Updated species status based on *National Parks and Wildlife Act (SA) 1972* and *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* information.

These updates improve accuracy and consistency with current regional information but do not materially change the environmental context assessed.

2.4 Environmental Impact Assessment

The impact assessment method has been developed in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Criteria published under the *Energy Resources Act 2000*, the *Energy Resources Regulations 2013* and using guidance provided in the *Energy Regulatory Guideline (ERG) 015 – Environmental Impact Assessment Criteria*.

Key changes include:

- Adoption of a more structured impact assessment framework, including explicit identification of the six criteria, against which environmental impacts of a regulated activity must be assessed, including:
 - Identifying environmental elements that could be impacted by the proposed regulated activities (Criteria 1).
 - Identifying the potential impact events that could impact elements of the environment during the construction, commissioning, operation, maintenance and decommissioning phases (Criteria 2).
 - Confirming the potential of impact events to occur (Criteria 3).

- Identifying relevant control and management measures for each potential impact event, needed to eliminate or otherwise reduce any potential environmental harm to as low as reasonably achievable (part Criteria 4).
 - Identifying uncertainties and assumptions associated with the effectiveness of control and management strategies (part Criteria 4).
 - Assessing environmental significance of each potential impact event, based on the sensitivity of the receiving environment and the magnitude of potential impacts, considering factors such as the frequency, duration, extent and severity of impacts as well as potential cumulative impacts (Criteria 5).
 - Developing environmental objectives and assessment criteria for all potential impacts determined for the elements of the environment. These objectives will be carried through to the SEO (Criteria 6)
- Development of a risk evaluation and assessment methodology to assess the environmental significance of the potential impact events (described in Section 5.1.6 of the EIR).
 - A table of applicable legislation and standards for each of the identified environmental elements.
 - Presentation of the output of the assessment in a different format including the following tables, for each identified environmental element.
 - Potential Impact Events and Confirmation of Impact Events
 - Control Measures, Environmental Objectives and Criteria
 - Environmental Significance Assessment
 - Enhanced assessment and expanded consideration of impact events, control measures and environmental objectives relative to the former assessment methodology.
 - Strengthened linkage between the EIR impact assessment and the objectives, leading performance criteria and assessment criteria contained in the SEO.

3 Revisions to the Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO)

This section summarises the key changes made to the Statement of Environmental Objectives as part of the five-year review, based on a comparison between the 2021 SEO and 2026 PL13 SEO.

3.1 Editorial and Structural Changes

Editorial and structural changes have been made to improve clarity, consistency and alignment with current regulatory expectations.

Key changes include:

- Updates to legislative references and terminology to reflect the *Energy Resources Act 2000* and *Energy Resources Regulations 2013*.

- Revised document structure, including clearer separation between objectives, assessment criteria and leading performance criteria.

3.2 Scope

The scope of the SEO remains broadly unchanged and continues to apply to the SEA Gas Pipeline covered by Pipeline Licence PL13.

Key changes include:

- Minor changes to provide clarification of activities included in the SEO.
- Alignment of scope wording with the updated EIR.

3.3 Environmental Objectives, Assessment Criteria and Leading Performance Criteria

The environmental objectives remain fundamentally consistent with those in the 2021 SEO, however the manner in which the objectives are expressed and assessed has been updated.

Key changes include:

- Minor changes to the environmental elements involving a broadening of scope and movement of some content between elements.
- Leading performance criteria have been introduced for objectives where control-based management is critical, providing early indicators of performance.
- Assessment criteria are updated and expanded to improve clarity, measurability and auditability.
- Alignment of objectives and criteria with contemporary industry standards, SEA Gas management systems and regulatory guidance.

3.4 Incident Definitions and Reporting

Incident definitions and reporting requirements have been updated to align with the *Energy Resources Act 2000*.

Key changes include:

- Replacement of “serious” and “reportable” incident terminology with “immediately reportable” and “reportable” incidents, consistent with Section 85 of the *Energy Resources Act 2000*.
- Clarification of definition of reportable environment damage.
- Clarification of reporting obligations to DEM, Environmental Protection Authority, SafeWork SA, Attorneys Generals Department (Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation) and Landscape Boards under relevant legislation.