

Preface and acknowledgements

This book examines how governments manage their offshore conventional petroleum resources. It analyses the policies, licensing systems and resource management regulations used for this purpose by comparing Australia, Norway and the United Kingdom and examining production sharing contracts.

It is a challenging time for petroleum production with offshore-producing basins reaching maturity, a transition occurring from hydrocarbons and other fossil fuels and accountability increasing in relation to sustainability and social issues. At the same time the world's need for energy continues to grow. This book examines how governments are evolving their licensing systems to deal with such challenges, and how companies are responding.

Unless the context requires otherwise, to the best of my knowledge the law proffered in this book as current is up-to-date as at 30 June 2017, with changes up to January 2018 being indicated where possible.

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SOURCES

The research for this book has relied, where possible, on primary sources from government, legislatures and companies, but has also referred to secondary material, such as commentary and scholarly works. The footnotes give references.

Interviews have been conducted with:

- The Commonwealth Department of Industry;
- The Australian National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator;
- The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate;
- The Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy;
- The United Kingdom's Oil and Gas Authority;
- Exploration and production companies; and
- Non-government organisations.

Interviews were conducted on the basis that they could be published without attribution. In the footnotes sources have been cited by reference only to the date of the interview and whether it was with a regulator/government body or industry.

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