



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release of Equinor's environment plan for public comment

From today the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is accepting comments from the public on the proposed environment plan by Equinor for their planned drilling activity in the Great Australian Bight.

Comments can be made for the next 30 days and can be submitted directly to NOPSEMA via a dedicated submission portal on NOPSEMA's website. The environment plan is available from Equinor's website.

NOPSEMA encourages all interested persons to make submissions on the proposed environment plan.

All comments submitted will be provided to Equinor, who will prepare a report detailing how they have considered comments received and identify amendments made to the environment plan as a result of comments.

This report and the amended environment plan will be published by Equinor on formal submission of the plan to NOPSEMA for assessment.

People who comment may remain anonymous to Equinor, however this may limit Equinor's capacity to address the issues raised in the comments.

NOPSEMA's official regulatory role does not commence until Equinor formally submits the environment plan for assessment. The timing of a formal submission is a matter for Equinor, and not set by NOPSEMA.

Equinor is voluntarily making its draft environment plan available to the public, as the environment regulations do not permit NOPSEMA to publish environment plans as part of the formal assessment.

In November 2017, Senator the Hon. Matt Canavan, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, announced reforms to the environment regulations, which Equinor will comply with, including the full publication of their environment plan and it being subject to a public comment period.

Equinor has agreed with the Australian Government to follow the full process as outlined in the exposure draft of the OPGGS (Environment) Amendment (Consultation and Transparency) Regulations 2018.

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science is currently progressing the reforms and the new regulations are expected to be introduced later this year.

Equinor's environment plan can be accessed at: equinor.com.au/gabproject

NOPSEMA's comments submission portal can be accessed at: nopsema.gov.au

- ENDS -

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Due to the complex and technical nature of NOPSEMA's work, media enquiries should be submitted in writing to ensure a thorough response can be provided.

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About NOPSEMA

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is Australia's independent expert regulator for health and safety, environmental management, structural and well integrity for offshore petroleum facilities and activities in Commonwealth waters.

By law, offshore petroleum activities cannot commence before NOPSEMA has assessed and accepted detailed risk management plans documenting and demonstrating how an organisation will manage the risks to health and safety to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) and the risk to the environment to ALARP and with acceptable environmental impacts.

Commonwealth waters comprise those areas beyond the first three nautical miles of the territorial sea. This includes the Ashmore and Cartier offshore territories and offshore areas adjacent to all states and the Northern Territory.

NOPSEMA also regulates all offshore areas in coastal waters where a state or territory has conferred regulatory powers and functions. In 2013, Victoria conferred its functions for the regulation of health and safety and structural integrity on NOPSEMA.

Formally the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA), NOPSEMA was established in 2012, with environmental and well integrity regulatory responsibilities added to NOPSA's remit.

More information about NOPSEMA is available at <https://www.nopsema.gov.au/about/>

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