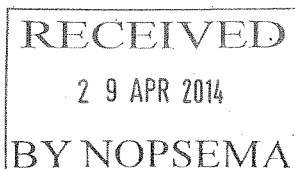




Australian Senate



Penny Wright
Australian Greens Senator for South Australia

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Ms Jane Cutler
Chief Executive Officer
NOPSEMA
GPO Box 2568
Perth WA 6001

23 April 2014

Dear Ms Cutler,

Re: Kangaroo Island offshore seismic testing

I write to you in relation to Bight Petroleum's proposal to undertake seismic testing in Commonwealth waters off the coast of Kangaroo Island in South Australia – previously referred to as 2013/6770 under the EPBC Act.

Like many other members of the South Australian community, I have a strong interest in this proposal and have followed it very closely over the past two years.

I understand that amendments to the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 recently came into effect and that Bight Petroleum will now have an Environment Plan assessed by NOPSEMA after withdrawing their referral under the EPBC Act.

I also understand Bight Petroleum has been required to submit a new Environment Plan which will be assessed under the amended regulations and the Environment Plan it submitted in December 2013 will not be assessed.

As a Senator for South Australia, I have received a great deal of correspondence about Bight Petroleum's proposed activities and have listened to a very significant level of community concern about the method in which the company have chosen to engage with those affected by their referral – both in the Kangaroo Island community and beyond.

As a result of this correspondence and my ongoing liaison with members of the Kangaroo Island community, I have deep concerns about the lack of public consultation regarding this proposal.

Despite being acutely aware of my interest in its proposal, Bight Petroleum has not consulted with me about either of its Environment Plans – both of which have presumably been submitted to NOPSEMA for assessment.

As someone elected to Parliament to represent the interests and concerns of South Australians, and as a person who has participated in public fora and media commentary on this issue, I consider myself a 'relevant person' – as defined in the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009.

During the periods of public comment provided for under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act, Bight Petroleum displayed a deep level of disdain for the Kangaroo Island community, concerned South Australians and key stakeholders.

The company's responses to public comments were often patronising and dismissive. It portrayed those who did not agree with its proposal as "unreasonable" and did not treat those who made submissions with the respect they deserved.

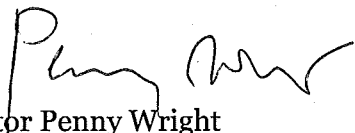
The level of community concern about this proposal has been profound; as evidenced by the large number of public comments received throughout the EPBC environmental applications process.

The actions of Bight Petroleum to date have left me, and those I represent, with no confidence in its ability to conduct meaningful consultation about its proposal.

I know that I will not be alone in urging you to consider requiring Bight Petroleum to engage in a suitable public consultation process where all relevant persons can have their concerns heard.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Penny Wright', with a stylized, flowing script.

Senator Penny Wright
Australian Greens Senator for South Australia