

From: [Cameron Grebe](#)
To: [Stuart Smith](#)
Subject: For your background the actual announcements we have managed to get.
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Attachments: [labor and liberal party policies.pdf](#)
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If elected, one of Labor's first acts will be to commission an independent scientific study into the impact of an oil spill in the Great Australian Bight.

The study will be jointly commissioned by the Ministers for Resources and the Environment, and will report to both ministers. Both ministers will jointly issue terms of reference to the independent study.

There is no approval granted for drilling in the Bight. One proposal for exploratory drilling is under consideration by the independent regulator, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA), which has an independent assessment process underway.

The purpose of the study will be to help inform the decision making of the independent regulator.

It will be an independent scientific study to increase the capacity of the independent regulator to properly make an assessment.

The study will report before the project is approved.

Every resources project needs to stack up environmentally and financially.

Approvals about these types of projects are made in accordance with the law.

**THE HON MELISSA PRICE MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

MEDIA RELEASE

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF NOPSEMA'S CONSIDERATION OF EXPLORATION
IN THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT**

A re-elected Liberal National government will commission an independent audit of NOPSEMA's current consideration of exploration in the Great Australian Bight.

The Liberal National Government recognises that the Great Australian Bight and the surrounding region are important to local communities, and the fishing and tourism industries. The region is known for its unique environment and deserves strong protection.

Australia has one of the safest regimes for offshore oil and gas in the world. There are very strict safety and environmental standards and the industry is overseen by Australia's independent regulator NOPSEMA (National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority).

The Liberal National Government recognises community concerns around drilling in the Great Australian Bight and community groups are seeking further assurance of environmental protection.

The Liberal National Government will commission an independent audit, to be conducted by the Chief Scientist, to provide this additional level of assurance to the community

The independent audit will be jointly commissioned by the Minister for Resources and the Minister for the Environment. The Chief Scientist will be asked to work with NOPSEMA to assure all environmental considerations are thoroughly considered as part of the assessment process and decision making of the independent regulator. The audit will be conducted in tandem with the assessment process.

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is Australia's independent regulator for health and safety, well integrity and environmental management for offshore oil and gas activities in Commonwealth waters and in coastal waters where regulatory powers and functions have been conferred. NOPSEMA was established on 1 January 2012.

Exploratory drilling proposals will continue to be assessed by NOPSEMA, which has an independent assessment process underway under Australian law.

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Media Contact: Coalition Campaign Headquarters: T: (07) 3557 7533 / E: media@cchq.org.au

Authorised by A. Hirst, Liberal Party of Australia, Canberra

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