



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOPSEMA requests further information from Equinor on Bight drilling proposal

Today, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) requested further information from Equinor on its environment plan for their proposed petroleum exploration drilling activity in the Great Australian Bight.

The assessment will now pause and recommence when Equinor submits the additional information. Equinor has been provided with 60 days to submit the requested information to NOPSEMA.

The request for information was made in order to clarify matters raised in the plan and to address information gaps identified by NOPSEMA's specialist team assessing the plan.

Under Australia's objective-based regulatory regime, a request for further information is a normal step in the assessment process.

To ensure a fair and unbiased process and to provide natural justice to all parties, NOPSEMA does not comment on the specifics of environment plans under assessment.

NOPSEMA's primary role is the prevention of major accident events offshore, to ensure the safety of the workforce and protection of the environment.

For more information on Equinor's proposed activity, and to subscribe to updates on the environment plan assessment, go to: <https://www.nopsema.gov.au/environmental-management/activity-status-and-summaries/details/473>.

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NOPSEMA

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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