



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Equinor environment plan submission for the Great Australian Bight

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) has received an environment plan submission from Equinor for its proposed petroleum drilling activity in the Great Australian Bight.

In accordance with the Environment Regulations, NOPSEMA will now commence its formal assessment of the plan, under which a proposed activity must be found to meet all legislative requirements to proceed. Through its assessment, NOPSEMA will consider potential environmental impacts from the proposed activity to ensure appropriate precautions are taken.

The regulatory assessment process is iterative, and it is normal for environment plans to move between the proponent and NOPSEMA throughout the assessment process.

For more information on Equinor's proposed activity (including a map of the proposed operational area), and to subscribe to updates, go to: [www.nopsema.gov.au](http://www.nopsema.gov.au)

To ensure procedural fairness and natural justice, NOPSEMA does not comment on the specifics of plans and proposals under assessment.

- ENDS -

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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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