

Hello ,

As a tourism operator on Kangaroo Island, I am very concerned about drilling in the Great Australian Bight for oil.

Being a surfer I have closely observed wind and waves in this area for over 20years. 3 years ago the largest swell I had seen was 12m. Last year and again this year I have seen swell heights of over 18m. These are measured close to shore and would be considerably bigger in the drill area on the edge of the continental shelf. Winds this year were 20kph stronger than I had previously observed (139kph ). In all probability, these are not the worst conditions that will be encountered in the future. I am very concerned that BP will encounter conditions that are unprecedented. This is a high risk operation! In such a remote and wild area, capping a blowout would take such a long time that oil is certain to reach a coastline rich in wildlife and aquaculture -whale nursery and home to thousands of cuddly looking seals and sealions. This could be the Australian government and BP's biggest environmental and public relations disaster ever. I can't believe that BP has made the decision to take that risk. Our tourism and aquaculture industries would be decimated. I don't believe that any amount of preparation will prevent a disaster.

KI and South Australia has nothing to gain and everything to lose. Have you seen what happened in the Gulf of Mexico or the Timor Sea?

I urge you to do all you can to protect us and our unique environment and prevent this from being approved.

This is not just a concern for "greenies" This is a serious threat to our way of life and economy.

Regards, Ben Byass