

**From:**  
**To:** [Committee\\_EC \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Correction: HOPE - Submission to Senate Inquiry into Oil or Gas Exploration in the Great Australian Bight  
**Date:** Sunday, 27 March 2016 12:04:40 PM  
**Attachments:**

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**From:** Frank Ondrus [mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2016 11:02 AM  
**To:** 'ec.sen@aph.gov.au'  
**Subject:** HOPE - Submission to Senate Inquiry into Oil or Gas Production in the Great Australian Bight

**Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.**

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Sunday, 27 March 2016

Committee Secretary

**Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications**

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Good morning,

**Re: Senate Inquiry into Oil or Gas [Exploration](#) in the Great Australian Bight**

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. endorses The Wilderness Society's (TWS) submission opposing oil and/or gas exploration in the Great Australian Bight for the following reasons:

- the exceptional nature of the GAB, including on the basis of its natural and cultural values, endemic values, hostile wind/wave and current environment and importance in supporting significant economic values for regional and coastal communities;
- the significance of the risks presented by oil and gas development in this

- frontier basin
- the need for a very high degree of caution in assessing risks and impacts in the GAB, including a more robust and transparent regulatory process for approval of any oil and gas projects in what is a frontier oil and gas basin and the problems the current regulatory process has in delivering this;
  - the significant and growing community concern associated with BP's plans to drill in the GAB; and
  - the inconsistency of supporting the opening up of a new fossil fuel basin in the GAB with the Paris Climate Agreement commitments to contain global temperature increases below 2 degrees celsius and aim to contain them below 1.5 degrees celsius.

“The GAB provides important habitat for a diverse range of threatened and migratory species, including: Blue, Sperm, Fin, Sei, Southern Right and Humpback Whales; Great White Sharks, School Sharks, Orcas and Southern Bluefin Tuna; Australian Sea Lions and Albatrosses. Whale Sanctuaries in the Bight (Head of the Bight and Twilight Marine Reserve off the WA coast) are internationally significant calving areas for the Southern Right Whale. The marine life of the GAB is incredibly biodiverse and up to 85% of its species are endemic to the region (it has higher endemic diversity than the Great Barrier Reef).

“The Commonwealth and State marine reserve network in the GAB is, after years of marine parks campaigning, is the only fully representative marine reserve network outside of the Great Barrier Reef.”

“It is our view that oil and gas drilling in the GAB represents a fundamental threat to this pristine environment and that the ultra deepwater exploration drilling proposed by BP presents unacceptable risks to the GAB and the coastal, regional industries (including fishing and tourism) that rely upon it. BP's drilling plans, if undertaken, will like result in the opening up of a new fossil fuel precinct in this frontier basin.”

*(TWS, 4 March 2016)*

HOPE believes that oil and gas drilling in the Great Australian Bight poses serious threats to the marine environment and therefore should not be allowed to proceed.

Regards,



Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc.