

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications.

Committee Secretary,

The Stop Invasive Mining Group Incorporated, SIMGI, is based on Eyre Peninsula, EP.
SIMGI oppose the planned BP exploration drilling in the Great Australian Bight.

The risks to the coastline, marine ecosystems and the fishing industry are too enormous to proceed with drilling.

BP history with the Gulf of Mexico oil spill shows the risks in drilling and if that happens in the Bight it will be devastating for the EP and perhaps even further to Western Australia and Victorian coastlines.

Eyre Peninsula relies heavily on the fishing industry, agriculture and tourism for our economic and social existence.

SIMGI representatives attended the Offshore Oil and Gas Open Day in Port Lincoln on 2 December 2015.

NOPSEMA and Petroleum State Development SA could not answer a question on what does BP do with the contaminated drilling mud, heavy metals and water? Exploration drilling on land uses a sump at the rig to contain these contaminants and when sump is full they, in some cases, transport it to an approved EPA disposal site.

Does this by-product of drilling contaminate the environment from the beginning of drilling in the ocean?

NOPSEMA are the independent regulators and to check on the oil rig operations they would have to organise with the drilling platform for access to land in advance. When questioned on pre-warning of a regulatory visit the oil company could clean up its operation before the arrival of NOPSEMA. The NOPSEMA representative indicated that it would be a win if company cleaned up before each inspection.

The term, Risk Management, is always used in mining resources. Are the BP's containment response system and capping availabilities located in Ceduna or Port Lincoln? Not Singapore! Will BP be self- monitoring?

NOPSEMA should plan unannounced random inspections several times a year.

Why isn't there a provision for a huge bond to be paid before drilling?
Even though, no amount of money can repair the damaged environment.

Will the Government listen to the local communities on Eyre Peninsula or put the Great Australian Bight at risk of contamination from oil spills?

The open day in Port Lincoln did not give SIMGI confidence in the exploration process of BP, the regulatory departments and for the protection of the Great Australian Bight environment.

Why put at risk the Southern Right Whale nursery?

Why put at risk the tuna, rock lobster, oyster and scale fishing industries?

Why put at risk the pristine coastline that thousands of tourists enjoy?

It is indicated that fishing and tourism is worth more than \$1 billion a year to the region and employs over 10,000 full time jobs.

SIMGI says no to any company exploration drilling in the Great Australian Bight.

1-4-2016.

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Chairperson: Stop Invasive Mining Group Incorporated.



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