

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing
22 October 2015

AGENCY: NOPSEMA

TOPIC: Assessment Process

REFERENCE: Written Question - Senator Xenophon

QUESTION No.: SI-71

In the event NOPSEMA decides that BP's proposal for exploration drilling in the Great Australian Bight has "unacceptable risks", what then happens with the assessment process?

ANSWER

If a titleholder is unable to demonstrate that their environment plan meets the criteria for acceptance under regulation 10A of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 NOPSEMA must refuse to accept the plan.

This refusal is subject to NOPSEMA providing the titleholder a reasonable opportunity to modify and resubmit the environment plan should it fail to meet the criteria for acceptance on first submission.

A final refusal decision does not preclude a titleholder from submitting a new environment plan for assessment if they choose to do so.