

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
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Canberra ACT 2600

19 November 2019

### **Submission on Impact of seismic testing on fisheries and the marine environment**

I am very concerned about the potential impact of seismic testing off the coast of Australia. I am very worried that whales, dolphins, sea turtles, and fish may suffer temporary and permanent damage. I am also concerned about the potential impact on fisheries and coastal economies along the Australian coast.

Australian scientists have found that there is a significant and unacknowledged potential for ocean ecosystem function and productivity to be negatively impacted by present seismic technology. (See article by McCauley and others <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-017-0195>). Seismic testing has been considered dangerous overseas and banned under Obama administration. In 2018, New Zealand banned any further offshore oil and gas exploration permits from being granted, including seismic testing.

I live on the central coast of New South Wales and believe it is vital that the Committee hear from the local community about the concerns they have about this testing. I hope the Committee will come to the Central coast and conduct hearings into these matters. The coastal area is one of the greatest assets this country has and to damage it would be a national tragedy.

Frances Gibson