

**From:** [info=saveourcoast.org.au@mailgun.com.au](mailto:info=saveourcoast.org.au@mailgun.com.au) on behalf of [Save Our Coast](#)  
**To:** [Committee, EC \(SEN\)](#);  
**Subject:** Submission to the Senate Inquiry: Impact of Seismic Testing on Fisheries and the Marine Environment  
**Date:**

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Submission to the Senate Inquiry: Impact of Seismic Testing on Fisheries and the Marine Environment Subject:

As a resident of Newcastle I am very concerned that seismic testing will be occurring locally. Newcastle lies adjacent to Port Stephens which is known for its marine parks, dolphin and porpoise populations, seahorses and great white shark breeding areas and an area both humpbacks and southern right whales frequent in. When I met with NOPSEMA for a face to face session here in Newcastle, they admitted that seismic testing does cause harm, so I ask the government why is this being allowed? Our marine creatures already face so many factors reducing their numbers, sea pollution, sea plastics, this is another stressor that could effect their populations.

I ask that the senate inquiry look into the regulations of seismic testing internationally as many other countries have banned this practice or looked into safer technological alternatives, I know Australia is advanced enough to keep up with the rest of the world.

I frequently enjoy swimming in our amazing coast almost daily in summer, this includes snorkeling our abundant marine parks.

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I strongly oppose seismic testing since it would be very harmful to the marine ecosystem.

Seismic testing will stress, deafen or kill animals. Dolphins and whales will not be able to communicate anymore. it will also damage fishing activity. Fishermen have noticed a loss of catch for years after seismic testing.

In addition, the NSW State Government and the councils of Newcastle, Central Coast and Northern Beaches opposed seismic testing, which has been imposed by the Federal Government. It is very upsetting that oil and gas exploration are considered more important than our environment.

I am a teacher, and i have always tried to pass to my students the respect and love of our beautiful country. Also, i have always spoken about the importance of a democratic system where needs of the wider community are more important than individual gain. How can i explain to them a project that dramatically affects and potentially destroy our marine ecosystem in order to sell oil to foreign countries?

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Submission to the Senate Inquiry: Impact of Seismic Testing on Fisheries and the Marine Environment Subject:

I am writing you this letter to express my concern on the seismic testing proposal off the coast of New South Wales. Like all of our environment, the marine ecology is sensitive and the animals that live in there will be severely impacted if this goes ahead.

This type of testing is not adequately regulated and the side effects have not been researched enough. The sound waves that travel through the ocean can exceed 250 decibels and it does not take scientist to know that this will have a negative impact on the creates around this testing.

Furthermore, the risk of a disaster if a suitable site is found can not be totally eliminated. The environmental impact and the affect of events like oil spills, and unintended gas leaking into the atmosphere and contributing to greenhouse gases is not worth the risk for a resource we do no actually need.

This project is driven by money only and the risk to tourism, the community and the planet are unacceptable and careless. I am against this occurring on the coast and the planet that I call home.

Not enough research has been conducted for the body of science and research into the use of seismic testing. More research is needed by a credible, capable, unbiased body to study the true impact this will have.

I love the country I live in and I love the coast. I know the world we live in is not perfect and that I'm lucky to live in Australia. But I really do hope this country and Government will not let this happen. I don't want to see oil spewed along the coast line or animals dying or fleeing. Don't let this happen in this country, we are better than this.

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When I first saw this I thought it was a joke... because anyone who has enjoyed any aspect of NSW coastline would know how SPECIAL it is and just how CRAZY it would be to risk any of it. Literally it is what MAKES SYDNEY PARADISE on earth. What ever happened to the pride we took in our natural surroundings? We don't need more oil and gas. Adani already got pushed through, the Great Barrier Reef is already bleached and we ignore the plight of our island neighbours (who by the way are ever more receptive to 'China Aid'). This is simply DISGRACEFUL. We need A BETTER CLASS OF POLITIAN, leaders who will make US leaders in RENEWABLES. Not a government who drinks big business kool-aid and goes for low hanging and poisonous fruit.

Being in the water every day in and around the Northern Beaches I have seen whales, dolphins, penguins, seals, turtles and sharks not to mention fish and crustaceans in their natural habitat. Considering over 250,000 people live in this area it is amazing we have so much natural wildlife in such close proximity. Why would you undertake experiments as outlined in point B and scare it all away?

I swim or surf everyday on the northern beaches, it is the only respite that I see people get from the absurdities of this modern life. Our connection to the water as a people is pivotal to who we are as an island nation. Come down to Manly on any weekend and have a walk around and tell me this stretch of coastline (any stretch of Australian coastline) doesn't bring people together in a healthy and meaningful way. Why would you mess with that? During the Depression era government had the good sense to build ocean pools not only to give people work but give them something positive to do with their free time. And if you can't think beyond dollars then think about the dollar impact on tourism. You can't guarantee there won't be adverse environmental effects SO LEAVE IT ALONE.

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The impact on the marine environment  
Lack of regulation with regards to this, lack of accountability  
Shocking damage been done

science and research into use of this horrific seismic testing

I am so sick of this liberal government, fossil fuels at all costs is all they think about . Look after the big end of town, to hell with our future, our environment, our planet. We should be leading the world in renewable energy, their is money to be made in this, times are changing. Stop destroying our environment, the ecosystems, the creatures we share this planet with. YOU CAN'T EAT COAL YOU CAN'T DRINK GAS

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Hello I am greatly concern about the plans to allow seismic testing on the eastern coast of Australia and want to raise my explicit objections to suck testing being carried out in any capacity on the regional coastline of Australia.

As a person who works in a scientific field and understands the premise of scientific theory I cannot reconcile the concept that conducting testing such as this could not be harmful to the ecology present in the marine environment. There is no way to ensure safe and non detrimental effects of mining in this environment and it should not be allowed in any capacity. Industrial accidents and pollution no matter how regulated by government or corporation could prevent such disasters from occurring. If the Shell disaster in the Gulf of Mexico is not an perfect example then I don't know what is!

Despite the damage to wildlife and ecology the mining that would eventuate is not in in the interests of the people of NSW or Australia. The fragile ecosystem would be damaged rendering our fish stocks and ecology compromised. What is more the installation of mining platforms on the coastline would destroy the aesthetic of our natural coastline in way similar to the coastline of California. The sight of ugly mining platforms directly offshore in this country directly affects the users of this coastline in a harmful way to the psychology and state of being. People from all over the world come to take in the natural beauty of the NSW coast as a spectacle within itself. To ruin this with the spectres of heavy polluting industry would be incomparably disastrous. Please to what is right and just

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As an Australian citizen, former biologist, and resident of the Central Coast of NSW who is very concerned about the issues of 1) global climate emergency, 2) the conservation of our local marine and coastal environment, and 3) animal cruelty, I am frankly appalled that seismic testing for more fossil fuels is even being considered off our coast!

There is no need to waste taxpayer dollars on even more research on this issue - the data is in already: seismic testing harms marine organisms, is extremely cruel to sentient cetaceans and depletes fish populations; the potential for oil contamination of the coast poses too much of a risk to be warranted; and the effect of releasing yet more methane and drilling for and burning yet more oil and gas is nothing short of immoral at this time in human history.

Such a project ticks every box for an extremely bad idea.

Furthermore, if your inquiry limits its scope to exclude the very reason for seismic testing this would be absurd. The reason for seismic testing is fossil fuel extraction. Fossil fuels are globally recognized as dangerous pollution, since we are at the beginning of a potential catastrophic climate disruption. To ignore this fact and limit your scope is to close your eyes, ears and mind to the disastrous outcomes of exploring for more fossil fuels at this time. Please do not succumb to any such insane "rules" - I urge you to look at the big picture: the cruelty, the potential local harm and the contribution to global mass extinction, all of these are products of short-sighted money-hungry thinking. We humans are on a collision course with our own greed.

The thought of our beautiful coast being put at risk for the purpose of making another oil company's profits, or even NSW government revenue increase, is frankly quite sickening. This proposal must be swiftly bootied out by any government with an ounce of empathy for marine life, coastal communities and future generations.

I wish all the contributors to this inquiry and all the members of the Senate all the moral courage it takes to reject short term monetary gain for the sake of those without a voice.

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Dear Decision makers,  
seismic testing is utterly distressing for any form of marine life.  
We humans have traditionally neglected the world's oceans for many centuries .  
Seismic testing is another step in that direction.  
Imagine you are next to a jack hammer that starts and stops 24/7. It would drive you mad.  
And that is exactly what seismic testing does.

Pollution does not only mean PLASTIC or Chemicals.  
NOISE POLLUTION is just as devastating.

We live at the Central Coast and walk the beaches at least 4 times a week. Every time we spot a whale is a magic moment. But every little fish is equally important.  
We don't want this body of water - or any other for that matter - to be spoiled and turned into a torture chamber!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



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I have lived on or near the coast most of my 58 years. My father was a professional fisherman and I grew up on and around boats. As a teenager I would go fishing with my father out to the continental shelf. As a child I wondered at the variety of fish we encountered including great white sharks, passing whales and marlin. The ocean appeared as pristine and beautiful. It was my happy place. To risk the environment we have, which has been named in the top 10 places in the world to visit by Lonely Planet for the sake of greed to a few is unthinkable.

We; as a nation need to stop destroying the environment and making excuses that we will be a richer country if we sell off our assets. The need for money over maintaining our lifestyle and protecting our environment needs to be stopped.

If you allow testing we will then have companies putting up drilling rigs and as we know from experience in places that have had ecological disasters, remember the Exxon Valdez and the Gulf of Mexico. An environment can not sustain our ill treatment and continue to survive.

We already have a port that exports the largest tonnage of coal in the world and this is already impacting our lives with coal dust being ever present. How much more ecological vandalism are we expected to tolerate.

The oceans to our east currently have abundant sea life and I have been privileged to see whales up close, they even came up below our boat. To risk this by seismic testing which will impact on the ability to transmit and communicate between each other will forever and irreversibly alter our relationship with all sea animals. IS THIS WHAT WE WANT, NO BUT OBVIOUSLY A FEW WITH DEEP POCKETS DO. This country belongs to all citizens; not just corporate ones who stand to maximise profits and destroy our environment.

This should not occur anywhere in Australia.

By allowing this to occur, the federal government, not local is saying we do not have a say. Newcastle is only a cash cow with no thought or consideration for our future. Imagine being on a cruise ship and seeing this, what does it say about us as a nation. There are thousands of people who own boats, we have cruise charters, world class surfing events and unique experiences that would all be destroyed by this.

As a prolific user of our ocean and local area you are asking me to agree to destroying what is unique about us. This is not acceptable; WE HAVE A RIGHT TO SAY NO. SEISMIC TESTING IS NOT WANTED OR ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN NEWCASTLE. PLEASE LISTEN TO US

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I am deeply concerned that those elected to serve their constituents are instead increasingly serving the interests of big businesses. Seismic activity in our oceans is just another example of short term gain without proper assessment of the impact this will have on the well-being of wildlife and plant life in the ocean.

Our natural food sources are becoming endangered, and without considered decisions regarding the future, I fear for my children and grandchildren.

Please consider the impact of this decision.

It is time to stand up for the right thing

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Dear Senators, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding seismic testing, and to express my deep concern that this is being contemplated in the waters near my home in Newcastle.

It has only been in recent times that I have examined the issue in some depth, and I was surprised at the breadth of the scientific evidence of harm that is available. I am a GP myself and used to absorbing scientific information, and on my reading of the literature the evidence of harm to the marine environment from noise is clear cut and compelling, and the evidence of particular harm due to the particular nature of seismic testing is irrefutable.

These plans for increased seismic testing fail cost benefit analysis, in my opinion. The benefits in the present economic and energy environment are debatable - the commercial viability of operations even if oil and gas are found must be questioned, whilst the costs to the environment, to the fisheries, to the local tourism and to our international reputation are real and non - trivial.

I urge you to think very carefully about these matters. The legacy of the present generation of politicians is that of ignoring expert advice, of being beholden to political donors, of being unable to clearly articulate a willingness to look beyond your own careers to steer a course that will improve the lives of future Australians. This is an opportunity for you as individuals to build a legacy that will be looked on as one of wisdom and foresight, rather than self interest and payback for donations. It is an opportunity to prove that you do not deserve the levels of contempt with which every scientifically literate person holds you at present.

If my language seems intemperate it is because the scientific community has been asking nicely for the last 40 years for politicians to believe expert opinion. Whether it be climate change, water management, the public health of addiction and gambling, the public health of alcohol and sugar, or a myriad of other issues you have proven yourselves over and over again to be incapable of doing so. I fully expect that this will be no different.

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I am deeply concerned about seismic testing and the negative effects it has on our marine life. Scientific evidence links seismic testing malformations in scallops, it is known to kill plankton 1km away, it is known to damage to organs from sound wave pressure, and stress and deafen whales and dolphins and stop whale song, hindering communication and navigation, it is known to impact on other marine creatures such as penguins and fish and is linked to turtle deaths and whale and dolphin stranding.

Seismic testing has been imposed on our coast by the federal government despite opposition from the NSW State Government and local councils of Newcastle, Central Coast and Northern Beaches. In the era of climate damage and in this climate emergency we should be investing in a just transition to renewable energy (solar, hydrogen...) not offshore fossil fuel mining.

There is insufficient "mitigation measures" to protect marine life from the impacts, contrary to international standards. These involved a soft ramp up "to allow all fauna to leave the area" and 2 marine mammal observers visually searching for marine mammal.

It is imperative that our government starts putting into action a climate action plan so Australia can begin the process to try and reverse the catastrophic effects of our current damaging fuel sourcing practices.

I hope the people of our nation and our government ceases to put personal wealth before the environment so that our children and grand children have the chance to see the beauty and wonder of our marine life.. Enough is enough - give our planet a future.

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I am shocked and outraged that our Government would go against what is so obviously right, and violate our natural ecosystem, our rights, and not even ask publicly if anyone was for or against such actions.

For a government which is designed to be for the people, there's a lot of not being for anyone except the government and its' interests.

Destruction on such a mass scale for an energy source which is not renewable, not sustainable and outright bad for the ecosystem is totally against what the masses truly want. You know? The people your government is sworn to protect and work for?

Doing what's right here is obvious, and the fact that your government system is allowing this in any way to potentially move forward, shows your utter ignorance and arrogance to the truth of the planet, and its sovereign right to exist un-raped.

An action such as moving forward in this is a governmental vote to say - we do not care, we don't listen, we don't learn, and we don't support the people.

Make the right decision, save our coast, else at the cost of the peoples decision to no longer support your clear oligarchy.

There has been an extensive amount of research done proving the massively damaging effects of seismic testing, let alone the risks you take when drilling into the ocean, exposing our nation, and the earth's water to toxic spills, burst pipelines and many other risks that exploitative drilling hold.

What about the eyesore right of the coast of two majorly populated areas of Australia, Newcastle and the Central Coast?

I have lived in the coast my entire life, and never more than now has it become so clear how little the government cared about the world we live in and the people it has sworn to protect and listen to with regard to matters that affect those very people.

As an individual who has the power to stop you? Who has the wherewithal to know how to prevent your bloated sense of power from affecting us.

Save our coast has shown us how, and there are many more people in opposition to this kind of devastating act which would act if only they knew the problem existed in the first place.

You have not acted for the people, not acted for the environment, not acted for nature as a whole and have shown a blatant disregard for everything except your energy and profit gains.

This shameful act should be barred from ever moving a single step forward.

Do the right thing and stop the Seismic Testing!

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1. Impact to marine environment.

Seismic testing consists of intense and explosive underwater airgun blasts, that fire simultaneously every 3-10 seconds for 24 hours a day continuously for days or weeks or months on end to locate the best drilling targets for oil or gas.

Seismic blasts can be 200-256 decibels, can cause barotrauma and deafness, and can be lethal.

Are known to be the loudest human made noise in the ocean

Seismic testing is known to stress, harm, deafen or cause death to marine animals, damage our living ocean and entire marine ecosystem.

Seismic testing/underwater noise: known scientific facts;

Known to kill plankton 1km away

Known to cause barotrauma (damage to organs from sound wave pressure)

Known to stress and deafen whales and dolphins and stop whale song, hindering communication and navigation

Known to cause malformations in scallops

Known to impact on lobsters

Known to impact on other marine creatures such as penguins and fish

Linked to turtle deaths

Linked to whale and dolphin stranding

Fishermen report loss of catch for years after seismic testing

Sound is known to travel for hundreds or thousands of kilometres in the ocean

Our coast has a rich biodiversity (some endangered species) all year round, including many whales, dolphins, turtles, seals, dugong, sea horses, fish and penguins and sea birds, that will

be impacted.

There is no safe time to conduct seismic testing

the regulation of seismic testing in both Commonwealth and state waters

Submission for Senate Inquiry

Impact of Seismic Testing on Fisheries and the Marine Environment.

November 20, 2019

I strongly oppose seismic testing due to well known impacts on the entire ecosystem. Seismic testing is known to harm marine animals, kill plankton 1.2 km away, cause malformations in scallops, and deafen and harm fish, seals, penguins, dolphins and whales. Our coast is in the whale migration path, home to hundreds of dolphins and has a rich biodiversity. It is also a thriving multi million dollar tourist industry which will be compromised by seismic testing.

Many marine animals, including some endangered, travel through or live off our coast all year round including many whale species, turtles, seals and penguins. There is no safe time to conduct seismic testing at anytime.

I love seeing whales and dolphins off our coast and we should be protecting these magnificent creatures and their habitat, as well as the other species such as turtles, seals, fairy penguins, that live in or traverse these coastal waters all year round.

I strongly oppose seismic testing, and request an immediate ban on seismic testing to safeguard our climate, our environment, marine creatures, and our livelihoods, and our children's futures.

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19 November 2019

SUBMISSION for Senate Inquiry: Impact of Seismic Testing on Fisheries and the Marine Environment.

I strongly oppose seismic testing due to well known impacts on the entire ecosystem. Seismic testing is known to harm marine animals, kill plankton 1.2 km away, cause malformations in scallops, and deafen and harm fish, seals, penguins, dolphins and whales. Seismic testing is also known to devastate fish stock impacting on recreational and commercial fishers. Our coast is in the whale migration path, home to hundreds of dolphins and has a rich biodiversity. It is also a thriving multi million dollar tourist industry which will be compromised by seismic testing. Many marine animals, including some endangered, travel through or live off our coast all year round including many whale species, turtles, seals, and penguins. There is no safe time to conduct seismic testing at anytime. The ocean is important for climate resilience and atmospheric health. I find it unacceptable to harm our marine animals and our coast that we are all connected to, and to conduct any destructive process that could affect our living ocean, our coast, our planet. Harming our coast and marine animals will cause great distress to myself and the thousands who live in this area, and worsening climate damage will affect my children's futures.

Seismic testing has been imposed on our coast by the federal government despite opposition from the NSW State Government and local councils of Newcastle, Central Coast and Northern Beaches – all have opposed seismic testing.

There was inadequate community consultation

There is currently no mandatory monitoring before or after seismic testing, in contradiction to international standards; All observations were made above the surface of the water, with no underwater monitoring.

Wake Up ! Take some time to see what's happening to the birds and animals - we are losing great numbers of migratory birds every year. Do something for the welfare of the people and the animals of our beautiful home, please ....



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I love seeing whales and dolphins off our coast and we should be protecting these magnificent creatures and their habitat, as well as the other species such as turtles, seals, fairy penguins, that live in or traverse these coastal waters all year round.

Seismic testing is just the first step in the development of PEP 11 (Petroleum Exploration Permit 11, which is 4500 square km of ocean from Manly to Newcastle in some areas just 5.5 km to shore) for offshore exploration for fossil fuels, with plans for offshore mining for gas. This is completely unacceptable. I feel a deep connection to our coast.

Seismic testing is an inhumane and harmful process of exploring for oil or gas by intense and explosive underwater air cannon blasts that fire every few seconds, 24 hours continuously for days weeks or months on end to locate drilling targets for oil or gas. Seismic testing is known to kill plankton over 1km away, impacting on the ecosystem, and has been shown to stress, deafen, harm and cause death to marine creatures.

This is completely unacceptable. I feel a deep connection to our coast. Industrialising and potential harm to our coast would affect the health and wellbeing of thousands.

Drilling for gas risks oil spills which could cause catastrophic damage to our coast.

Methane from gas causes health risks and contributes to 84 times more global climate damage than carbon dioxide. Gas leaks (fugitive emissions) during drilling or during the life

of the gas project are unable to be monitored or contained, and go largely unregistered.

I live in a community that is already experiencing the effects of climate damage, from extreme weather, storm surges, drought, and coral bleaching. It is completely unacceptable to risk accelerating this climate damage by damaging our living ocean, affecting ocean resilience.

These plans for seismic testing for offshore mining also threaten our thriving local fisheries industries, compromising livelihoods, our local seafood industry and businesses that depend on it, and the international tourism industry worth multiple million dollars annually.

I strongly oppose seismic testing, and request an immediate ban on seismic testing to safeguard our climate, our environment, marine creatures, and our livelihoods, and our children's futures.

I invite you to attend my hometown and hear my concerns and that of the community.