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4 January 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Great Australian Bight Environment Protection Bill 2016

On 13 October 2016, the Senate referred the Great Australian Bight Environment Protection Bill 2016 to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 30 March 2017.

Having read the Bill's explanatory memorandum, circulated by Senator Hanson-Young and her second reading speech of 15 September 2016, we note the issues raised by the Bill are also being considered by the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee in its inquiry into oil or gas production in the Great Australian Bight. This is an inquiry to which Santos has both appeared and made a written submission.

Accordingly, we would like to provide the same written submission (attached) to the Legislation Committee in support of the firm view that there is no need to prohibit mining activities in the Great Australian Bight marine area, and therefore the Bill is redundant.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Robert Malinauskas
Head of Public Affairs