

Senate Inquiry Submission

Objection to seismic testing between Newcastle and Manly

I am a marine scientist with thirty years of experience studying the NSW coast. I am a full-time employee of the NSW government, tasked with driving sustainable coastal management. I have also been an environmental consultant and have undertaken numerous environmental assessments pertaining to development applications and maintenance activities for NSW governments.

I am appalled at the complete lack of scientific rigour required by the fossil fuel industry when it comes to oil and gas exploration. I feel certain that if the Australian public were aware of the potential impacts there would be much stronger resistance and objection. Indeed, were the community to be consulted at all, they would be united in opposition.

A brief search of the internet will quickly reveal the hundreds of published scientific reports that describe the devastating impacts of seismic testing on marine fauna (https://scholar.google.com.au/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&as_vis=1&q=impacts+of+seismic+testing+on+marine+fauna&btnG=). I suspect that you have already received numerous submissions that reference some of this material.

Australians are coastal people. As global warming and population growth continues, more of us will live on the coast. More than anything, Australians identify with the coast. Our coasts draw millions of tourists to Australia every year. Their natural beauty and healthy ecosystems are vital to our long-term prosperity. This future prosperity should not be jeopardised for short-term gains.

Australians will never forget nor forgive you.

Sincerely

Dr Peter Freewater