



## **Equinor statement regarding NOPSEMA request for further information**

**Adelaide – 27 June 2019:** On 23 April 2019, Equinor lodged its Environment Plan (EP) with the independent regulator, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Management Authority (NOPSEMA), for the planned Stromlo-1 exploration well in the Great Australian Bight.

In accordance with relevant legislation, NOPSEMA has today requested additional information relating to our EP.

The request for more information is a standard step in the assessment process. Equinor will submit the additional information within the timeframe outlined by NOPSEMA to progress the assessment process.

We want to emphasise this is part of the normal regulatory process. Equinor remains committed to the opportunity to explore the Great Australian Bight, which we consider to be a prospective asset in our global exploration portfolio.

Based on the industry's experience, we know NOPSEMA accepts less than 10 per cent of plans on first submission. Equinor has always expected to work through an iterative process of resubmission before NOPSEMA accepts the EP.

Planning for exploration activities demands detailed and careful work. Our EP is a 1500-page technical, scientific and evidence-based document. We are committed to meeting all regulatory requirements to demonstrate that we can conduct this activity safely as we do in other parts of the world.

In February, as a part of our commitment to transparency, Equinor voluntarily became the first company to publish a draft EP for an offshore exploration well in Australia, inviting the public to provide comment. This followed more than 130 meetings with stakeholders across Australia. During the public comment period, we also hosted a series of public drop-in sessions in key locations in South Australia.

In June 2017, Equinor (then Statoil) became operator and 100 per cent owner of exploration permits EPP39 and EPP40. The Stromlo-1 well in permit EPP39 is situated 372 km off the coast of South Australia and 476 km west of Port Lincoln. To comply with the terms set out by the Federal Government, Equinor is obliged to drill one exploration well.

Once all regulatory approvals are in place, we plan to start drilling in the summer of 2020/2021.

For more information on Equinor's proposed activity, please go to <https://www.equinor.com/en/where-we-are/gabproject.html>.

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### **About Equinor**

We're Equinor, an international energy company with a proud history. Formerly Statoil, we are 20,000 committed colleagues developing oil, gas, wind and solar energy in more than 30 countries worldwide.

We're the largest operator in Norway, among the world's largest offshore operators, and a growing force in renewables.

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