



Equinor statement at the closing of its public comment period for the draft Stromlo-1 Environment plan

Adelaide – 21 March 2019: After 30 days, the public comment period for Equinor’s draft Environment Plan (EP) for the proposed Stromlo-1 exploration drilling program in the Great Australian Bight has now closed.

For Equinor, the purpose of the public comment period was to identify opportunities to improve our EP. To support this objective, the public comment period was open to anyone around the world and allowed individuals to make multiple submissions. We want to thank those who took the time to read our EP and submit comments to the plan. Equinor is now working through all relevant comments and will update our EP prior to submitting it to the regulator NOPSEMA.

At the end of the public comment period, NOPSEMA registered more than 30,000 entries, which aligned with our expectations and the industry’s experience for comparable projects. The comments cover a range of topics, from climate change to safety, environmental impact and others. Equinor will prepare a report describing how we have considered relevant comments, which will be made public.

A large number of entries reviewed so far are general statements that do not offer constructive feedback. We also see that many statements were influenced by material circulating online, which grossly misrepresent both the risk and consequences of a major oil spill. It is unfortunate that this misleading information has resulted in expressions of genuine fear and concern in many of the submissions. We call on all parties in this public discussion to hold themselves to a high standard of factual and balanced information.

Note to Editors

- The total number of entries includes not only detailed submissions and assessable comments, but entries without content, duplicates, photo attachments and brief comments which do not relate to the purpose of the public comment process.
- Equinor undertook the public comment process voluntarily. Our EP is developed according to the criteria as set out in the Offshore Petroleum Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 (OPGGs Act) and the public comments will be considered within this framework.
- Equinor will take the necessary time to update its EP based on the public comment, prior to submitting it to NOPSEMA. At submission, Equinor will also publish the updated EP on our website, and a general description of changes made as a result of public comment.
- Until such time, the draft EP will remain available for download on equinor.com.au.
- Based on the industry’s experience, we know only 10 per cent of plans are accepted by NOPSEMA on first submission. Equinor expects to work through an iterative process of resubmission prior to any acceptance by NOPSEMA.

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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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