

Petition to the House of Representatives of Australia: Ban oil & gas development in the Great Australian Bight

We are currently collecting signatures on a formal petition to the Australian House of Representatives:

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives

This petition of certain citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House our concern that oil companies may be allowed to drill for oil in the Great Australian Bight. The Great Australian Bight is a pristine marine environment that supports 36 species of whales and dolphins. It sustains one of the world's most important nurseries for the endangered Southern Right Whale, as well as important industries like fishing and tourism. These would all be put at unacceptable risk by oil exploration. The waters of the Great Australian Bight are deep, rough and remote. Drilling for oil here is risky and irresponsible. Oil spill modelling has shown almost all of Australia's southern coast could be at risk from an oil spill in the Bight.

Searching for new oil reserves in the Great Australian Bight runs directly counter to the urgent need to stop burning oil, coal and gas to prevent catastrophic climate change. It is inconsistent with the Paris Climate Agreement goals that the government has now ratified to protect our climate. The Great Australian Bight is the wrong place to drill for oil and this is the wrong time in history to allow oil companies to look for more of it.

We therefore ask the House to enact legislation to ban oil and gas development in the Great Australian Bight now and into the future.

We intend to collect as many signatures as possible on this petition by the end of June 2017 - at that time we will determine whether to present it immediately or continue collecting signature prior to presentation.

Jaxon Barnes, GAB Campaign Community Organiser, will act as primary petitioner on this petition.

Who can sign? Anyone appears to be able to sign the petition; however, **they must write their name and signature on the form in their own handwriting** (excluding special circumstances where a petitioner can't sign, in which case someone can sign on their behalf). All signatures and signature pages **must be originals**.

When you have filled in your petition pages please **contact Jaxon Barnes to send the originals** to us to collate with all of the other signatures pages being filled out across the country. The address is:

JAXON BARNES
The Wilderness Society Inc.
353-355 King St
West Melbourne VIC 3003
m | 0450 605 734

We have provided you with copies of the petition signing pages: in order to ensure that the signatures of everyone that signs the petition can be counted, please ensure that:

1. Pages are single sided and that no one signs on the blank back pages of the petition documents. If you need more copies of the petition pages because you have already filled them all out, please contact Jaxon.
2. You do not amend the petition text at the top of the signature documents in any way (either electronically or by hand) as if you do, the signatures will not count.

Please also note that providing your mobile phone number is entirely **optional** and not required for the House of Representatives to count your signature. We are asking for mobile phone numbers to enable us to provide campaign updates for this really important campaign, of which the petition is but one part. We would like to ensure that those that care about protecting the Bight can continue to be involved with the Campaign and The Wilderness Society, so that we can take action together to protect this special place!