



# NO OFFSHORE GAS

# FOR NSW



THE  
GREENS

## The Greens have a plan to stop offshore gas exploration along the NSW coast to protect the marine environment and local communities.

MEC Resources is currently proposing to conduct seismic testing for gas off the coast of NSW in a licence area extending offshore from Newcastle to Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Seismic testing creates an unacceptable risk of harm to marine animals and threatens the economic future of the region, impacting on tourism and commercial fishing industries.

The NSW community will not accept a gas field off our precious coastline, and no level of risk to coastal communities and the marine environment to conduct exploratory seismic testing can be justified. Any new fossil fuel development is unacceptable as we face climate change and will only slow the necessary transition to renewable energy.

Local communities need their rights protected. Current offshore mining regulations undermine the rights of states and local communities to protect themselves from the damaging impacts of seismic testing and drilling failures.

The Greens have a plan to stop offshore gas exploration and future drilling along the NSW coastline and to protect local communities, coastal environments, marine animals and fisheries.

### THE GREENS WILL:

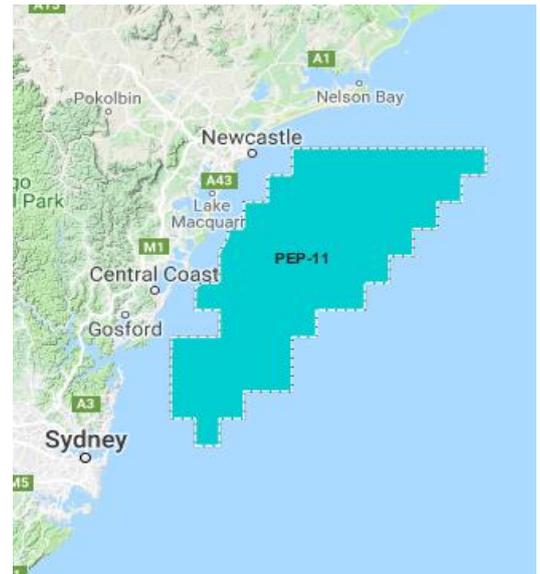
- Stand with communities to oppose all offshore gas exploration and drilling.
- Introduce legislation to:
  1. Prohibit the processing and transport of gas coming from wells offshore from the NSW coastline to the NSW mainland.
  2. Prohibit the construction of infrastructure relating to offshore exploration and mining activities on NSW land.
- Call for a federal inquiry into NOPSEMA – its inadequate community consultation processes, weak regulatory framework and lack of oversight of offshore activities.

## NSW exposed to offshore gas exploration and mining

Currently offshore waters adjacent to the NSW coastline between Newcastle and Sydney's Northern Beaches is covered by a Petroleum Exploration Permit (PEP11)

Gas exploration company MEC Resources has conducted exploration activities in the licence area, primarily offshore from Newcastle, including both seismic testing and exploration drilling in the past.

The company has indicated to the stock exchange that it intends to apply for more seismic testing approvals in early 2019 with a view to future exploratory drilling.



## Unacceptable risk to marine life, fisheries and local communities

Offshore seismic testing and drilling create a number of unacceptable environmental, social and economic risks.

Seismic testing is known to disrupt navigation and communication for whales. It also has a detrimental impact on local marine life, particularly for animals living near on the bottom of the ocean that are an important food source for other marine animals including commercially targeted fish.

Local commercial fishers have reported significantly reduced catch following seismic testing and a foul odour in nets after testing. The area of the licence being targeted is a productive local fishery known as 'The Farm'.

In the event of future gas development, a well failure could impact the entire NSW coastline, the most populated coastline in Australia. Local coastal environments including breaches, lakes, estuaries, and river systems would be exposed harming tourism and fishing industries and the wellbeing and health of local residents and coastal ecosystems.

