



//Fight for the Bight: Surfrider Paddle Out to Oppose Oil Project//

Surfrider Foundation Australia is calling for surfers and ocean lovers to take a stand against plans to drill for oil in the Great Australian Bight, at a paddle out this Sunday at 10am at North Wollongong beach.

The HANDS ACROSS THE SAND action is part of a national strategy to oppose the Norwegian mining giant EQUINOR.

The multinational is proposing to drill 372 kilometres off the Australian coastline, in pristine waters that are home to many species of marine life and also a Southern Right Whale breeding area.

“We want to tell Equinor peacefully that we do not want them in our waters,” says Surfrider Chair Susie Crick.

“These are the roughest seas on Planet Earth and no matter what the economic benefits, the potential for catastrophic degradation of the Australian coastline is too great,” says Ms Crick.

“An oil spill in this part of the world would spread a slick across thousands of kilometres.”

Over 30,000 Australians have written submissions opposing the licenses to drill in the Great Australian Bight.

Paddle outs have happened in each of the six States and over 30,000 people have joined in nationwide so far.

Many have never surfed before but are there to show their support.

In a recent paddle out in Torquay Victoria, many of the World Surf League professional athletes were involved including John John Florence, Mick Fanning, Owen Wright and 4,000 other members of the public.

“In a world where the burning of fossil fuels is become less popular due to the evident issues of climate change, the type of money that is being spent on this project, could be better used in developing alternative energy systems,” says Ms Crick.

“We need to galvanise the entire ocean loving and surfing community to join us in Fight for the Bight!”

Surfrider Foundation Australia has for almost 30 years been at the forefront of ocean conservation, protecting and fighting against threats to our coastline, waves and beaches.

Join Surfrider this Sunday 5 May at 10am, North Wollongong beach to tell the Norwegian mining giant **NOXWAY EQUINOR**

