

May 9, 2019

Dear Mr Shorten,

Re: Urgent request for stance on seismic testing, offshore oil and gas, and PEP 11.

As a community group dedicated to educating and inspiring the community to care for the coastal environment, Save Our Coast has become a public interest group. In the lead up to the federal election, our many supporters continually enquire as to where particular MPs and candidates stand on the issue of seismic testing and offshore oil and gas off NSW.

Our elected members of parliament represent the public, and should be accountable for decisions that directly affect us. The issue of PEP 11 (Petroleum Exploration Permit 11), seismic testing and offshore oil or gas is a very sensitive issue with thousands of voters sharing a deep connection to the coast. Nearly 50,000 signatories on our petitions call for an end to seismic testing, offshore oil and gas and ask for PEP 11 to be cancelled.

To plan fossil fuel extraction in the coastal waters of the most heavily populated area of Australia, along the east coast of NSW, in the whale migration path and within an area of rich biodiversity, when the electorate share a deep connection to the coast, care for marine animals, and is increasingly aware of climate damage from fossil fuels, is a surprising proposition. Any disruption to the coastal ecosystem impacts directly on communities along the coast, and will continue to be met with fierce opposition. Disregard of climate damage and community concerns is concerning and a surprising choice prior to a federal election.

We therefore would like to give you, as an electoral candidate, the opportunity to respond to the following questions before Tuesday 11am at which time we will be holding a press conference to advise the media and the community of your response. If we do not hear from you before this time we will assume your response to be negative and advise accordingly.

1. Are you opposed to seismic testing off NSW?
2. Are you opposed to offshore oil and gas off NSW?
3. Will you move to cancel PEP 11?
4. Will you commence a just transition towards renewable energy and cancel new offshore oil and gas, to prevent further climate damage, protect the economy the environment and our children's futures?

We look forward to receiving your response.

Thank you,
Yours Faithfully
(Directors)
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