

**[MP NAME]**  
**Member for [ELECTORATE]**

Dear [MP NAME],

I'm writing to express my deep concern for the Regia Marine Seismic Survey (Regia MSS) which is being proposed by CGG Services Australia off the South-west Victorian coast.

Multinational company CGG is applying for regulatory approval to seismic blast over 3000 square kilometres of ocean, located just 30km offshore from Port Fairy and Warrnambool. The seismic blasting site is adjacent to the only calving ground in South-East Australian waters used by the endangered Southern Right Whale. If this proposal is successful, it will be detrimental to The National Recovery Plan for the Southern Right Whale (31 July 2024) which is listed under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 as endangered.

The seismic blasting site is located inside at least five biologically important areas for the Little Penguin, including the Middle Island, Deen Maar, London Bridge, Gibson Steps and Lawrence Rocks breeding colonies. Research conducted on African Penguins (Pichegru et al. 2017) highlights the significant impacts seismic blasting can have on penguins. CGG's plans to blast the proposed area will directly and indirectly impact the Little Penguins, by potentially deterring them away from key feeding areas, negatively affecting the penguins' reproductive output, and killing and displacing their food prey sources. The Regia MSS Active Source Area is located 30kms or less from the Little Penguin breeding colonies of Western Victoria and no biologically important areas for the Little Penguin were acknowledged in CGG's Environmental Plan.

The Regia MSS will also threaten tourism to the region. Tourists visit Logan's Beach annually to see the Southern Right whales during their calving season, as well as Humpback whales, Blue Whales, and Orca. Whales rely heavily on their hearing for communication and navigation. Studies have found that seismic blasts can damage the hearing of whales and deter them away from key feeding and breeding grounds. If migrating whale species choose to avoid the area due to extreme noise pollution from seismic blasting the Regia MSS, this could have detrimental impact on our tourist industry.

Traditional Owners people of Gunditjmarra Sea Country (GMTOAC) have formally called for the Regia MSS not to proceed due to the impact on their cultural heritage sites. These include the World Heritage listed Budj Bim, as well as Deen Maar, and their culturally important species Koontapool (Southern Right Whale) and Kooyang (short-finned eels). To date CGG have been unable to demonstrate how, or even if, their consultation with GMTOAC has informed or been incorporated into their Environmental Plan

CGG have also indicated that their proposed activities will have negative impacts on wildlife including endangered pygmy blue whales, dolphins, sea lions, lobsters, and fish species in the areas proposed for seismic blasting. However, they have failed to measure the nature and scale their seismic activity will have on these species, many of which are important economic stocks.

CGG are applying for a Special Prospecting Authority (SPA) to carry out this project. An SPA is a permit that dodges the annual offshore titles release system and subsequent public consultation. It is initiated by the proponent and is a cheap, back-door entry permit which costs only \$8,250. As my local representative for parliament, I call on you to raise your voice against the Regia Marine Seismic Survey which will devastate the marine environment in South-West Victoria. I also ask you to please support a bill to abolish the cheap and dodgy SPA permits, to stop the flow of these new projects being proposed. I hope I can count on you to support the concerns of the community and use your voice to stop this, as well as future seismic projects, from going ahead.

Regards,  
**[ADD YOUR NAME]**  
**[POSTCODE]**