



## Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia  
Chair of the Senate Economics References Committee

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## WA coastline threatened by bad policy

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The renowned tourism and holiday hotspots of Ningaloo, Margaret River and Rottnest Island are synonymous with sand and surf, yet new Government legislation threatens to replace this image with oil rigs and processing plants, WA Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston said today.

Coalition Senators from the Senate Economics Committee are incensed by the proposed legislation to form a national regulator for offshore petroleum projects, which failed to adequately consult with Western Australia, the State which houses 60% of the nation's projects.

"The Federal Government introduced this legislation before negotiations with the WA Government were complete, which shows a lack of respect and blatant disregard for the huge impact it will have on our coastline," Senator Eggleston said.

"We have serious concerns over handing responsibility to a national regulator, especially considering the track record of the current regulator NOPSA, whose deficiencies played a key role in the Montara oil spill and the Varanus explosion."

"WA has an unblemished track record as a regulator, and moving to a national body is further evidence of a government in favour of centralising decision making in Canberra."

"This State stands to be the most affected by this legislation and yet there will be no requirement to consult WA on the location of new licenses, which could mean oil rigs off Ningaloo, Shark Bay and Margaret River," Senator Eggleston said.

Coalition Senators tabled a dissenting report on the legislation yesterday, recommending the legislation not proceed until:

- The current ongoing negotiations between the Commonwealth and WA government are concluded.
- The very reasonable concerns of the WA government have been resolved by agreement between the two governments concerned.
- References to the 'Designated Authority' are changed to 'the Western Australian Member of the Joint Authority' rather than the proposed 'Titles Administrator'.

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