

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Community victory finally sinks PEP-11 gas proposal**

The decade-long community battle to scrap the PEP-11 oil and gas project has come to a successful conclusion with both applications being rejected.

The Federal Member for Mackellar, Dr Sophie Scamps, has warmly welcomed the decision by the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Joint Petroleum Authority to finally reject the proposal which covered an area stretching from Sydney to Newcastle and would have opened the door for drilling for oil and gas off our coastline.

“I’m proud of our community who stood up and fought this tooth and nail every step of the way,” Dr Scamps said.

“I’m also proud that Zali Steggall MP and I have been able to take that fight to Canberra on behalf of the Northern Beaches. With no party line to toe, we have been able to speak up powerfully for our communities.

“Community Independents have stood up and delivered for the Northern Beaches by advocating powerfully in Canberra to kill off this terrible proposal.”

One of the key reasons the Joint Authority refused the applications was for reasons of public interest, so conveying the message to the decision makers in Canberra that the people of the Northern Beaches would never accept drilling for oil and gas off our beaches was critical.

“This decision vindicates our efforts over the past 10 years to work closely with Federal and State Government, as well as local communities, to oppose this project and secure a famous victory,” Dr Scamps said.

Dr Scamps said the oil and gas project was a direct threat to the Northern Beaches way of life.

“I have always promised to put the Northern Beaches first while representing the Federal seat of Mackellar,” Dr Scamps said. “And this decision delivers on this promise and protects so many things that we hold dear including protecting our coastline, marine life and our Northern Beaches tourism industry.”

Dr Scamps said the campaign and its successful resolution underlines the ability of community Independents to deliver change at the highest political levels.

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