

Dear South Africa is a network of online platforms designed to facilitate government and encourage the public to participate in unbiased decision-making processes or policy formation at SOE, municipal, provincial and national levels.



Shell Seismic Blasting 25 November – 15 December 2021

Shell announced it will start a seismic survey in search of oil or gas deposits from Morgan Bay to Port St Johns on December 1. The vessel operated by Shell Exploration and Production SA's hirelings, Shearwater GeoServices, will, for five months, drag up to 48 air guns methodically through 6,011km² of ocean surface, firing extremely loud shock wave emissions that penetrate through 3km of water and 40km into the Earth's crust below the seabed.

The ship will work around the clock, firing the air guns every 10 seconds. In the process, marine life on the sensitive Wild Coast will be panicked and damaged.

Many sea creatures could be affected in the coming months — whales, dolphins, seals, penguins, sharks and even crabs and tiny shellfish will be blasted. At a time when world leaders are making promises and decisions to step away from fossil fuels because climate science has shown we cannot burn our existing reserves (let alone drill for more), offshore oil and gas Operation Phakisa is pushing ever harder to get its hands on a local supply of gas. Shell must answer for how the harms done during this survey and any exploration drilling done hereafter are part of its energy transition plan to control global warming.

Dear South Africa opened this campaign to "Have your say" on the Minister of Mineral and Energy Resources, Gwede Mantashe's approval for Shell and Impact Africa Limited to conduct seismic blasting off the coast of SA.

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The above public participation campaign was released on 25 November 2021 where the closing date was set to 15 December 2021.

Written submissions and enquiries were prepared and directed to the Minister of Mineral and Energy Resources

<https://dearsouthafrica.co.za/shell/>

Included on the web page was:

- 1 - the published related documents as downloadable PDFs
- 2 - a live view of public comments (with a counter and breakdown reflecting number of participants)
- 3 - video summaries
- 4 - links to relevant media articles
- 5 - a portal which posed questions (with the option of multiples responses to each question)
- 6 - a comment facility to provide input on the application

Each public entry was individually delivered to the Minister of Mineral and Energy Resources, Mr Gwede Mantashe. DearSA also captured all public entries which have been used to produce this report.

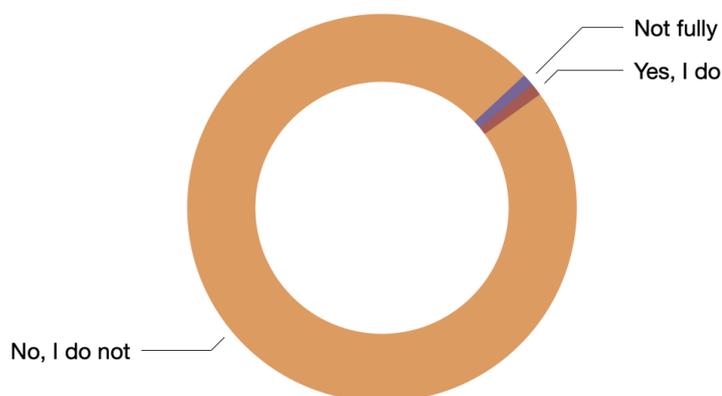
Note: In order to accurately reflect public comment, DearSA's projects are unbiased and hold no partisan opinion or agenda. Raw captured data is attached as an Excel file.

A total of **59,778** comments were received by the set closing of 15 December 2021 (included in the Excel file). This report reflects the entries received by the closing date.

Two questions presented;

1. Do you support the approval for Shell to conduct seismic testing off the coast of SA?

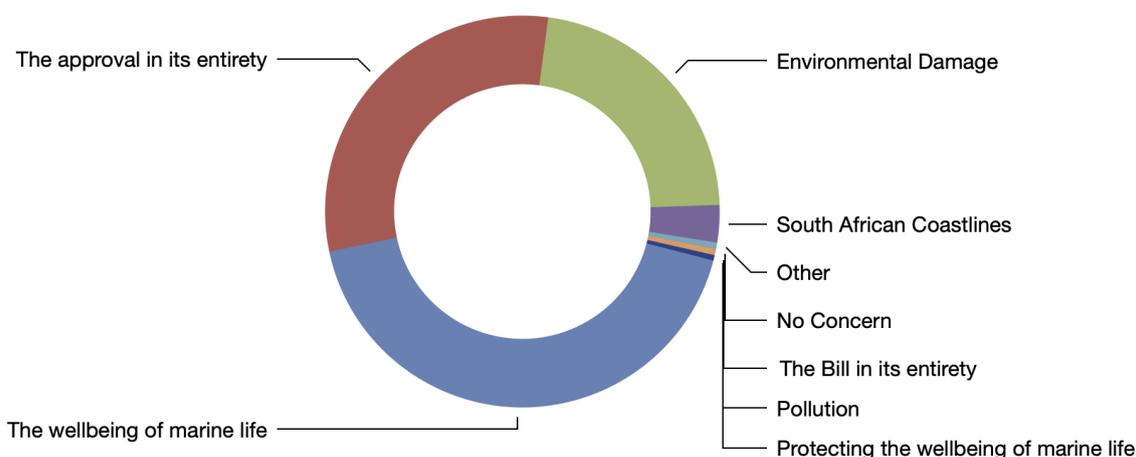
	Yes, I do	[605 selected]	1.01%
	No, I do not	[58,570 selected]	97.98%
	Not fully	[603 selected]	1.01%





2. What is your top concern?

	The wellbeing of marine life	[25,516 selected]	42.68%
	The approval in its entirety	[18,159 selected]	30.38%
	Environmental Damage	[13,371 selected]	22.37%
	South African Coastlines	[1,838 selected]	3.07%
	Other	[325 selected]	0.54%
	No concern	[297 selected]	0.50%
	The Bill in its entirety	[266 selected]	0.44%
	Pollution	[4 selected]	0.007%
	Protecting the wellbeing of marine life	[2 selected]	0.003%



Comments

The participants are encouraged to provide comment to justify their selection in order to help shape the decision.

Of the “Yes, I do” comments, the participants termed the country’s need to improve our energy resource inventory as “dire”. In recognising this constraint, the public agree to the principle of the seismic testing off our coastlines to enable economic development.

Some of the respondents have advised that they needed more information in order to make decision to confirm /deny if seismic testing is detrimental to the environment and the extents thereof. Therefore, this should be noted, and better education should be distributed regarding this technology.

The public have some concerns that if this type of testing is not sufficiently carried out without conducting the necessary environmental impact assessments, corruption could become the second evil which could rather become the demise of the environment because of greed. This will need to be managed in itself to ensure that project brings wealth and development to the country and coastal regions with little to no impact on the South African oceanic ecosystems.



Suggestions from the “Yes I do” comments, include;

Concern; The wellbeing of marine life

1. “The project could be staggered. Though it may take longer, given time to recover between seismic operations marine life could suffer less.”
2. “Shell and other companies should be encouraged to find oil and gas and set up shop here for the benefit of all South Africans. Seismic surveys have been done for decades and other countries have benefited from them. OPEC will obviously discourage this and even undermine their efforts as we are now totally reliant on them for our oil.”
3. “I support the process, but it should be balanced with the protection of the marine life. The project must follow all the environment. Directives.”
4. “Seismic surveys are carried out around the world without damage or harm to the environment. Offshore drilling, if it occurs, would only start years after the seismic results are captured and analysed. And offshore exploration and production can be performed without harming the environment.”
5. “As much as I agree to the Seismic Survey, it should be done with caution and assurances are needed from Shell that the process will not impact animal life.”
6. “There is sewerage pumped into our rivers and oceans daily. People dump their rubbish everywhere and these run into our water systems and oceans. The people burn tires and block roads and destroy infrastructure that has to be repaired. The rubbish and burnt Aval also ends up in our oceans after rain runoff. Shell is a legit Company that can be held accountable for what they do. They are also known to rehabilitate after utilization. I do not have an issue with them. They have helped build this Country and have invested a lot. They can do their testing but within the perimeters of the Environment Impact Assessment performed by highly qualified Environmentalists from SA and abroad.”

Concern; The approval in its entirety

1. “As much as I do not like the destruction of nature in any form. The Marine life will recover after 10 years or perhaps even less. Humans need the mineral resources of the planet to survive. We are not all fortunate enough to live off the grid. The planets minerals are needed for humanitarian reasons like feeding the poor, starving people on the earth. If I was in need of food, I would kill an animal to eat.”
2. “At first I was totally against this survey. With further research I have found that legal requirements have been met and most importantly the impact on the Wild Coast environment will be minimal when compared to other seismic surveys which have been performed on our East Coast since the 1950’s.”
3. “To allow such in wild coast will create more job opportunities for communities.”
4. “I do approve of this - all countries need a reliable energy source. At present, 85% of our energy is generated by means of fossil fuels (coal/oil/gas), and unless we go to full nuclear (fusion reactors) we cannot do without. “Renewables” (wind/solar) will never be able to replace the existing base load energy needs because of their variable nature. As long as proper measures are taken to protect the environment (during exploration and operating the gas/oil fields found, this is not wrong.”
5. “Collecting seismic data has no environmental impact and has been done all over the world for years. There is lots of research done showing this. So, no reason to stop it. South Africa needs oil and gas to survive and good on Shell for wanting to help SA.”
6. “We need the gas. It would fuel a power station in the Eastern Cape. The survey is 20 km’s offshore where negligee impact on marine life would be noticeable.”



Concern; Environmental Damage

1. "I support the Survey AS LONG AS IT IS DONE IN A RESPONSIBLE manner and oversee by well-known authorities -Not our corrupted South African Authorities."
2. "A major or worthwhile find of gas or crude would give RSA an economic boost, save foreign exchange and create many upstream and downstream jobs so essential for stability and progress in RSA."
3. "Thank you, Shell, for investing in south Africa and creating jobs! I believe Shell will be a responsible corporate citizen."
4. "Environmental damage cannot be avoided completely but must be minimised by independent professional bodies under governmental approval."
5. "According to the Bill of Rights of 1994 and the National Environmental Management Act of 2006, every human being has the right to live in an environment that is not harmful nor cause detrimental effects to the upcoming generation. The approval of the Shell 's seismic testing on the SA coast can only be condoned if there are precautionary measures that are in place in terms of eradicating social, environmental and economic impacts thereof."

Concern; South African Coastlines

1. "As long as it provides for real qualified persons to get work and there is no fraud again, I approve it."
2. "I think it will create some jobs for jobless South Africans."
3. "Chinese fishing trawlers are already freely allowed to scrape the ocean floor, so why are they allowed to go on freely and we cannot reap the benefit of a possible oil field for SA. Imagine how many jobs can emanate for South Africans on an oil field, whilst we have absolutely no benefit from the unscrupulous fishing going on????"

Concern; Other

1. "1. SA needs energy resources.
 2. Allocation of drilling areas and O&G production agreements need guarantee sustainable income for SA and applicable regions.
 3. Environmental controls, EIA with mitigation controls to be identified and implemented."
2. "Go for it Shell. The country needs better fuel reserves and any negative effect on marine life will be temporary."
3. "Local communities may not benefit from the initiative."
4. "I support job creation and the wealth this will create for SA. I don't see how seismic testing can damage the environment. In fact, it's the best way to avoid wastage by mining gas where there isn't much. While we still make use of gas, we should use our resources best we can."
5. "I have been working in Cabo Delgado in Mozambique. All seems normal after the seismic blasting. Before that I was on research doing whale identification research in the same area in 2018 there were an abundance of whales. The biggest threat to the environment is the Chinese and Russian fisherman overfishing on our coast. Another item of concern is Japanese filter vessels who filter the Krill out of the ocean. Seismic blasting is temporary compared to overfishing and the removal of Krill from the ocean."

Concern; No concern

1. "PetroSA has been doing these surveys off our coast for 30 years. Surveying usually halts for 30 min should marine mammals enter the exclusion zone. The inaccurate information surrounding this project shouldn't stop exploration of a valuable resource that our country requires."
2. "Oil exploration in SA will help the South African economy and create jobs we need direly need. The state will get higher revenues which will public sector expenditure. Oil and gas are being explored all over the world, South Africa should also benefit from generating rent from its resources."
3. "We need energy and the reasons for opposing are inconclusive and emotive not based on actual quantitative scientific proof."



4. "This survey should proceed. If they find gas, good luck South Africa. It is a valuable resource. There is a lot of nonsense churned out by the gain Sayers. Whales make as much noise when they sing and breach. Damage to fish is from overfishing. This survey will be done twenty miles off the coast i.e., far away."
5. "There is a lot of misinformation being spread that's driving the negative sentiment. The reality is that seismic surveys when properly carried out have zero long term negative impacts to marine life. The outrage is a hysterical storm in a teacup."
6. "This would be good for the economy, as long as corrupt politicians stay away."
7. "After reading differing views, it appears that what Shell wants to do will have no negative significant impact on the environment."

Concern; The Bill in its entirety

1. No comments were submitted in this category.

Concern; Pollution

1. "This is critical for identifying possible economic opportunities. Shell should take precautions to ensure they operate in the most environmentally friendly way possible."
2. "My greatest concern is the pollution which this exploration will have on the marine environment. The minister must set a committee which will investigate the sustainability of the method of exploration based on previous areas where this method was deployed. Relating to the geographical location, I am strongly of the view that the Eastern Cape Province is against all mining exploration that needs to happen in their region. I understand the devastating effects that mining houses have left in other areas, however the laws should be strengthened even more to ensure that the mining houses are held to account in their mining lease area. We need these explorations activities so as to create jobs for South Africa which at this stage has an embarrassing unemployment rate."

Concern; Protecting the wellbeing of the marine life

1. No comments were submitted in this category.

Of the "Not Fully" comments, an important topic was identified in the public's comments pertaining to "affordability". Can South Africa afford to walk away from this energy resource and conserve the environment which is linked to billions of rands in the tourism industry? If the seismic testing negatively impacts the coastlines, how will South Africa afford rectification programmes to ensure that the loss of environment doesn't impact our Tourism sector which has already become financially lean because of Covid-19 over the last 2 years.

The participants have advised that although our energy grid is severely constrained, the option to seek alternative green /cleaner power sources should be investigated first.

Suggestions from the "Not fully" comments, include;

Concern; The wellbeing of marine life

1. "Our environment is under threat. Money and reward drives everything. We need to put conservation first."
2. "Dear Sir/Madam, I have concerns about the effect that the blasting will have on the marine life. Previous blastings led to the death of many animals - including enormous Manta rays. I also worry about the degradation of the beautiful Wild Coast and about pollution and environmental damage. Once these things have been damaged, we will not be able to reverse the damage."
3. "Seismic surveying can and should be carried out ANY other time of year. This is being planned for the whales migrating season which will cause extreme damage to their hearing and communication abilities."
4. "A proper and comprehensive EIA must be carried out and independently reviewed as per the regulatory guidelines. If this has not been followed the minister cannot make a decision!"



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5. "Must find another way to prospect it without damaging environment and marine life."
 6. "Geopolitics are complex. South Africa is a struggling economy. We all know the government has not spent lots of money wisely, but they still need money and Shell promises money, but this is short term. humans really NEED to think long term... like we used to 3000 years ago. What's good for the oceans and animals is good for our world economy. What's not is not."
 7. "Lack of real facts that are transparent! Lack of debate on alternatives - if the ecosystem services were costed properly and the testing provide a positive benefit, I would not be so adamant about objecting."
 8. "We need a full honest public debate on the harms and benefits. How it contributes if at all to clean and reliable energy., what mitigation precautions are in place, and how corruption is to be monitored and prevented. We require proper evidence from independent experts and updates against set markers. Who is benefitting? What legal options are available if abuses are taking place and who pays."
 9. "It is understandable why you would conduct this test, but please consider the effects this has on the flora and fauna in the affected area and how to minimise this effect."

Concern; The approval in its entirety

1. "I don't understand how such an impactful and potentially catastrophic activity could be approved without widespread community engagement. Surely the economic benefit is potentially good for our country, but so is maintaining a healthy ocean environment. How can a company be allowed to conduct this without transparent knowledge for the citizens of South Africa as to how this will benefit US as South Africans over the current and long term, rather than a company which essentially puts profits for shareholders above all else!"
2. "I want to state in my own words that I DO NOT consent or condone by any means the nature and the agencies behind this project. Keep their capitalistic hands off our oceans!"
3. "Proper controls after careful research into possible harmful effects on the marine environment need to be put in place first."
4. "A difficult one. We need urgent encouragement of our economy. I understand that the testing will only be for a few months; this is acceptable to me."
5. "I am painfully aware that oil can benefit SA, but at this stage that area is one of a very few of similar ecology in the world and we are destroying the future of our children. We need also to keep some reserves for the future. The SA Govt should have joined Moz instead of allowing all foreign powers to claim the Moz oil."
6. "A full-scale EIA was not conducted. This is problematic because that means an in-depth assessment was not conducted so that all potential impacts could be identified. This is not how things should be done, especially when this project is on such a large scale with the high possibility of large-scale environmental effects."

Concern; Environmental Damage

1. "Put money in new and clean énergies! Ban all gas and pétrole industry."
2. "Shell should also be mandated to invest at least 20% of the profits from oil or gas they find into renewable energy and marine life preservation. You can put that down as a term of the contract. Also, if there's no better way to explore and seismic shocks must be used, there should be a marine biologist employed to monitor their exploration and ensure that repeated quieter warning blasts are fired on each site to chase away any sea life before the full power blasts."
3. "We need natural resources that will make us more independent from other oil/gas producing nations, and that could stimulate the stagnant economy, but at what cost and risk to a pristine environment?"



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4. "While I appreciate the need to conduct such surveys in the interest of geological survey and the potential exploitation of natural resources to South Africa's benefit, I am not convinced that due regard has been given to the possible negative environmental consequences of this proposal. Until such time as a comprehensive environmental impact assessment has been conducted and the proposal assessed as being environmentally neutral, I call on government to suspend the present approval pending further investigation."
 5. "We need alternative non-destructive approach/technology."
 6. "Shell cannot commence with this activity without having conducted an Environmental Impact Study. This is part of National Legislation. Why are they allowed to proceed with this activity, without having an environmental authorization? This is gross negligence and disregard for national legislation, which is there to protect the environment and its resources for future generations."
 7. "There's a need to maintain a balance between people livelihoods, i.e., participation in economic activities and the protection of the environment (mitigate against preventable or unintended environmental damages). It's disingenuous for the Minister to rush in granting exploration permit without following proper environmental laws of the country. The process should follow the law by undertaking proper environmental impact assessment, prior to issuing such permit."

Concern; South African Coastlines

1. "All in all we must find decisions that support our future and not just the moment. We need to make decisions that will allow our children to enjoy our magnificent country. Green energy is the way."
2. "I believe that the responsible exploitation of natural resources is a necessary and indeed a good thing, but this must be done in a way that it causes no or as little harm to the nature and environment. I do not believe that this survey method would satisfy this criterion."
3. "Damage to coastal or beach environment areas will have a negative spin on tourists. This is also still the first phase. If oil deposits are found it would change a lot of zones from tourist area to industrial. Which could have a negative spin off in the economy."
4. "Such an enterprise can only be allowed in partnership with the people of the Coast, not the government. Each and every citizen living on the coasts concerned shall be a shareholder in the project, be involved in the feasibility study, have a say in the approval or go ahead of the project and get a share of the profit. No one should benefit at the population's peril unless the population benefits. And if it's not feasible if the population is to benefit, can it."

Concern; Other

1. "It is unclear whether the cost incurred in new fossil fuel projects will ever be recouped. Solar and wind combined with new storage will take over energy generation within 20 years at most. If you take environmental factors into account, it seems like a loss."
2. "Mass media are playing on the emotions of the public. This technology has been used all over the world for years without any damage to the environment. The problem lies if there is gas and the effects it will have on the environment when they start extracting it."
3. "As with all explorations and subsequent mining around the world it ends up not benefiting the people of the land and ends up in the pockets of politicians and the mining conglomerate."
4. "The problem is that after discovering the oil is not like they are going to decrease the price of fuel, and the surrounding communities will not benefit even a cent only this corruption Government officials Minister Mantashe being the first one."

Concern; No concern

1. No comments were submitted in this category.



Concern; The Bill in its entirety

1. No comments were submitted in this category.

Concern; Pollution

1. "These are emotive issues. There are many scientific opinions and environmental balance is required and is unfortunately largely absent on these emotive issues. The protesters are often protesting the price of fuel one week and then the companies looking for it the next. My greatest concern is transparency and the damage that will occur if they do find it. And of course, the apparently certain corruption which will result in no gain for the people or the environment. So be transparent be accountable and tell us what we can expect with certainty and commitment in terms of energy gains. The minister track record does not inspire confidence."
2. "The whole world is moving to more greener energy sources! Why is there a need to source more outdated energy sources on a scenic and beautiful area that has no industrialisation! It's like mining in Bali! LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA ALONE."
3. "It is interesting to note that people in my region who "picketed" outside the Shell garages generally drove their car to get there. The irony. This project will go ahead no matter what the public say, there's too much money involved for the government to "bank". All we can do is put pressure on them to do it with the least amount of damage possible."

Concern; Protecting the wellbeing of the marine life

1. No comments were submitted in this category.

Of the "No I do not" comments, the respondents are not in agreement for multiple reasons. The main themes refer to the negative impact on the environment, sustainability of this operation and lastly, how corruption will be administered due to the stake government holds in Shell as a company.

As a global trend, other countries are making all efforts to move away from fossil fuel usage, yet South Africa is making a large leap toward this – the question is why? The public suggested rather investing into other cleaner energy sources which could operate for hundreds of years to come without leaving behind the same environmental impact that seismic testing could cause.

Corruption and thievery of our country's money has been an ever-expanding problem and aside from any environmental impacts, the participants believe that this operation will become another money-making project for government individuals. The concerns link to whether this project would create any job opportunities at this stage.

It was mentioned that the respondents felt that this public participation process was "kept very quiet by government" and the public would like to know why there was shadowed transparency on this policy.

Suggestions from the "No I do not" comments, include;

Concern; The wellbeing of marine life

1. "Marine life is already under huge threat from human activity, and we should do our utmost to protect our marine animals and coastline and be a shining light for the rest of the world. We need to make better conscious decisions to life in harmony with nature and preserve the planet for ourselves and future generations."
2. "Corporate interests have no jurisdiction; their overreach is unethical and damaging the ecosystem. The government also has the responsibility to protect the environment. Protect the land the people and all life. This is fundamental in the sustainability of all life, preserve and protect."
3. "I am concerned not just about the marine life, but also the South African coastlines, the pollution, the environmental damage and the approval of such damaging procedures. These are all connected, and each have an impact on the other. If one destroys its environment, it is destroying itself"



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4. "The Wild Coast should be protected and remain as its name describes-Wild. We cannot sacrifice our marine environment and its wildlife in our single-minded drive for energy / power. We must move from fossil fuels to environmentally friendly energy sources."
 5. "The marine life as well as the corals are already in danger, and this will destroy so much more. It takes years for it to rebuild and re-breed. The damage will take thousands of years to be restored. South Africa is one of the world's best places to Scuba Dive and see marine life and corals. We have the most dive locations in the world! It should not be destroyed or tampered with in any way. The loss in economy and dive industry will be immense. Do not let this happen!"
 6. "Big oil has never and will never put the welfare of the marine life or ecology before profit. Why would we allow this off of our coastline?"
 7. "The sensitivity of our ecological environment, especially within our coastline, must not be exposed to Shell's use of shock waves. Disregard for animal life and the effect on the coastline cannot be allowed."
 8. "Spend the money on sustainable energy instead."
 9. "Surely Shell should be investing in alternative energy sources instead of putting marine life at risk?"
 10. "Other countries have reaped the destruction of seismic testing so we should go all out to avoid this man-made destruction."

Concern; The approval in its entirety

1. "The approval is by all means on short notice. The scale of damage to the environment is unacceptable."
2. "I have a seaside cottage on the Wild Coast. The local population survive on what they can source from the sea. Unnecessary blasting will be detrimental to all marine life and destroy the coast as we know it. I will never buy fuel from Shell again."
3. "The fact that the ANC are co-owners of SHELL SOUTH AFRICA and therefore have commercial interests in the outcome, combined with the inconsistencies surrounding the granting of this exploration contract without approval from the relevant South African Government Environmental Ministry should be reason enough to have this potentially damaging operation's permissions cancelled and withdrawn."
4. "The damage to our sensitive and protected coastal ecosystem will extend past the immediate damage to the delicate marine environment. The potential for massive contamination of the marine area as a result of gas or oil leaks is huge, and the long-term damage as a result would be unavoidable, should Shell find and get approval to extract from the reserves it wants to exploit. It will also open the door for reduced protection of the environment for future applications and will lead to a culture of income above protection of the natural environment. Not permitting the tests is the immediate right step to prevent this."
5. "When it has been proven that fossil fuels are responsible for the increase in greenhouse gasses and climate change, this is the worst thing that our country needs. We need to invest in sustainable means of energy production. The technology is there! Where is the political will? We need a government that works for its people and planet, not to line its pockets!"
6. "The fact that this was approved before any public participation feels suspicious. No explanation made and no experts consulted. It makes one, unfortunately, think that corruption is afoot. The damage this will cause, however, has been widely documented. It is unacceptable and we will campaign against this as long as necessary."
7. "We need to stop this. Save the oceans. Help us build a sustainable future for our kids."
8. "Hiding behind the economy is not on. The fact that it was kept so quiet is alarming in itself. If there was not something sinister why keep it quiet?!"
9. "We should be transitioning to clean energy as per the Paris Agreement and recent COP26."



Concern; Environmental Damage

1. "We CAN NOT keep looking for fossil fuels. There is too much consumption and too much waste. There used to be enough for everyone - but we have lost our way."
2. "The ANC simply do not care about nature and the general population of this country. This they have proven, election after election, through their corrupt activities and blatant theft and fraud. They love material things they can wield, to show their status. As they have proven again and again, they love not the things that truly matter in this world, such as the things that could possibly be destroyed and lost through this Shell event..."
3. "Such a permission from our government makes a mockery of their pledges to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in SA."
4. "This will affect the marine life, which in turn will further destabilize the ecosystems around our whole coastline of South Africa, which in turn abuses any hope for the tourism industry let alone fishing, ecological health and financial gain long term. If there is any financial gain for South African, it is short lived and completely not worth the damage it will do to the nation long term."
5. "Fossil fuel use needs to be reduced, rather than increased. Please rather support initiatives to decrease our reliance on fossil fuels. South Africa pledged this at the COP meeting in Glasgow, and now this survey flies in the face of that pledge, not to mention untold damage to the environment as a result."
6. "While the world leaders are meeting to discuss climate change and how to fix our dire planet, big corporations are allowed to destroy and plunder our woodlands, coastlines and any other part of our planet that they deem beneficial to their pockets. It ALL needs to stop immediately."

Concern; South African Coastlines

1. "Seismic surveys and the possibility of then mining along our pristine shoreline will have a devastating impact on the local environment and ecosystem - not just for marine life but for the people of South Africa. Protect our coastline and our fragile marine ecosystem!"
2. "The coast, the ocean, and it's wildlife is extremely important for various socio-economic activities. The wildlife supports a thriving Tourism industry which contributes R20 billion to the GDP and 75 000 direct jobs. This is only the marine tourism. But this coast further supports marine protected areas that feeds the fishing industry of the wild coast. Shell will kill the wildlife that supports hundreds of thousands of direct and indirect jobs. We cannot allow shell to 1) destroy our protected wildlife. And 2) destroy the livelihood of thousands of people."
3. "Fuel already costs so much; this country just steals the money. Now you want to destroy our coast lines, stop."
4. "The coastlines are very vulnerable, and any destruction will be irreversible. Greed must never be tolerated."
5. "We need to protect our wildlife and natural heritage. And look for greener fuel sources."
6. "The idea will be harmful to human beings and the marine life too. Gqwede Mantashe knows nothing about pollution and marine life, he is just driven by greed and wickedness of high note. His pocket can never get full."

Concern; Other

1. "Let alone the environmental concerns, the impact on livelihoods is drastically unequal. Major potential for renewable energy to support local business and local economies. Just need to look at Mozambique to see how much benefit the poor of a country sees from offshore gas."
2. "The environment and marine life reap no benefits at a time where our consideration of the world's environment is crucial. Pollution of our planet is off the scale and destroying the wellbeing of all forms of life purely for short sighted economic benefits for a small number of humans."



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3. "The fact that a foreign company is once again taking advantage of the lands of Africa for their profits, and our coastlines and marine life are at risk."
 4. "My concern is all of the above. Also, what are the partners of shell going to do to stop the support of shell businesses? Such as discovery, tiger wheel and tyre? Are they going to continue to partner with them?"
 5. "Climate change is my main concern. Leave fossil fuels under the ocean. We need sustainable alternatives with training for jobs in the sustainable energy sector."

Concern; No concern

1. "Shell is going to damage marine wildlife and environment and no proper consultation was carried out!!"
2. "We cannot sacrifice our coastal regions, marine life treasures or the homes and livelihoods of the people who live there. It is wholesale murder and destruction. It must be stopped. Who is making money from the slaughter? You can't eat money when all else is gone!"
3. "Concerns are:
 - South African coastlines
 - Pollution
 - Environmental damage
 - That we are STILL looking for oil, when we know that we should be looking towards alternative energy.
 - Who's making the money? Because that's what this is about?"

Concern; The Bill in its entirety

1. "These pulses are registered upwards of 4000km away and destroy ocean life."
2. "We need to protect our environment and coastal areas at all costs stuff these thieves that have total disregard for our environment."

Concern; Pollution

1. "Shell should rather focus on renewable energy."
2. "We should be using our sun/wind resources, investing in batteries, solar and wind farms. Enough of this oil burning."
3. "The wild coast is a conservation haven and should not be spoilt my money grabbing politician pawn used by Shell for profit. We do not need it!!!!"
4. "The International Energy Agency has made clear that we do not need new fossil fuel exploration if we are to keep to the Paris Climate Agreement's 1.5C target. Additionally, the risk of harmful oil spills is too much risk to take on our pristine coast. It's not worth doing seismic testing as it's not worth doing oil and gas exploration."
5. "Shell need to prove how environmental recovery of possible after years of exploitation of resources."
6. "The trend worldwide is against fossil fuels, who is punting this mad idea?"
7. "My concern is what happens if they find gas/oil. Due to corruption and government interference, there will no doubt be back hand deals, sub-standard B-BBEE tenders, sabotage, etc resulting in the infrastructure failing and there being major pollution of the pristine wild coast. We need to be moving away from fossil fuels not looking for more."

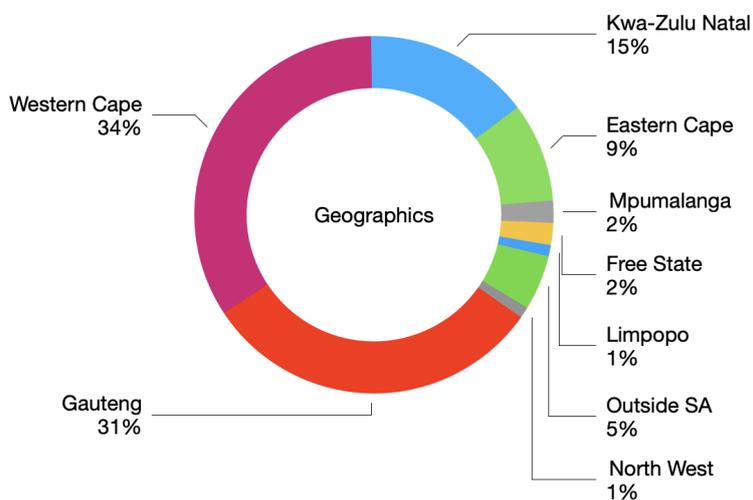
Concern; Protecting the wellbeing of the marine life

1. "It appears that no thought has gone into this madness to the marine life it is going to destroy not to say the fragility of our coastline. What much further away into the sea. No not acceptable I say no to this madness. We are supposed to moving away from fossil fuels."
2. "This seismic survey is a very short-sighted project driven by capital gains and sits squarely in contravention of the COP26 agreement on Climate Change."

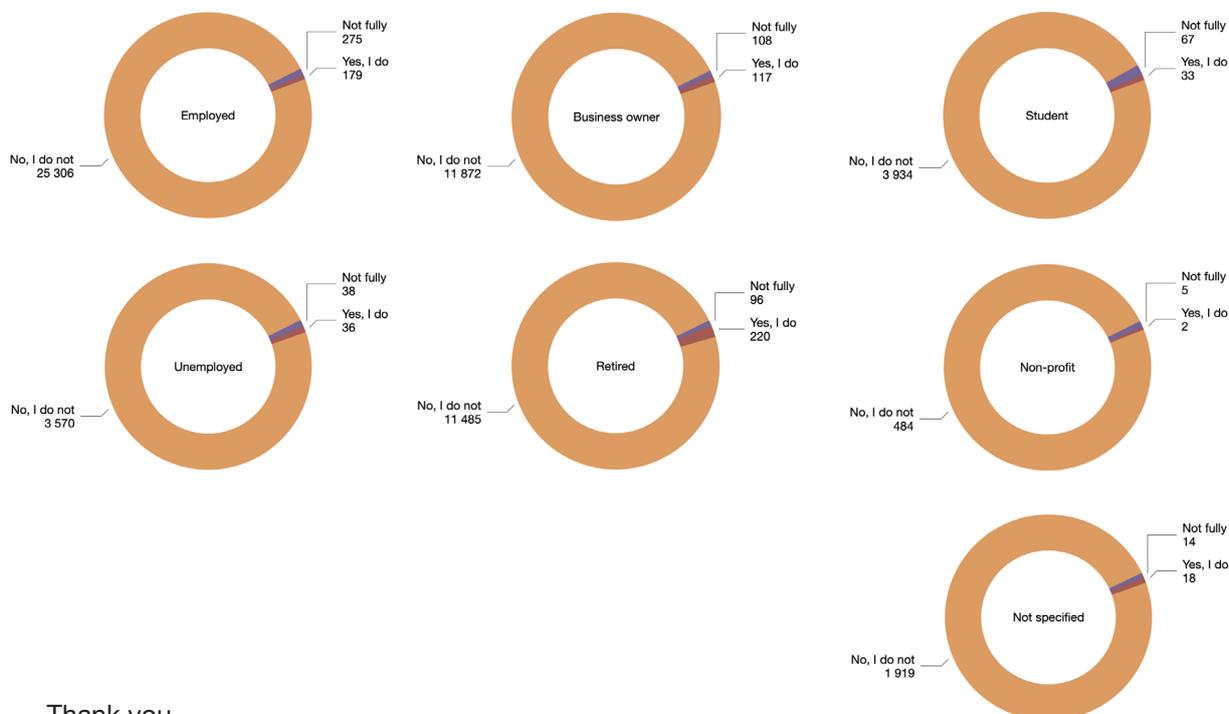


Demographics

Comments originated from all provinces with the greatest input arising from Western Cape, followed by Gauteng and KZN. Demographics can be further broken down into comment options (yes, no, not fully) and by top concern per region upon request, or view the Excel spreadsheet attached.



Do you support the approval for Shell to conduct seismic testing off the coast of SA?



Thank you

Chloe Castle - Dear South Africa
chloe@dearsouthafrica.co.za

Rob Hutchinson - Dear South Africa
rob.hutchinson@dearsouthafrica.co.za