

## Oil spill risk makes marine protection a federal election issue: enviro groups

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW is part of an unprecedented alliance of 32 leading environment groups calling for more action from all political parties to provide safeguards against the risk of large scale oil spills off the coast of Australia.

Image: Reuters

In the lead-up to the federal election and as one of the world's worst environmental disasters, the BP oil spill, unfolds in the Gulf of Mexico, the groups are asking for stronger protection for Australia's precious marine habitats and wildlife, including:

1. a moratorium on new oil and gas approvals in Australian waters until the safety issues associated with deepwater drilling have been addressed; and
2. the declaration of a national network of marine sanctuaries in Australian waters including Australia's South West marine region, the Coral Sea and the Kimberley, to safeguard Australia's unique and threatened marine life.

[View the joint media release here](#) .