

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Santos' Barossa Pipeline Project. The project poses unacceptable environmental risks, disregards Indigenous rights, and will severely impact the biologically significant areas within the Oceanic Shoals Marine Park and the Tiwi Islands' western coast, as well as posing a significant health threat to residents of Darwin.

The sea clearing required for the project raises significant concerns about habitat destruction and contamination. Clearing a 40-metre width of seabed and dumping of the dredge material poses a direct threat to marine habitats and may mobilise harmful contaminants, including arsenic. The long-term habitat loss and disturbance of sediments amplify the environmental risks associated with the project.

The construction phase of the project, with over 550 vessel transits, threatens marine megafauna and will disrupt delicate marine ecosystems. This endangers the populations of already threatened and declining species such as the false killer whale, Australian humpback dolphin, Australian snubfin dolphin, Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, and dugongs. In addition, the Tiwi Islands' western coastline is recognised as a biologically significant area for Olive Ridley turtles and green turtles. The pipeline's impact on this critical habitat poses a significant threat to the survival and well-being of these vulnerable marine species.

Additionally, the Barossa gas field's exceptionally high CO<sub>2</sub> content, at 18%, would make it one of the dirtiest gas fields in Australia. The disproportionate emissions-to-gas production ratio makes the project glaringly unsustainable, contradicting the urgent need for carbon reduction. This alone makes the project utterly unacceptable.

Santos' failure to obtain free, prior, and informed consent from the Tiwi and Larrakia people, on whose country the project will operate, is a violation of their rights under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The pipeline will come within 6km of the Tiwi Islands' western coast, passing through Tiwi sea country that is subject to native title rights. The disregard for Tiwi rights and priorities also makes the project utterly unacceptable.

Santos' claims and justifications for the Barossa project are deeply flawed and lack transparency. Their assertion that they will pursue Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) at Bayu Undan is greenwashing, devoid of genuine intent or tangible planning. Even if CCS were feasible, the absence of any concrete modelling, clear targets, or necessary approvals makes it clear that this claim is a lie; it should not be treated as mitigation for the destruction that the project will certainly cause.

There is an appreciable risk of a spill occurring during the lifetime of the project. This would have devastating consequences, including severe impacts on human health, ecosystem integrity, and local livelihoods. Santos' own modelling shows that the scale of such a disaster would be catastrophic. The risk of such a calamity, on top of all of the definite negative impacts of the project, make it impossible to support for anyone with any connection to Darwin. The project must be rejected.

Sincerely,  
James Richardson  
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