

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong objection to Santos' Barossa Pipeline Project. I firmly oppose this project due to its unacceptable environmental risks, disregard for Indigenous rights, and detrimental impact on ecologically significant areas, specifically the Oceanic Shoals Marine Park and the western coast of the Tiwi Islands. Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about the significant health threats it poses to the residents of Darwin.

One of the major concerns is the extensive seabed clearing required for the project, which poses a direct threat to marine habitats and may result in habitat destruction and contamination. The project's plan to clear a 40-meter width of the seabed and dispose of dredged material raises alarms about the mobilization of harmful contaminants, including arsenic. Such actions would cause long-term habitat loss and disturbance of sediments, amplifying the environmental risks associated with the project.

The construction phase of the Barossa Pipeline Project is equally worrisome, with over 550 vessel transits that could endanger marine megafauna and disrupt delicate marine ecosystems. This poses a significant threat to the populations of already endangered species such as the Australian snubfin dolphin, Australian humpback dolphin, dugongs, Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin and the false killer whale. Additionally, the western coast of the Tiwi Islands is recognized as a biologically significant area for Olive Ridley turtles and green turtles. The project's impact on this critical habitat poses a substantial threat to the survival and well-being of these vulnerable marine species.

Moreover, the Barossa gas field stands out as one of the most environmentally harmful gas fields in Australia due to its remarkably high CO₂ content of 18%. This giant gap between emissions and gas production underscores the project's unsustainable nature, directly conflicting with the urgent imperative to reduce carbon emissions. This is atrocious.

I vehemently condemn Santos for their failure to secure free, prior, and informed consent from the Tiwi and Larrakia people, whose country will be directly impacted. This failure constitutes a clear violation of their rights as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Additionally, the pipeline's proximity to the Tiwi Islands' western coast, traversing sea areas governed by native title rights, further demonstrates a disregard for the rights of the Tiwi people.

Furthermore, Santos' claims and justifications for the Barossa project are vague and deeply flawed. Their statements of pursuing Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) at Bayu Undan is nothing more than a superficial attempt to appear environmentally conscious and outlines no substantial planning. Even if CCS were feasible, the absence of comprehensive modeling, clear targets, and necessary approvals exposes this claim as a mere smokescreen and inadequate in mitigating the inevitable destruction that the project will cause.

The project poses a significant risk of spills occurring throughout its duration, with dire implications for human health, ecosystem integrity, and community life. Santos' own modelling confirms the catastrophic nature of such a disaster. Given this and the obvious concerns highlighted in this letter, I strongly urge the complete rejection of this project.

Sincerely,

Julia Martin

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