

Submission to NTEPA on Darwin Pipeline Duplication Project (DPDP)

From Julie Fraser

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As a concerned citizen I submit that the NTEPA should proceed with an assessment of the Darwin Pipeline Duplication Project and that this assessment should be conducted at the highest level– a public inquiry. I am concerned about significant impacts that could result from the proposed Project and believe that these impacts constitute a considerable environmental risk that warrants stringent assessment.

Firstly, emissions from the project will have a substantial impact on the Territory's ability to meet its emissions reductions targets. I note that the current Darwin LNG facility has approvals to emit up to 10mtpa of greenhouse gasses (GHG), but [IEEFA modeling](#)¹ shows that when the Barossa project lifecycle emissions are added to current Darwin LNG emissions, this 10mtpa threshold will be exceeded. This discrepancy alone justifies a full and transparent assessment of the emissions profile of the Barossa project. The risk to workers' livelihoods due to increased temperatures and wild weather events is extreme and will only be worsened by the development of new gas fields and their associated emissions. Both the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have stated that new gas projects must not go ahead if catastrophic global warming is to be avoided. Increased temperatures at work are emerging as one of the major occupational health and safety hazards for workers, particularly in tropical locations such as the Northern Territory.

I am also concerned about this Project being used to facilitate Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in the Bayu-Undan gas field. CCS is unproven, unreliable, and has a record of failing to meet targets. There are specific problems with the Bayu-Undan CCS proposal, not the least of which is the injustice of saddling Timor-Leste with carbon pollution and the uncertainty of how this carbon will be stored and regulated. The high CO₂ content of gas from the Barossa field (18%) adds a range of complications to the CCS process– which has failed, as in the case of the Gorgon CCS project, in less complex circumstances. The DPDP facilitates the development of this CCS project and as such the impacts must be assessed in a full public inquiry so the risks can be examined.

Workers in a range of industries stand to lose from the further industrialisation of Darwin Harbour. The impacts will be directly and obviously felt on the tourism industry, but reduced air quality, increased pollution, warmer temperatures, and petrochemical development will heavily impact the entire Darwin and Palmerston region and surrounds. Workers deserve long-term,

¹ [How-To-Save-the-Barossa-Project-From-Itself October-2021 3.pdf \(ieefa.org\)](#)

sustainable jobs in industries that are socially beneficial, not in polluting industries that create limited jobs and contribute to the risk of climate catastrophe.

Yours Sincerely,

Julie Fraser