

Gday,

I believe the Darwin Pipeline Duplication Project (DPDP) should be assessed at the highest level of environmental assessment - an inquiry.

As recreational fisho in Darwin who regularly fishes Darwin harbour, and as someone who cares about the greenhouse emissions of fossil fuel projects, the DPDP concerns me greatly.

The dredging required to facilitate this new proposed pipeline is immense, and it upsets me greatly that it would go straight through the Charles Point reef protection zone - a zone that Darwin fishers have (for six-odd years now) been prohibited from fishing explicitly for the protection of marine ecosystems, namely key fish species (golden snapper and black jewfish). This project would have an effect on a key habitat of these species (both of which are crucial to rec fishing in the Territory).

Also, anecdotally - from seasoned Darwin fishos - it's not only the dolphin population that suffered after the dredging for the Inpex shipping channel. The threadfin salmon population inside the harbour has also taken a hit.

The fact that the proposed pipeline would also pass through another marine park - the Oceanic Shoals marine park on the Tiwis - just makes it worse, not just for reef-dwelling species but because that patch of coast is recognised as biologically significant for Olive Ridley Turtles and green turtles.

The proposed dumping of the dredged seafloor at Lee Point is unacceptable - this being an area that has substantial areas of bottom structure where reef and pelagic species dwell.

This mass dredging over 15 months and its attendant potential consequences for fish populations and marine habitats need to be scrutinised extremely highly - especially so given fishing is such an important part of Darwin's identity and economy. There is much at stake when it comes to the impacts of this project on recreational fishing.

But it's not just these significant direct and indirect effects on local marine environments. The Barossa project as a whole is expected to be up to 15 million tonnes per annum of greenhouse gases over its lifetime.

Given the juncture the world is at regarding the recognised need to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and the effect climate change is already having on ecosystems in the NT (mangrove dieback in Darwin harbour being just one example) these emissions need to be considered, whether the gas is extracted in NT waters or not. The pipeline will run through NT waters, and the gas processed in the NT. It is wilful blindness to not take these and the project's indirect emissions into account.

It is for these reasons that I strongly believe that the Darwin Pipeline duplication project, as part of the broader Barossa project, should be assessed at the highest level of environmental assessment - that of an inquiry. Anything less would be irresponsible of the NTEPA.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment