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Parents for Climate Darwin and NT

Submission contents:

To whom it may concern, Thank you for giving the public the opportunity to voice concerns about the Carpentaria Pilot Production project by Imperial Oil and Gas. This submission is made by Parents for Climate Darwin and NT. We are a local grassroots group made up of volunteers and we are members of the national Parents for Climate (PFC) not for profit. Our group represents hundreds of families in the Northern Territory (NT) and we are united by our pressing concern about climate change and the harmful impacts it will have on young people in the NT now and into the future as they grow up in a hotter and more dangerous climate. Our group is dedicated to advocating for a safe and healthy environment and climate for our kids and young people. As parents and carers we have an innate responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our children. We are very alarmed by the potentially significant and lasting water, climate, and biodiversity impacts of the Carpentaria Pilot Production project and, thus, believe that this project should be subject to a detailed assessment. The information in the project referral documents is faulty and insufficient to fully assess potential risks. Imperial should be required to develop a full Environmental Impact Statement.

Climate impacts: In the project referral documents, Imperial makes false claims and does not provide details that are crucial to understand in the context of NT EPA's objective of net zero emissions by 2050. In these documents, Imperial states that the impacts of emissions will be reduced or eliminated completely by the sale of appraisal gas. This is a misleading statement, as shifting emissions downstream does not alter its climate change impacts. Further, Imperial does not identify and explain the environmental impacts of these emissions, or where these would occur.

Water impacts: Imperial also fails to identify the potentially significant impacts of hydraulic fracking and the proposed wastewater management system, such as induced seismicity, groundwater extraction, and cross-contamination. In addition to this, important information about groundwater testing and drawdown modelling, surface water hydrology, and detailed plans for the wastewater management system, is not provided.

Biodiversity impacts: Imperial states that the project will not pose a significant impact to nationally threatened and migratory species, but fails to provide evidence to support this claim. The project materials demonstrate that the way these species were surveyed and assessed was poorly done. We are also concerned that Traditional Owners have not been provided opportunities to contribute knowledge about biodiversity and water impacts. The Carpentaria Pilot Production project needs to be subjected to a robust assessment process and provide sufficient opportunity for public engagement on the proposal.