

Stephen W Enciso

Coconut Grove

I am a long-term Darwin resident. I was born and raised in Darwin, specifically in Palmerston, where my father still resides. I now study and work at Charles Darwin University. I have a personal attachment to the Top End. I am deeply concerned about the NT Government's proposal to develop Middle Arm into a processing hub for gas taken from the Barossa gas fields. I note that the Tiwi Traditional Owners are opposed to Santos' plans in this respect, but that the NT Labor Government are facilitating the development. Gas is a fossil fuel that should not be extracted due to the present historical urgency of the climate crisis. Any reputable scientist will give evidence to this effect. The majority of humans would like to have a habitable planet.

I am also concerned about the fact that the Middle Arm Precinct will be used as a petrochemical hub. I believe that this aspect of the proposal has not received sufficient scrutiny from a health, environmental and legal perspective. I will be seeking legal advice relating to the NT Government's potential breach of its duty of care to residents in the Darwin and Palmerston areas. Petrochemical hubs are dangerous for human health, both because of the associated cancer risk for those who live in close proximity, as well as the potential for fatal explosions if there is a malfunction or some other accident.

I am very concerned that the NT Government is pushing ahead with this proposal without properly informing all members of the Darwin and Palmerston communities about the fact that a significant petrochemical processing hub will be established in such close proximity to residential areas. I suspect that were this information to be communicated, there would be widespread and justified opposition to the project.

The risks of the project to human health, as well as to the climate by way of emissions, is far too great.

I register my OPPOSITION to the development of this project. I do not want to see the Darwin Harbour become a central hub for the processing of dangerous fossil fuels and other chemicals that are risking the sustainable future, not just of Darwin and Palmerston, but of our entire planet.

I respectfully request that the word 'sustainable' be removed from the title of the project, being the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct. On my reading, there is little that is sustainable about it.

I agree for my submission to be published