

## Submission for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct referral

My name is Kimberley, I am a 29-year-old who works as a nurse while studying Environmental Science. After moving to Darwin five years ago, my plan was to leave after my two-year stint, but I fell in love with the stunning landscapes, diverse flora, fauna and the amazing culture. I soon came to realise that it is these things that make me proud to call Darwin my home.

Darwin Harbour is important to me for social reasons such as relaxing and unwinding from everyday life, being near the ocean is important to me as I come from a coastal town. Darwin Harbour is also important to me for environmental issues as I am passionate about conservation, climate action and protecting our home we call Earth for not only ourselves but all life and future generations, my future children.

I am concerned about the petrochemical plants threat to human health. There is evidence that human exposure to certain carcinogenic pollutants emitted from petrochemical industries may increase the incidents of some cancers and cancer mortality. This has been demonstrated in places in the world already. What effect will the Middle Arm petrochemical plant have on the people, families that live close by?

I am concerned about the petrochemical plant leading to an increase in emissions, risking the climate. Any expansion in the gas industries will increase greenhouse gas emissions, undermining the NTs emissions reductions target and increasing the risk of catastrophic climate change. The MASDP proposal facilitates this gas industry expansion in multiple ways, including through increasing demand for gas through use as a feedstock for petrochemicals, and expanding gas processing. As well as the greenwashing of carbon capture and storage (CCS) which is not a proven effective technology for reducing emissions.

I am concerned about the potential significant impacts to Darwin Harbour such as impacts to soil quality through land clearing, erosion, leaks and spills of hazardous materials. Impacts to threatened species, sensitive and significant vegetation from vegetation clearing, the impact of groundwater quality from land clearing, water quality of Darwin Harbour and impacts to marine ecosystems from dredging, marine infrastructure construction and shipping operations and the impacts on cultural and heritage sites.

Overall, I am concerned about the negative environmental, cultural and social impacts of the project and am deeply invested in seeing the many values of Darwin Harbour protected. Our community needs to understand exactly what is proposed at Middle Arm. This project needs appropriate assessment and requires a full inquiry.

Sincerely

Kimberley Pitt