



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Committee on Environment and Planning

31 July 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquire announcement and call for submissions

Drilling into the details of the proposed offshore drilling ban

The Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning is inquiring into the Minerals Legislation Amendment (Offshore Drilling and Associated Infrastructure Prohibition) Bill 2023.

The Bill aims to stop exploration and mining of petroleum and minerals in coastal waters off NSW, by prohibiting approval of offshore mineral and petroleum exploration and mining. While the Bill aims to stop all future offshore drilling in NSW waters, recent public debate has focused on petroleum exploration off the coast of NSW under petroleum exploration permit 11, or PEP-11.

The Committee Chair and Member for Cessnock, Mr Clayton Barr, said the inquiry will look into the legal complexities of the Bill, including any potential constitutional issues.

"The regulation of offshore petroleum is complicated as authority is shared between the Federal and NSW governments. This inquiry will identify any legal issues potentially raised by the Bill," Mr Barr said. "We will also look at whether any amendment to the Bill may address these legal issues, or if there are other ways to achieve the intended outcomes of the Bill."

"We know that NSW communities are passionate about protecting our oceans. The Committee will also look into the environmental impacts of offshore drilling, the relevant NSW offshore petroleum and mining policy and any compliance and enforcement issues."

The Committee is currently inviting submissions from organisations, businesses, industries, community groups and the public. More information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference and information on how to make a submission, is available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

The closing date for submissions is **31 August 2023**.

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