

**Submission
No 18**

**MINERALS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (OFFSHORE DRILLING AND
ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE PROHIBITION) BILL 2023**

Name: Ms Melina Mura

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Oil is an ancient fossil fuel that we use to heat our homes, generate electricity, and power large sectors of our economy. But when oil accidentally spills into the ocean, it can cause big problems. Oil spills can harm sea creatures, ruin a day at the beach, and make seafood unsafe to eat. It takes sound science to clean up the oil, measure the impacts of pollution, and help the ocean recover. Our beloved coast, within the world renowned whale migration path and dolphin habitat, turned into a Petroleum Exploration zone? Rigs off our favourite beaches?

This flawed plan risks devastating our coastal ecosystem, the whale migration route and the rich biodiversity off the coast, our climate, our livelihoods and our way of life, to DRILL for fossil fuels that we do not need that will only accelerate our path towards climate damage.

Gas is a dirty fossil fuel which causes 84 times more climate damage than carbon dioxide and 2/3 of our gas is exported – in 2019 Australia was the largest exporter of gas in the world.

To save our climate, our environment, our way of life, our precious whales, dolphins and marine life, and to save our coast and our children's futures, we must STOP PEP 11