

**Submission
No 19**

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

Name: Mr Gregory Dubler

Date Received: 29 August 2023

Dear sir/madam,

I am very concerned and upset because the iconic east coast of NSW is home to millions, is in the whale migration path, hosts a rich biodiversity and brings millions of dollars to the economy in thriving tourism industries. Communities are deeply connected to the coast and depend on it for livelihoods and wellbeing. We love our coast, our whales, dolphins and marine life, and our way of life.

Drilling for gas in a climate emergency when 2/3 of Australia's gas is exported, (in 2019 Australia was the largest exporter of natural gas in the world), and methane from gas is 84 times more dangerous to the climate than carbon dioxide that will only exacerbate climate damage, risking all life on earth, is unacceptable.

Drilling under the sea risks pollution and oil spill (oil is often present where there is gas) that risks catastrophic harm to the entire east coast of Australia and beyond, threatening millions of marine animals and seabirds, the entire coastal ecosystem, livelihoods and wellbeing.

Communities and the economy are already struggling with the uncertainty of COVID 19. In the wake of climate-damage fuelled unprecedented devastating bushfires that killed over a billion animals, decimated habitat and deeply affected communities, and in the midst of a global pandemic, now more than ever we need to prevent further climate damage for a healthy ecosystem in order to survive.

We need an economic recovery in renewable energy with its secure long-lasting jobs and lower emission industry and manufacturing, (and reduced household energy bills), that can support communities into a new safer, cleaner, prosperous vision for Australia, instead of drilling for fossil fuels off the iconic coast of NSW that threatens to destroy our way of life, and the very climate and economy we need to be restoring.

New offshore permits now have a community consultation period - extension of existing offshore petroleum permits have no such consultation. Communities along the most heavily populated area of Australia should have a say in whether or not an existing petroleum exploration permit, that affects the coast that defines them, is renewed.

For over a decade communities from Newcastle, Lake Macquarie through the Central Coast to the Northern Beaches of Sydney to Manly and beyond, have been subject to added stress and uncertainty as to the development of PEP 11. Haven't we been through enough?

We ask you please to urgently request you not approve the extension of PEP 11, nor approve the change in title to offshore drilling within PEP 11. We ask you to please consider communities, the coastal ecosystem, the climate and the economy, in this time of uncertainty and upheaval, and urgently STOP PEP 11 to save the coast that so many Australians love and depend on for wellbeing and livelihoods.