

**Submission
No 23**

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

Organisation: City of Newcastle

Date Received: 30 August 2023

Planning and Environment.MBisson/MKikken
Phone: [REDACTED]
Reference: 8600167

23 August 2023

Mr Clayton Barr, MP, Chair
Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By web submission: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/>

Dear Mr Barr

**CITY OF NEWCASTLE'S SUPPORT OF THE MINERALS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
(OFFSHORE DRILLING AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE PROHIBITION) BILL
2023**

City of Newcastle (CN) has consistently opposed offshore exploration and mining activities, due to its unacceptable environmental and climate impacts, and negative economic impacts on the recreational and commercial fishing and tourism industries.

A Notice of Motion (NOM) from CN's Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 February 2023 (**attached**) was unanimously supported by Council and reaffirms its strong and decades-long opposition to offshore oil and gas mining off the coast of Newcastle.

In October 2008, CN agreed to oppose offshore coal gasification and to advocate for the prohibition of coal exploration off the Newcastle coastline. Through the "Protection of the Newcastle Coastline and Marine Environment Notice of Motion," CN committed to actively engage with the Newcastle community on the impacts of such offshore mining proposals and to support any appropriate community campaign or event related to this issue. This position has since been reaffirmed by motions of CN in February 2018, May 2019, November 2020 and February 2021.

The New South Wales (NSW) coastline contains an iconic, pristine marine environment rich in biodiversity and part of an internationally significant whale migration path. This coastline is also home to internationally famous beaches and sustains significant local industry, including fishing and tourism.

Mining and development of offshore oil, gas, and mineral resources in NSW puts at risk all of the values that rely on healthy oceans and a vibrant marine and coastal environment.

There is no social license for mining and development of offshore oil, gas, and mineral resources on the pristine coastline of New South Wales, and the risks associated with both exploration and mining activities are potentially catastrophic, unacceptable and cannot be effectively mitigated.

CN strongly supports the Minerals Legislation Amendment (Offshore Drilling and Associated Infrastructure Prohibition) Bill 2023, considering the potential risks and detrimental impacts associated with offshore oil and gas mining activities off our coast far outweighing any perceived benefits.

Should you require any further information on this matter, please contact me on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Marnie Kikken
EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Attachment:

- NOM 28/02/2023 – PEP11 and Offshore Coal, Oil and Gas Exploration and Mining

SUBJECT: NOM 28/02/23 - PEP11 AND OFFSHORE COAL, OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND MINING

COUNCILLOR: J MACKENZIE

PURPOSE

The following Notice of Motion was received on 16 February 2023 from the above named Councillor.

MOTION

That the City of Newcastle:

- Reaffirms its opposition to both offshore exploration and mining activity due to unacceptable environmental impacts, climate impacts, and negative economic impacts on the recreational and commercial fishing and tourism industries.
- Notes that this position has been reaffirmed by motions of this Council in February 2018, May 2019, November 2020 and February 2021.
- Notes that the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority refused to extend the PEP-11 license on 26 March 2022.
- Notes that Federal Court of Australia quashed that decision and agreed on 14 February 2023 to the consent position of the Federal Government and the proponent, which returns the PEP-11 application to the Joint Authority for a new decision.
- Writes to the Minister for Resources, the Hon Madeleine King MP reiterating City of Newcastle's strong and decades-long opposition to offshore oil and gas mining off the coast of Newcastle, and to the future extension of the PEP11 gas exploration licence.

BACKGROUND

Petroleum Exploration Permit 11 - known as PEP 11 - covers 4,500 square kilometres of ocean, from Newcastle through the Central Coast to Manly. This iconic, pristine marine environment is an area of rich biodiversity and is part of an internationally significant whale migration path. This coastline is also home to internationally famous beaches and sustains significant local industry including fishing and tourism.

Offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling puts at risk all of the values that rely on healthy oceans and a vibrant marine and coastal environment.

There is no social license for offshore oil and gas development on Newcastle's pristine coastline, and the risks associated with both exploration and mining activities are potentially catastrophic, unacceptable and cannot be effectively mitigated.

In October 2008, Newcastle Council agreed to oppose offshore coal gasification and to advocate for the prohibition of coal exploration off the Newcastle coastline. Through the “Protection of the Newcastle Coastline and Marine Environment Notice of Motion”, Council committed to actively engage with the Newcastle community on the impacts of such offshore mining proposals and to support any appropriate community campaign or event related to this issue.

This position has since been reaffirmed by motions of this Council in February 2018, May 2019, November 2020 and February 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.