

**Submission
No 31**

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

Organisation: 1 Million Women

Date Received: 31 August 2023



Thursday 31st, September

Attention: The Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning

Introduction:

We are 1 Million Women - a global movement of over a million women (across our social media channels) living climate action through the way we live. We empower women, to cut carbon in their daily lives and to influence others to do the same. We have been awarded by the United Nations for the work we do.

We are on a mission to grow our movement over the coming 2 years to respond to this crucial decade to act on climate change. Our latest campaign 1MREADY, just launched to galvanise our existing community and to rally women everywhere to join us. 1MREADY focuses on 3 key things that we see as having the greatest impact over the coming years for our movement - 1) to give women the confidence to engage with their local politicians on climate; 2) to educate women to use their money for the good of the environment; and 3) to take women on a household transformation journey to help us all move beyond coal, oil and gas.

We believe our global emissions need the biggest collaborative effort from every sector of society.

Over 40% of our members live in NSW, with a high proportion of them living along our beautiful NSW coastline. Any new offshore oil or gas exploration and extraction would have dire consequences for NSW's coastal communities, ecosystems, coastal erosion, whale migration pathway and climate.

We represent lovers of mother nature and ocean lovers, who share our deep concern about the effects of pollution and mining on our oceans and marine life - demonstrated through our community's interaction with our campaigns.

1 Million Women strongly supports a ban on any new offshore oil and gas projects, and associated infrastructure in the waters, along the coastline of NSW, and therefore we wholeheartedly support the Minerals Legislation Amendment (Offshore Drilling and Associated Infrastructure Prohibition) Bill 2023.

We strongly support the Bill for the following reasons:-

- Global warming is still accelerating and we are due to tip over the 1.5 degrees threshold as early as 2027.



- To achieve the goal of keeping warming below 1.5 degrees, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the latest IPCC report, leaders of developed countries must commit to reaching net-zero as close as possible to 2040.
- This means we must fast track the transition away from fossil fuels and governments must not approve any new oil, gas or coal projects. Exploring for more oil and gas today will only lock in more emissions for decades to come and this is not just reckless but criminal.
- Gas is a damaging fossil fuel with a high impact on global warming due to the methane emitted.
- Methane is 26 to 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat and creating global warming and causes 84 times more climate damage over a 20 year period.
- The approval of any new offshore oil or gas will go directly against the NSW State Labor objective of achieving a 70% cut in emissions by 2035, compared to 2005 levels and net zero by 2050.
- And will undermine all of the gains being made by NSW households and industry to get off gas and transition to renewable energy.
- Resulting emissions from any new oil or gas projects would only fuel worsening climate impacts already impacting our NSW coastline. In recent years we have seen flooding events and substantial erosion affecting beachfront homes.
- The NSW coastline is a whale migration pathway. Seismic surveying, required in the exploration phase of any new offshore oil and gas, can reach more than 250 decibels and be heard for kms and can cause hearing loss in whales and dolphins which has devastating effects on essential behaviours like feeding, breeding and communication.
- Our ocean-loving members have great concerns that offshore oil and gas production risks oil spills in our ocean, polluting our water, harming human health and potentially killing our precious marine life.

Conclusion:

1 Million Women urgently calls on the NSW government to prohibit any future approvals for gas or oil production along the NSW coastline.

Any future approvals would be a backward step for NSW in achieving its carbon emissions reduction objectives.

Gas is dirty, expensive, inefficient and harmful to our health and Gas is not needed to keep the lights on, during our transition to clean energy over the next decade.

We need to get off gas and electrify everything. On behalf of our members we support this Bill .