

**Submission
No 33**

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

Name: Mr Peter Moore

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I urge the NSW Parliament to prohibit all offshore mining and resource extraction activities.

I am, like many people in NSW, fortunate to live near the coast and consider the ocean and coastline to be as much a part of my 'home' as the land I inhabit. Our aquatic areas are our public domain, as public as our beaches and parks. The threat of offshore mining, oil and gas drilling, or any similar activities risks severely compromising or destroying our oceans and waterways, and by extension, our coastal way of life.

We are facing a climate catastrophe with the risk of widespread collapse of ecosystems, and we cannot afford ANY new coal, oil, and gas resources to be opened. We are also facing a biodiversity crisis, including along our rocky reefs, mangroves, sea grass areas, and the broader ocean, and we cannot afford to lose ANY native species. The risks of resource extraction in these sensitive environments are simply too great.

Our oceans are far more valuable as ecosystems than as sites to be plundered. Instead, as David Attenborough and others have suggested, if we can protect approximately 30% of oceans and waterways as nature reserves free from fishing (and resource extraction), then these areas will create sustainable fishing spillover into the unprotected areas beyond. This food is immensely valuable to us now and will be increasingly valuable in the future. We also need to consider natural carbon sequestration in oceans and waterways, for example by supporting seaweed growth and other such ecosystem-based carbon consuming effects. These sustainable public food and carbon resources are far more valuable than unsustainable resource extractions for private profit.

For these reasons, the maintenance and regeneration of our environment is an extremely important issue for me. It strongly influences my vote.

Please protect our oceans by prohibiting all offshore mining and resource extraction activities.