

THE BAROSSA GAS PROJECT

A PROPOSED GAS PROJECT THAT COULD BE ONE OF THE WORLD'S DIRTIEST

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The Australian company Santos plans to build the Barossa gas project in pristine marine waters 100 km north of the Tiwi Islands. If the company succeeds, it will extract gas by drilling through the earth to reach rock formations that contain natural gas.

The gas will be extracted and transported to the mainland via a 260 km pipeline. It will traverse two areas within the Oceanic Shoals Marine Park, including a Habitat Protection Zone. Further south, the pipeline comes within 6km of the Tiwi Islands' western coast, at Cape Fourcroy. It will then pass the Shepparton Shoal before joining the existing Bayu-Undan pipeline south of the Tiwi Islands.

The Barossa gas will end up at the Darwin LNG plant. In Darwin, it will be chemically processed, compressed and refrigerated to become liquified gas. The liquified gas will then be exported by ships to countries like South Korea and Japan.

WHY IS THE BAROSSA PROJECT TERRIBLE NEWS?

The project could have negative impacts on the incredible biodiversity in the project area and sensitive ecosystems that Tiwi people have managed for thousands of years.

SEISMIC TESTING POSE A BIG RISK

The biodiversity in the project area could come under increased risk from seismic testing, which is used to map offshore gas reserves. It is done with high-powered airguns that blast the seafloor, which could injure and kill marine life.

THE PIPELINE COULD HARM SEA COUNTRY

The gas pipeline could also devastate the Tiwi Islands' incredible marine life. Of particular concern is that the construction of the gas pipeline would likely harm Olive Ridley turtles' feeding habitat and create light and noise pollution that could distract turtle hatchlings. Any negative impacts to Sea Country by the project may harm the Tiwi cultural aspirations to protect and manage it in the future.



FISHERIES COULD LOSE FISHING GROUNDS

Two of Australia's most important tropical fisheries could lose access to important fishing grounds. Fish stocks could also be negatively impacted by seismic testing.



THE PROJECT IS A CLIMATE DISASTER

The project could be one of the dirtiest gas projects in the world and would be a disaster for the climate. It is projected to release millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases throughout its lifetime, taking a large bite of the global carbon budget, which is already rapidly running out.

If Santos moves forward with this project, it could put globally significant biodiversity at risk and accelerate dangerous climate change.

Would you like to learn more about the Barossa project? Please contact the Environment Centre NT or Jubilee Australia Research Centre.

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THE BAROSSA PROJECT COULD HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACTS

It would emit large quantities of greenhouse gases every year, accelerating climate change

There is a risk of noise pollution for Tiwi People as helicopters and vessels will pass by the Tiwi Islands

Two Australian fisheries could lose access to important fishing grounds

Vessels could collide and cause diesel spillage impacting marine life

The gas would be transported to Darwin via a 260 km long pipeline, which could harm marine life

The construction of the gas pipeline could destroy the feeding habitat for Olive Ridley turtles

It could also create light and noise pollution that could distract turtle hatchlings

Seismic testing could pose a threat to underwater life

Would you like to learn more about the Barossa project?

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What is seismic testing?

Offshore oil and gas exploration uses seismic testing to help map offshore oil and gas reserves. The testing is done with high-powered airguns that blast the seafloor. The process generates one of the loudest human sounds in the ocean, which could injure and kill marine life.