
Senate Environment and Communications References Committee Inquiry: Middle Arm Industrial Precinct

Climate and Health Alliance Submission

November 2023

Introduction

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) welcomes the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee (the Committee) Inquiry into the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct (MAIP). We welcome the emphasis on the “*climate, environmental, health or cultural heritage impacts*” as a central focus of the Inquiry’s Terms of Reference.

As the peak body on climate change and health in Australia, CAHA is acutely aware of the ways in which the climate crisis is intrinsically linked to negative health outcomes. Climate change [directly impacts human health](#), and increases both demand for health services and the stress on the people and institutions providing those services. As such, it is crucial that

all development proposals adopt a precautionary, '[health in all policies](#)' approach, to fully assess health and climate impacts.

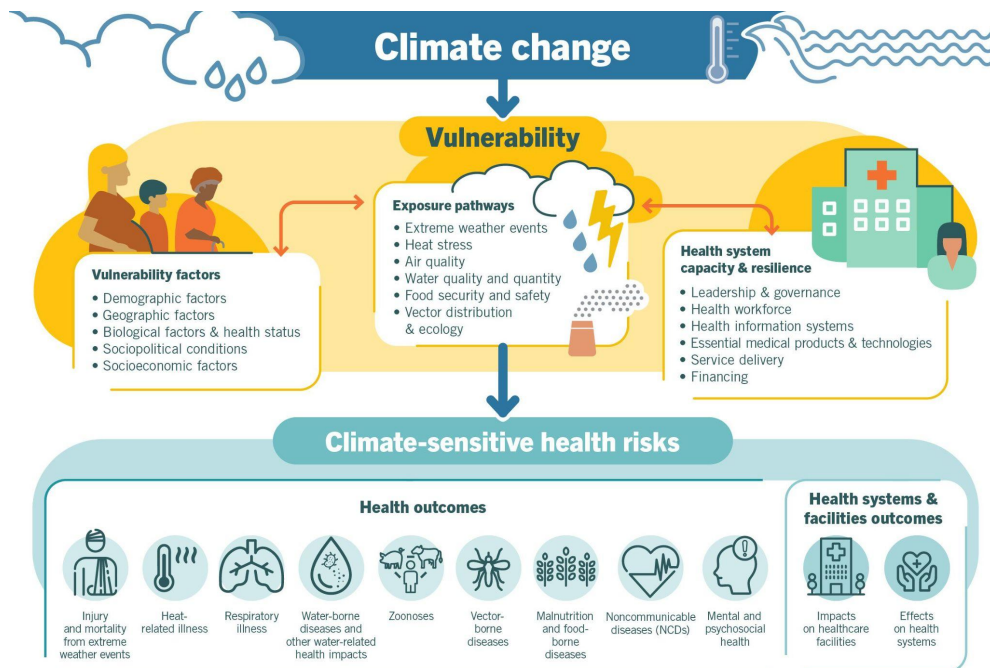


Figure 1: [World Health Organisation. An overview of climate-sensitive health risks, their exposure pathways and vulnerability factors.](#)

The Middle Arm of Darwin Harbour is located three kilometres from Palmerston and seven kilometres from Darwin in the Northern Territory (NT). This region is home to a diverse ecosystem of native mammals, birds and mangroves, in addition to the cultural and historical links of the [177,149 people living there](#).

The MAIP proposal will have devastating direct and indirect impacts on all life that coexists in the Darwin region. By moving forward with the MAIP, the Commonwealth and NT Government's are subjecting people to the [negative health outcomes](#) undeniably linked to invasive fracking and fossil fuel developments. Evidence clearly shows that oil and gas developments are detrimental to human health and wellbeing. They put local communities at [increased risk of vulnerability](#) and put strain on already overburdened health systems. The MAIP alone is predicted to increase the risk of some cancers four-fold in Darwin and increase the particulate matter in the air by 513%. Children living near these sites are also twice as likely to suffer from asthma than other children. Disruptions to Garramilla Country occupied by the MAIP will have ongoing and significant impacts on individual and [cultural wellbeing](#).

Additionally, the climate damage inevitably caused by the MAIP poses a serious threat to the health of all people living in Australia. The proposed development will not only dwarf those already in existence, but will also produce pollutants from refining gas. Throughout the development of the MAIP proposal, there has been misleading rhetoric about the true use and impact of the development. However, documents released via [Freedom of Information](#) demonstrate the majority of the MAIP is planned for gas-related industries, including LNG processing, gas to liquids cluster, blue hydrogen, ammonia, urea, methanol and ethane. It would also increase the pollution and environmental destruction caused by shipping vessels, all within proximity to Darwin and Palmerston and all with minimal community consultation.

The NT Government has claimed the MAIP would not be a petrochemical plant, [removing the term](#) from the development's website. Meanwhile, the Commonwealth Government website still displays 'petrochemicals' as one of the [functions of the development](#). Although the proponents of the MAIP continue to state that this is a '*sustainable future project that is based on renewable energy*', the proposed industries will rely mainly on fossil fuels to power them. Additionally, the Australian Labor Party Platform places renewable energy at the centre of their '[Powering Australia](#)' plan, yet the [emphasis of the Precinct is gas](#).

While the Albanese Government has updated Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement to emissions by 43% by 2030, critical emissions sources of the MAIP remain uncalculated and a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment has not been conducted.

In order to fulfil its pledge to reach net zero emissions by 2050, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have stated there must be an [immediate halt](#) to all new fossil fuel infrastructure. Allowing the MAIP to go ahead would not only go against the advice from the IPCC, but would also set Australia back in its commitment as a signatory to the Paris Agreement to keep global warming below 2°C.

We know the devastating effects of fossil fuel developments on the environment and health of local communities. The residents of the NT deserve to have their health and wellbeing made a priority. CAHA joins our members and allies in recommending:

- Commonwealth, State and Territory governments protect the health of current and future generations and cease expansion of the fossil fuel industry.
- The MAIP's Environmental Impact Statement should not be released for public exhibition until a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment is undertaken. This must include completion of:
 - Health Impact Assessment for all nominated industries;
 - Robust methodology approved by a panel of independent public health experts;
 - Assessment of the contribution to climate change through scope 1-3 emissions generation;
 - Assessment of the risks of extreme weather affecting the MAIP; and,
 - Direct consultation with nearby communities to be affected by the development, including First Nations communities.

CAHA wishes to thank experts from the Public Health Association of Australia, Doctors for the Environment, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, University of Sydney, Climate Action Network of Australia and key experts and CAHA members for their contributions to the development of this submission.

CAHA is pleased to contribute a submission to this Inquiry, and looks forward to working with the Committee as it reviews the health and climate impacts of the MAIP proposal.

About the Climate and Health Alliance

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) is a national charity and the peak body on climate change and health in Australia. CAHA is an alliance of organisations within the health sector working together to raise awareness about the health risks of climate change and the health benefits of emissions reductions. The membership of CAHA includes a broad cross-section of health sector stakeholders with over 100 member organisations (Appendix 1), representing healthcare professionals from a range of disciplines, as well as healthcare service providers, institutions, academics, researchers, and consumers.

Acknowledgement

The Climate and Health Alliance recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, and acknowledge that sovereignty of the land we call Australia has never been ceded. We commit to listening to and learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about how we can better reflect Indigenous ways of being and knowing in our work.

Terms of reference

Based on expertise and areas of focus, the Climate and Health Alliance submission will focus on providing evidence to the Committee on three Terms of Reference:

- (c) Any climate, environmental, health or cultural heritage impacts as a result of developing the harbour and the industries seeking to establish themselves at Middle Arm;
- (d) The conduct, process and implications of the proposed strategic environmental assessment for Middle Arm; and,
- (f) Any other related matters.

(c) Any climate, environmental, health or cultural heritage impacts as a result of developing the harbour and the industries seeking to establish themselves at Middle Arm.

Contributions to climate change from the MAIP and associated developments

Despite claims from supporters of the MAIP that the development will be [sustainable](#), it is clear by looking at the business case that the environmental impact of the Precinct has not been considered in a significant way. The MAIP has been identified as a key part of the strategy to build a '[world class hub for gas production](#)' and to grow the gas industry and thus [grow emissions](#).

Gas facilities are not a transitory solution. Methane gas is a fossil fuel, which significantly contributes to climate change when burned for energy. Burning gas produces methane, which is [approximately 84 times more potent](#) than carbon dioxide measured over a 20-year period. According to the IPCC, for the world to reach net zero by 2050 [no new fossil fuel infrastructure can be developed](#). The only way to protect the people living in Australia from the health consequences of surpassing 2°C warming is to prevent all new fossil fuel developments. Modelling based on similar facilities shows that MAIP may release 15.52 megatons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year when completed leading to an increase in [the NT's emissions by up to 75%](#). This project may become the [single largest contributor](#) to greenhouse gases in the NT. This projection is based on an estimate, as there has been a severe lack of detail provided regarding industries that would be established at the MAIP. It is entirely possible that the full extent of the emissions could be far more extreme.

The project would be relying on [one of the largest](#) carbon capture and storage (CCS) facilities in the world to account for the emissions output. An operation of such scale working effectively [is still unproven](#) and has a [very limited ability](#) to contribute to net emission reduction. CCS facilities also remain a [significantly more expensive option](#) than other renewable energy developments, such as wind, solar and battery energy. Taking into consideration the use of CCS and modelling from similar facilities, it seems likely MAIP will become the [single largest contributor](#) to greenhouse gases in the NT.

This is not an investment into a sustainable future. This is a \$1.9 billion fossil fuel subsidy to private industry, and with no cost-benefit analysis or Climate and Health Impact Assessment. The actions of this industry and the expansion of the gas production will result in most of the NT, including Darwin, to be [rendered unliveable](#) during the lifetimes of our young people.

Climate change and health impacts in Darwin

Climate impact	Impact on Darwin	Health impact
Heat	Under a high emissions pathway, Darwin is projected to see 176 days over 35°C per year by mid-century (2036-2065). The number of days over 40°C will increase considerably also .	Heat related illnesses have killed more Australians than all natural disasters have combined . Heat related illnesses particularly harm and kill the very young, older people, people with chronic illness (in Darwin one in five residents reported to have one or more chronic conditions), people who are socially isolated and outdoor/manual workers. Heat has also been found to increase mental health presentations in emergency departments and increase distress. As well as increase the incidence of domestic violence .
Rainfall	Rainfall projections for the NT signal that the variability of rainfall (drier or wetter on average) will fluctuate more dramatically over the next eight decades .	Such fluctuation would result in unstable food production (more food insecurity), flooding (displacement, decreased mental health and injury) and an increase in vector borne diseases , like malaria.
Sea level rise	Sea level rise across the NT coastline has been higher on average than the rest of Australia. This will mean that storm surges and other sea-level events will be greatly exacerbated.	Increased injuries and displacement, destruction of homes, infrastructure including hospitals, schools and the MAIP. Decreased mental health due to the destruction of the natural environment (beaches and mangroves) and human displacement. Particularly felt by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People .
Tropical Cyclones	<p>Cyclones: Potentially fewer cyclones, however, more intense cyclones.</p> <p>Rainfall: Rainfall from tropical cyclones is also projected to increase, resulting in increased risk of flooding.</p> <p>Storm Surge: With rising sea level Darwin and surrounding areas face a high risk of more severe flooding. Such risk was indicated as 'high' by a TNG risk assessment of the Darwin Mineral Processing facility proposed for MAIP. Storm surge and climate induced seas level rise are determined as the main drivers.</p> <p>Wind: Cyclonic winds may damage industrial facilities, leading to leaks, spills and chemical fire. NT Fire and Rescue Service indicated they don't have the capability or capacity to respond to a hazardous materials incident. First responders managing response to a cyclone and an industrial accident is unlikely.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar issues with flooding as above • Displacement • Destruction of facilities which impacts ability to provide health care • Destruction of transport options and power grids, impact transport of patients, ability to provide emergency support, and ability to access food and essential supplies • Mental health decreased due to displacement, feelings of hopelessness and loss • Difficulty access reliable source of essential pharmaceuticals • Difficulty with reliable access to nutritious food and clean water
Mental Health	Extreme weather events can have severe impacts on individual and community mental health. Particular provocations from disasters include loss of home, livelihood, community and pets; loss of community and health services; feelings of helplessness; worry for personal safety and safety of family; separation from loved ones and physical injury.	<p>Mental health impacts reported by those who have experienced an extreme weather disaster. Climate stress is being felt most acutely by young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people are more likely to experience higher levels of mental health stress after a disaster event than an adult. • Young people are very aware that they will bear the burden of climate change and feel pessimistic about government action. • Children and young people feel sad, afraid, angry, powerless, helpless, guilty, ashamed, despair, hurt, grief, and

		<p>depressed about climate change. These emotions long-term can lead to decreased mental health.</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health and wellbeing is closely connected to the health and wellbeing of the environment, the community, and important cultural traditions and places. • Climate change may result in the disruption, displacement and destruction of these key elements to good health and wellbeing.
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Impact on environmental health from the MAIP

- **Water Ecosystem:** There are several ways in which water quality could be impacted by this industrial site. High winds and flooding can [damage storage equipment](#) leading to leaks, spills, and in extreme situations, explosions and chemical fires. [Other contamination points include](#) wastewater, which has been found to carry carcinogens, polluting areas close to facilities).

[Petrochemical wastewater](#), if it has been involved in the creation of plastics, is often released into the environment despite containing microplastics, blocking digestive tracts of small animals and causing inflammatory responses. Subsequent impacts of microplastics within marine life could negatively affect the [structure and functions of the ecosystem](#). The health impacts on humans consuming or inhaling microplastics is still not fully understood. But, science does show that microplastics should be small enough to [penetrate organs, the blood-brain barrier, and the placenta](#).

Wastewater from petrochemical facilities also contaminate mangrove ecosystems, which have been found to accumulate [higher levels of heavy metals](#) when located near petrochemical industrial sites. This not only [damages the plant](#), but also could put the animals which eat and live within the mangroves at [higher risk of consuming increased levels of heavy metals](#), such as lead.

- **Air Pollution:** Development of the site alone would significantly increase the [large particulate matter pollution](#) for residents of Darwin and Palmerston. But the long-term production at MAIP would result in the increase of [known carcinogenic or toxic air pollutants](#) including formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, polycyclic aromatic compounds, nitrous dioxide, benzene and volatile organic compounds. Inhalation of airborne particulate matter (microscopic solids or liquid droplets) is [expected to increase 513% in Darwin](#) if MAIP is developed. Breathing in particulate matter over their lifetime will shorten the life expectancy of Darwin and Palmerston residents.
- **Biodiversity on Darwin Harbour:** The fulfilment of a [broad range of human rights](#) depends on thriving biodiversity as well as healthy habitats and ecosystems. These rights include the rights to [food, clean air and water, health, culture, and even the right to life](#). All humans have the right to live in a [clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#). Yet, Australia has suffered the [largest decline in biodiversity](#) of any continent, including the highest rate of extinctions in the modern world.

The Draft program for MAIP outlines that under a “full development scenario”, the biodiversity of the area will be [significantly impacted](#) and indicates the need for offset planning. However, [biodiversity offsets are controversial](#) and questions remain whether it is possible, or whether it may increase the speed of biodiversity decline.

The NT's biodiversity offsets model links compensation to biodiversity targets that may or may not be equivalent to the biodiversity lost. The paucity of relevant biodiversity data in the Territory makes it near impossible to assess the extent to which a compensation adequately addresses the biodiversity lost.

Impact on health outcomes from the MAIP

- **Pregnancy:** Residential exposure (those living less than 5 kilometres from a site) to petrochemical facility air pollutants increases the risk of premature rupturing of membranes. Premature rupturing can lead to [maternal complications and perinatal morbidity and mortality](#), including placental abruption, foetal distress, and neonatal sepsis and long-term complications including chronic lung diseases, visual or hearing difficulties, and neurodevelopmental disorders. Living near industrial air pollution, particularly that of petrochemical facilities, are an [important risk factor for adverse birth outcomes](#) including low birthweight and preterm birth. This is particularly concerning given low birth weight in NT is already higher than the national average. Also, First Nations mothers in the NT are more than [twice as likely to have a baby with low birthweight](#).
- **Social violence:** The Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls completed in Canada in 2019 recorded the [unsafe circumstances for women and children created](#) through reliance on fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workers and their interaction with local First Nations communities. The size of the MAIP site would indicate that FIFO workers are required, not only at this site, but also at the shale fracking feeder sites of Barossa and Beetaloo. The Canadian Report found that there was an [increased rate of violence](#) against First Nations women and children as the result of the migration of young men with high salaries and little to no stake in the local community. This a devastating finding and likely one not being considered by the developers of MAIP.
- **Respiratory:** Studies from around the world show that residential proximity to petrochemical facilities does [increase incidences of respiratory conditions](#) such as cough, wheezing, and bronchitis. The extent of these symptoms become greater with longer exposure. Similarly, children living within 10 kilometres of petrochemical complexes and being exposed to its pollutants are almost [twice as likely to have asthma, and more than twice as likely to have allergic rhinitis and bronchitis](#) than children who live further than 10km from a petrochemical facility.
- **Child Health:** [Increased asthma exacerbations and severity](#) are seen in children in the USA living near gas processing and petrochemical facilities due to air pollution, particularly nitrogen oxides, ozone, and fine particulate matter PM2.5. Darwin already suffers from some of the worst air quality in Australia due to bushfire smoke. Children have higher respiratory rates and breathe in relatively more pollution than older age groups, putting them at higher risk of complications from air pollution. Children are at higher risk of cancer due to their physiology and longer exposure times. A systematic review and meta-analysis of residents living within 8 kilometres of petrochemical facilities showed a [36% increased risk of leukaemia](#) (acute myeloid leukaemia, chronic lymphoblastic leukaemia). Another meta-analysis looking at multiple studies totalling 187,000 people showed a [30-58% increased risk of leukaemia](#) for residents living within five kilometres of petrochemical facilities. Concerningly, the increased risk of leukaemia remained consistent despite better regulations, technology, and environmental controls indicating that the increased cancer risk has not been ameliorated with regulations or improved technology.

Observations of [decreased working memory function](#) have also been made in children residing near petrochemical facilities. Children in the NT already have the highest rates of learning difficulties in Australia, with children in the [NT two to three times more likely](#) to “require additional support” in NAPLAN testing for school years three to nine.

- **Cardiovascular:** Proximity to petrochemical facilities also [increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases](#), such as hyperlipidaemia and hypertension. Research shows again this is due to air pollution, specifically the heavy metals (mercury, arsenic, chromium) released by these facilities. Short and long-term air pollution exposure (inhalation of particulate matter) has been shown to [increase hospitalisations for serious cardiovascular events](#) such as coronary syndrome, arrhythmia, heart failure, stroke, and sudden cardiac death, particularly in people with established heart disease.
- **Cancer:** The link between residential proximity to petrochemical facilities and cancer development is well documented. [The risk of cancer significantly increases](#), particularly when people have longer term exposure to petrochemical pollutants. [Linked cancers include](#) brain, bladder, liver, bone, larynx, pancreas and lung, as well as lymphoma, mesothelioma, and leukaemia. It has been estimated that [the cancer risk in Darwin could increase four-fold](#) if MAIP was to be developed.
- **Equity:** The presence of a major pollutant close to environments where people reside will negatively impact the health of all who live there. The impacts, however, will be felt inequitably, with people experiencing vulnerability including people and households with low-income, people with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and children being [more likely to experience these impacts](#). This should be of particular concern, given that many people in these population groups already experience an avoidable and greater burden of disease [compared with the rest of the population](#). Ill health and wellbeing can [impact a person's ability](#) to work and earn income, be attentive at school, partake in community, isolate people from their peers, and place people in economic hardship. The highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right of every human being.
- **Mental Health:** Noting the mental health impacts from climate disasters mentioned above, living near (within 10 kilometres) and working in petrochemical facilities may also increase likelihood of [depression and lower neuropsychological function](#). Some of the pollutants (particulate matter and nitrous dioxide) are linked to [oxidative stress and inflammatory processes](#) in the brain, causing [decreased ability to concentrate, and increased forgetfulness, anxiety, and depression](#).
- **Incidents:** [Industrial accidents are not uncommon](#) and need to be accounted for in any risk assessment. NT Fire and Rescue Services have already raised concerns about capacity to respond to an emergency at MAIP. They note that the Service [does not have the proper equipment](#) to manage a hazardous incident, and an accident would divert already stretched resources away from serving the community.
- **Local health system capacity:** The health system in Darwin and the NT is already strained and cannot cope with an increased burden of disease due to the proposed gas processing and petrochemical facilities at MAIP. There is no paediatric oncology service in Darwin or Alice Springs, so any increased cases of cancer have to be evacuated interstate at great cost to the family and to the taxpayer. There is no paediatric intensive care unit in Darwin or Alice Springs, making any increased severity of asthma exacerbations in children with severe asthma a major risk and

cost to the health system. Children who cannot be managed safely in adult intensive care units are evacuated interstate. There have been at least [seven “code yellows” at Royal Darwin Hospital](#) and [Palmerston Hospitals](#) this year alone due to high patient demand and stress on the hospital system. This indicates a health system that is not coping with current demand. Putting aside the ethics of exposing populations to harmful toxins, the health system cannot cope with the current burden of disease, let alone an increase due to the pollution predicted to be emitted from MAIP.

Impact on cultural heritage from the MAIP

Despite deep, historical ties to the land and waters at MAIP, the Commonwealth funding commitment to the MAIP was made without consultation with Larrakia families. This site is important to preserving cultural heritage as the Peninsula is home to the only First Nations rock art to have survived colonisation.

(d) The conduct, process and implications of the proposed strategic environmental assessment for Middle Arm

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Currently, there is a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) being conducted for the MAIP, with the NT Government as the proponent. The SEA is being conducted jointly by the NT Environmental Protection Authority and the Commonwealth under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

This process so far has several points of concern that are yet to be adequately addressed:

- This type of assessment would allow any proposed industry to receive a licence within 60 days of application. This is not enough time for proper community consultation, particularly given that detailed project plans are unavailable to the public.
- Given that MAIP is being labelled as [essential to expanding the gas industry](#) and its reliance on new gas fields like Barossa and Beetaloo, as well as the existing Darwin LNG plant, the proposal should be understood as a new fossil fuel project, which carries with it significant climate impacts deserving of a [full Climate Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment](#).
- The current SEA area identified excludes all existing operations at MAIP and the other proposed infrastructure at MAIP (Beetaloo Product Corridor and Channel Island Power Station Upgrades). The assessment area also excludes the feedstock developments of Beetaloo and Barossa. Without considering the entire picture of what MAIP is in the assessment, the true impact of the site cannot be properly determined.

Health Impact Assessment

Due to the SEA format, Health Impact Assessments for the proposed industries only need to be conducted at the discretion of the NT Chief Health Officer, which can then be dismissed by the NT Chief Minister.

Considering the Commonwealth Government is pledging over \$1.5 billion towards this project and the size of this project, a full Health Impact Assessment of the proposed industries at MAIP *must* be conducted in accordance with the [Health Impact Assessment Guidelines](#).

The MAIP's Environmental Impact Statement should not be approved for public exhibition until a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment is undertaken. This must include completion of:

- A health impact assessment for all nominated industries;
- Robust methodology approved by a panel of independent public health experts;
- Assessment of the contribution to climate change through emissions generation;
- Assessment of the risks of extreme weather affecting the MAIP; and,
- Direct consultation with nearby communities to be affected by the development, including First Nations communities.

Broader Environmental Assessment Concerns

Chronic weaknesses in the Environmental Impact Assessment process highlight the ongoing and growing demands for a standardised framework that ensures any projects that depend on fossil fuels or are fossil fuel projects, have their full life cycle (including decommissioning and stranded asset) health, climate, environmental and cultural impacts assessed.

The EPBC Act is Australia's national legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places.

However, [it is failing](#) because it focuses on individual issues rather than the bigger picture, is underpowered compared to other legislation, and developments often are not required to comply. The EPBC Act does not explicitly consider the broader environmental harm linked to the release of greenhouse gas emissions, nor does it require decision-makers to consider the cumulative impacts of many different projects being approved over time. After the EPBC Act review in 2020, the Government proposed reforms to address flaws in the Act, however, these reforms [still do not capture](#) the full lifetime emissions created by new projects. Meaning for instance, the emissions of exported fossil fuels and their contributions to climate change are unaccounted for during assessment of major projects. In September 2023, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights specifically cited MAIP and its affiliated fracking developments (Barossa and Beetaloo basins) as “threaten[ing] to make Darwin and the region a climate change sacrifice zone”. The Rapporteur goes on to highlight the various serious health concerns that the MAIP facility's toxic pollutants will cause, with emphasis made about the development's proximity to residential areas.

The report concludes with [a call for a review of the EPBC](#), identifying that it is reactive rather than proactive and how it is “beneath international best practices”, as well as urging the Government to “make the right to live in a toxic-free environment a reality for all”.

Australia is the world's [third largest exporter of fossil fuels](#). Counting domestic emissions only, [Australia is the world's 14th largest emitter](#) and with exported fuels added, Australia becomes the world's fifth-largest emitter, producing levels of greenhouse gases [comparable to Russia](#).

We need a national environment law that [genuinely protects our environment by](#) stopping high polluting projects and enabling those which can help us rapidly switch to a clean economy.

(f) Any other related matters

Paris Climate Agreement

Australia has substantial international commitments to meet ahead of this years COP28 and its bid to host COP31.

Signed in 2016, Australia agreed to [substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions](#) to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2°C, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase even further to 1.5°C. In June 2022, the newly elected Albanese Government committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 43% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Historically in Australia, there has been limited action to meet our international obligation to [the Paris Agreement](#), with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) falling far short of global targets. A recent paper from [the Global Climate and Health Alliance](#), evaluating the 'healthiness' of 58 countries' NDCs, rated Australia 0 out of 18 for a failure to mention health in any way.

The scope 3 emissions from MAIP and its affiliated sites have not yet been quantified, noting that currently 68% of all gas produced in Australia is exported, [so it is not unlikely](#) that the majority of gas products from these sites will also be exported. Also, the MAIP project [relies heavily on the unproven method of CCS](#) to reduce emissions caused by these various fossil gas developments. Combined, the Beetaloo, Barossa and Middle Arm gas projects jeopardise Australia's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement as well as further jeopardise Australia's standing in the world (and region) as a major contributor to emissions.

COP31 Bid

Australia has placed a bid to host the COP31 with neighbouring island Nations. Yet, the Government's climate target of a 43% reduction in emissions by 2030 is not consistent with 1.5°C or 2°C of global warming, and its support for fossil fuel expansion is [just as enthusiastic as its predecessor](#). To host the COP in light of this would be an attempt to greenwash the climate reputation of Australia. [A point already noted by Australia's pacific neighbours](#) who press that 'Australia can only be a credible partner if it truly demonstrates that it is supporting the priorities of the Pacific on climate change'.

For more information, please contact:

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Appendix: Climate and Health Alliance Members

CAHA membership as of June 2023.

