

*Email from Lesley Walker to Ged Kearney's Administrative Assistant Jason*

*Hi Jason,*

*Thanks for your response to my concerns on Middle Arm and the failure to support an inquiry.*

*However, I dispute the claim others have made to reassure Ged that, "Not one dollar of Commonwealth government expenditure in this project will go towards fossil fuels. (And) that our investment is not an investment in fracking. Rather, funding by the federal government will support industries critical to meet our commitments to Net Zero such as green hydrogen, and the manufacturing and exporting of lithium batteries."*

*I am reminded of the rail line which the Adani Company wanted to build to transport its coal to the port. They tried to get \$1 billion of concessional loans from Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF). However, while the loan was supported by some LNP ministers, particularly Karen Andrews, it was, correctly in my opinion, not finally supported because the Queensland Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, sent a letter to then Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, requesting a veto on the loan. Obviously the loan to the railway was not actually "expenditure . . towards fossil fuels". But it was obvious to everyone that it was entirely supportive of fossil fuels.*

*I think the Adani train line story is relevant to the Middle Arm precinct because the **anchor tenant for Middle Arm is Tamboran, a licensee holder for fracking for gas in the Beetaloo Basin**. It seems clear the precinct is a present for Tamboran. Zali Steggall thinks the same.*

*The Guardian newspaper agrees, which is explained in this article from the NTIndependent: 'The Albanese Government **has promised \$1.5 billion in planned equity towards common-user infrastructure at Middle Arm**, and the Guardian Australia said the document described Middle Arm as vital to "be able to expand gas production in the Beetaloo Basin and to the viability of upcoming offshore carbon capture and storage such as that of the Barossa offshore gas field and pipeline". It stated that Federal Infrastructure Minister Catherine King had said previously that the money for Middle Arm was "not a subsidy for fossil fuels" but rather "an important way of setting up our economy for a sustainable future".*

*Refer back to Adani. The money spent on Middle Arm is clearly to make life easier for a fossil fuel company, in this instance, Tamboran.*

*I am sorry to write such a long email. I know you and Ged are busy. But this is a lot of money which could be better spent to fund a safe future and not allow more gas exports. I remain horrified that the Labor Party is giving vast sums of (our) money to aid fossil fuel barons. And not even being honest about it.*

*Yours sincerely  
Lesley Walker*