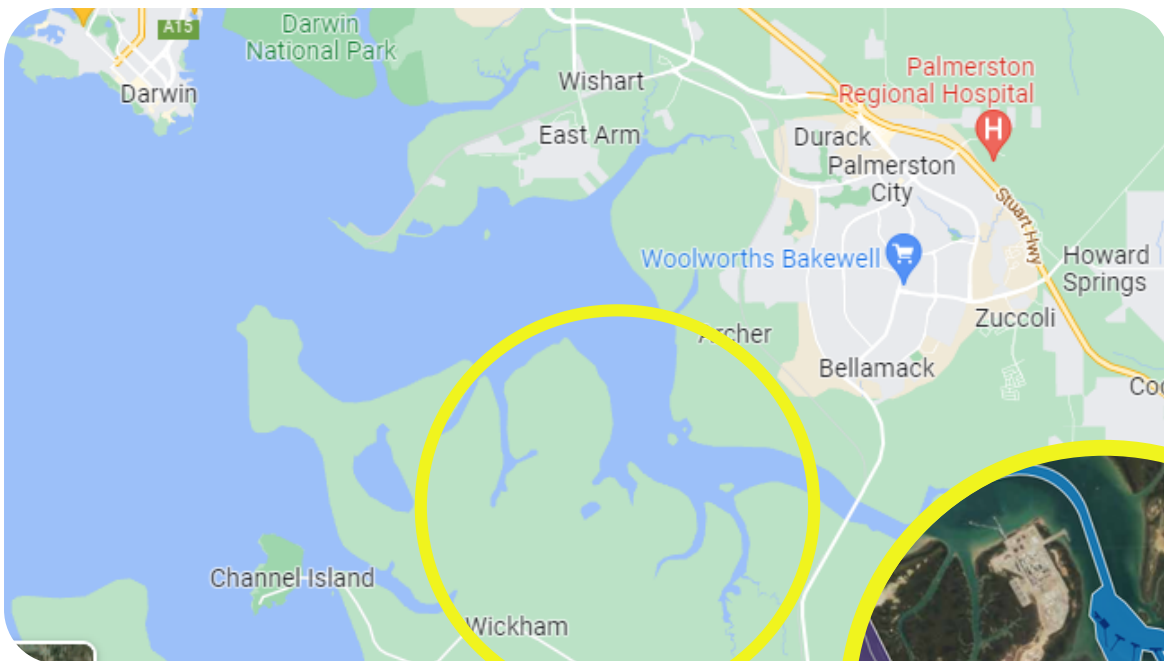
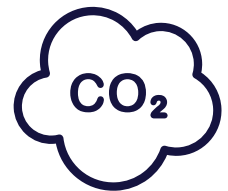
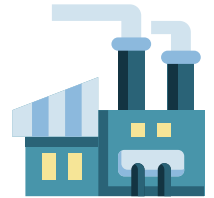


What is being planned for Middle Arm?

Overview

The Northern Territory Government are proposing a 'Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct' (MASDP) in the centre of Darwin Harbour. But far from being sustainable, this precinct is planned to be a gas-fed petrochemical hub that poses serious human health and environmental risks. The industries the Government has slated for development at the MASDP include petrochemicals, gas processing, critical minerals processing, and carbon capture and storage (CCS). The MASDP proposal is currently being assessed by the NT Environment Protection Authority, with a full Environmental Impact Statement expected in 2023.



Health impacts

Where comparable petrochemical precincts have been built around the world, such as Louisiana, they have been dubbed cancer alley. Modelling has shown that the MASDP could increase industrial fine particulate emissions by 513% in Darwin and Palmerston, resulting in \$75 million of additional health impacts, equivalent to 15 additional premature deaths per year. It could increase industrial cancer hazard in Darwin and Palmerston four-fold and see a 800% increase in carbon monoxide releases in the Greater Darwin Region, as well as massive increases in releases of other harmful chemicals that have been linked to heart disease, respiratory conditions, and stroke. (1)



Cancer risk increase
by 400%

Climate Impacts

The MASDP is a fossil fuel project. The Petroni report estimates that the industrial hub itself could increase the NT's emissions by 75%. But even worse than this, it would underwrite demand for some of the most polluting fossil fuel projects in Australia: fracking in the Beetaloo Basin and the offshore Barossa gas field. Because gas is required as a feedstock for petrochemical development, these onshore and offshore fields would be exploited and the gas sent via pipelines to Middle Arm. The Beetaloo Basin alone could increase Australia's total emissions by 20%, at a time when we need to be moving to net zero.



NT Emissions
increase by 75%

Public Funding

Both the Federal and the Territory governments have committed large amounts of public money for this project. Of the money that has already been spent, it has gone directly into the pockets of fossil fuel corporations like Santos and INPEX. Santos have received \$100million in the previous Federal Budget for CCS at the site.

The previous Federal government announced \$1.5billion for the precinct in April, and the current Resources Minister Madeleine King has supported this funding. But the details surrounding this funding remain unknown.



\$1.5 billion of public
funds

1) Petroni, Dr Michael. *Expert Opinions Related to Potential Environmental and Human Health Impacts of the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct*. Accessible at <lovedarwinharbour.org>