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“Pull the trigger”: Efforts ramp up to end fracking in the Beetaloo Basin

The Federal Member for Mackellar, Dr Sophie Scamps, has welcomed legal action challenging the future of the Beetaloo Basin project in the Northern Territory and is urging the Federal Environment Minister, Tanya Plibersek, to “pull the trigger” and stop the proposal altogether.

Grassroots movement Lock the Gate has commenced proceedings in the Federal Court against Tamboran Resources for failing to refer the Beetaloo project to the Federal Environment Minister for assessment.

This legal challenge is only possible after Dr Scamps successfully helped steer new water protection laws through Parliament.

“This court action is a welcome and important development which only happened after I introduced my Private Members Bill to strengthen environment legislation and protect our precious water resources from toxic fracking,” Dr Scamps said.

“I commended Minister Plibersek for making that change to the water trigger and was hopeful it would stop projects such as the Beetaloo Basin fracking projects.

“Unfortunately, it turns out that this was the Government’s only contribution to fixing our broken environment laws during this term of government.”

Tamboran’s gas fracking projects in the Beetaloo Basin risk destroying the immense artesian water resource that feeds the region’s river system. Traditional Owners told Dr Scamps the aquifer is essential to keep the Roper River flowing year-round to support local communities.

“So while I applaud Lock the Gate for taking this bold and necessary action, really, the Federal Environment Minister should just pull the trigger that I worked so hard to make a reality,” Dr Scamps said.

“The Beetaloo Project should just be called in and assessed. It’s ridiculous that it’s been allowed to get to this stage of proceedings.”

Dr Sophie Scamps’ Media Advisor: Nick Pedley