

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS

### REVIEW OF THE FOUR MAJOR BANKS

Westpac

**WBC65QON:**

**Mr BANDT:** ...I know you are very proud of your bank's climate policy and consider it to be very stringent. You have come up with policies around thermal coal and your prospective unwillingness to be involved in financing that. Do you have similar policies with respect to the expansion of gas?

**Mr King:** Our focus is transition and working to transition the economy. We see gas as playing a role. I don't think we have gone as far as your question in terms of our gas policy, but we do see it as a transition solution.

**Mr BANDT:** There are two ways to think about gas: existing gas and the way existing gas-fired power stations, for example, may be used in connection with renewables; and the expansion of gas in Australia, including the expansion of potential gas fields that may or may not be used for domestic power generation. Do you have policies about the financing of the expansion of new gas fields in Australia?

**Mr King:** I think I will take that one on notice because it is quite a nuanced question.

**Answer:** Our lending has been in line with our policy. Our approach to lending in the electricity generation sector is set out in our Climate Change Position Statement and 2023 Action Plan:

<https://www.westpac.com.au/content/dam/public/wbc/documents/pdf/aw/sustainability/WBC-climate-change-position-statement-2023.pdf> page 7.

Our approach to lending to the gas mining sector is set out in our Climate Change Position Statement and 2023 Action Plan:

<https://www.westpac.com.au/content/dam/public/wbc/documents/pdf/aw/sustainability/WBC-climate-change-position-statement-2023.pdf> page 6

We have committed to develop Paris Agreement-aligned financing strategies and portfolio targets, particularly for sectors representing the majority of our financed emissions, working in collaboration with our customers and industry experts and providing annual updates on progress.