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Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Amendment (Using New Technologies to Fight Climate Change) Bill 2023 inquiry submission.

About Surfers For Climate-

Surfers for Climate is an Australian charity dedicated to helping the surfing community turn the tide on climate change.

Inspired by the collective power of surfers, since forming, Surfers for Climate has continued to grow, with thousands of people from the surfing community across Australia coming together to take off on the party wave of climate action and become part of the solution to the climate crisis. Surfers For Climate successfully delivers high-impact climate educational experiences across Australia, and builds deep relationships with a diverse set of Australians and bipartisan political leaders at both the State and Federal levels of government.

Submission-

Surfers For Climate welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Amendment (Using New Technologies to Fight Climate Change) Bill 2023 [Provisions] inquiry.

Surfers For Climate is aware that offshore carbon capture and storage has not worked effectively in Australian waters. The technology has had billions of dollars in government grants and subsidies committed to it, including an estimated \$4bn in Australia, and it has not provided meaningful emissions cuts.

If a permit is given for CO₂ waste to be exported to poorer countries, it's unclear how these countries will acquire the capacity and knowledge to achieve successful carbon storage when wealthy fossil fuel companies operating in Australia could not.



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In a report released in September 2022, the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis examined 13 of the world's flagship carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS) projects. According to the report, more than half of them underperformed, two failed and one was mothballed.

We have concerns that the changes in CCS export will be used to facilitate the expansion of gas developments such as Santos' Barossa offshore project, which has a proposed CCS facility in the depleted Bayu-Undan gas reservoir in waters off Timor-Leste.

As you are aware from July 1, the reformed safeguard mechanism will make carbon capture and storage failures very expensive. Transferring CO₂ to developing countries is also a bonus for fossil fuel companies, not for climate action or communities. A report by the House of Representatives committee also noted that Geoscience Australia had identified potential risks, such as CO₂ leakage and seismic activity induced by the injection of CO₂ into the seabed.

It is far better and cheaper to avoid carbon emissions in the first place, rather than try to capture them after they've been released. Rather than wasting money on something that's expensive and ineffective, Australia should be investing in the things we know can cut emissions quickly and bring down power prices – like renewables backed by storage.

Scrutiny [of this bill] is going to be critical. We urge an extension and promotion of more submissions from specialists and evidence from more stakeholders.

Regards,

Belinda Baggs

Co-Founder, Surfers For Climate.