

30th August 2022

Submission to the Inquiry into the Beetaloo Basin

The Beetaloo Basin is being explored for new fossil fuel projects. It is concerning what the impact on the climate would be from these projects.

There has been some improvement in the emissions reductions targets being legislated by the incoming Labor government (with the support of the cross-bench).

However, we should be aware of the carbon budget that we have before we are likely to reach certain increases in the global temperature. To keep under 1.5 degrees, for example, there are very few years (maybe another decade or so) before we reach that threshold at current emissions. There is very little room for keeping things as they are, let alone adding *new* projects that would only add to emissions - and use up the global carbon budget more quickly. Rather, we should be using this period to quickly transition to new sources of energy - such as rapidly expanding renewable energy and the electrification of the economy. Expanding the use of fossil fuels is hence severely fraught.

The prospect of gas extraction in the Beetaloo Basin raises concerns for local and global environmental impacts, as well as the impact on the local community (see ABC 2022).

Thank you for considering my submission,

Benjamin Cronshaw.

Samantha Dick. 3rd August 2022. "Beetaloo Basin stakeholders in the dark over Senate Inquiry's final report examining fracking." *ABC News*.

<<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-03/nt-beetaloo-senate-inquiry-report-uncertainty/101291836>>.