



5 July 2021

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**SUBMISSION into INQUIRY on BEETALOO COOPERATIVE DRILLING PROGRAM**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of CLIMARTE, ClimActs and LIVE, thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into oil and gas exploration and production in the Beetaloo Basin, with particular reference to the Industry Research and Development (Beetaloo Cooperative Drilling Program) Instrument 2021, which provides public money for oil and gas corporations.

We regard the Federal Government's attempts to aid private corporations to profit from extracting and exploiting the Beetaloo Basin to be:

- State sponsored [ecocide](#)<sup>1</sup> that will further fuel the [global climate emergency](#)<sup>2</sup>;
- an abuse of First Nations people's rights to [protect their country](#)<sup>3</sup> from grave threats;
- an abuse of power given that Australia is a democracy and the vast majority of Australians are deeply [concerned about the climate crisis](#)<sup>4</sup> and want effective government action to address it;
- a gross misuse of public money given that the world is patently [urgently decarbonising](#)<sup>5</sup>, hence any new fossil fuel infrastructure will quickly become [stranded assets](#)<sup>6</sup>;
- a cynical attempt to exploit a global pandemic in order to fast-track highly controversial fossil fuel projects despite significant [evidence](#)<sup>7</sup> from independent experts (in energy, technology, science, health, engineering, economics) that zero emission energy alternatives combined with efficient storage and distribution systems are far safer, more secure and affordable;
- internationally shameful given that [Australia already ranks last](#)<sup>8</sup> (scoring only 10 out of 100) out of nearly 200 countries assessed for their progress on climate change; and
- a further breach of Australia's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the [international Paris Agreement](#).<sup>9</sup>

Given all of the facts, data, evidence, as well as deep community concerns, for the deadly impacts from all fossil fuel extraction and exploitation, we wonder why on Earth our Federal Government would advocate for a scheme like the Beetaloo Basin using taxpayers money? Seriously?

Yours faithfully,

Deborah Hart  
Chair  
CLIMARTE

[CLIMARTE](https://climarte.org) – [climarte.org](https://climarte.org)

[ClimActs](https://climacts.org.au) – [climacts.org.au](https://climacts.org.au)

[LIVE](https://live.org.au) – [live.org.au](https://live.org.au)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/how-new-laws-could-help-combat-planetary-crisis> 'How new laws could help combat the planetary crisis', United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) article, 24 June 2021

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/climate-change/facts-about-climate-emergency>, 'Facts about the Climate Emergency', UNEP's Climate Action webpage

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.protectcountrynt.org.au/beetaloo\\_overview](https://www.protectcountrynt.org.au/beetaloo_overview), The Protect Country Alliance webpage

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/feb/19/australians-fear-climate-change-more-than-catching-covid-survey-shows>, Royce Kurlmelovs, 'Australians fear climate change more than catching covid survey shows', *The Guardian*, 19 February 2021

<sup>5</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>, UNFCCC's The Paris Agreement webpage

<sup>6</sup> <https://reneweconomy.com.au/iea-says-no-place-no-gas-fired-recovery-in-world-aiming-for-net-zero-by-2050/>, Tim Buckley, 'IEA's simple message for Australia: No place for gas-fired recovery in net zero by 2050', *Renew Economy*, 18 May 2021

<sup>7</sup> <https://bze.org.au/research-releases/all-research-releases/>, Beyond Zero Emissions 'Our work' webpage

<sup>8</sup> <https://reneweconomy.com.au/australia-ranked-dead-last-in-world-for-climate-action-in-latest-un-report/>, Michael Mazengarb, 'Australia ranked dead last in world for climate action in latest UN report', *Renew Economy*, 1 July 2021

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/australia-on-track-to-break-paris-carbon-emission-commitments-20210127-p56x93.html>, Nick O'Malley, 'Australia on track to break Paris carbon emission commitments', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 January 2021