

Minister for Climate Change and Energy

Senate Question No. 1352

Senator Waters asked the Minister representing the Minister for Climate Change and Energy on 12 January 2023:

Noting that the 2022 Emissions Projections Report identifies (on pages 45 and 47) several gas projects that are anticipated to make it through to development. Namely, Scarborough, Pluto LNG terminal, the Crux Field, Browse Basin, Narrabri, Beetaloo and 'other unconventional gas sources in Queensland':

1. Please name these 'other unconventional gas sources in Queensland'.
2. Please provide the expected annual scope 1 emissions of each of these projects when operational.
3. Please provide the total expected scope 1 emissions out to 2030 for each project.
4. Please name any other new project (in any industry) which is anticipated to reach the 100,000t/pa threshold and become a 'new entrant' within the Safeguard Mechanism.

Senator Wong: The Minister for Climate Change and Energy has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

1. 'Other unconventional gas sources in Queensland' refers to unspecified sources of unconventional gas assumed to come online to meet forecast domestic demand. The projections modelling does not make assumptions about which basin(s) this gas comes from but assumes it will come from Queensland.

2-3 The table below lists the gas projects referred to in the question, their estimated annual scope 1 emissions once fully operational and projected cumulative emissions to 2030 under the baseline scenario of the 2022 emissions projections.

These emissions are comprised of combustion emissions from extraction, production and where relevant liquefaction, as well as fugitive emissions (i.e. venting, flaring and other leaks). The estimates below do not include emissions from final consumption of the gas in Australia or overseas.

Project	Estimated annual emissions once fully operational (Mt CO ₂ -e)	Cumulative emissions to 2030 (Mt CO ₂ -e)
Scarborough providing gas to Pluto Train 2 LNG	1.5	6.6
Crux providing backfill to Prelude Floating LNG	3.9	15.5
Browse providing backfill to North West Shelf LNG	5.1	6.7
Narrabri	0.7	2.4
Beetaloo	1.0	2.1

Note: emissions for 'other unconventional gas sources in Queensland' have not been provided as they are modelled in aggregate.

The baseline scenario does not include the effect of the proposed Safeguard Mechanism reforms. The 2022 emissions projections 'with additional measures' scenario estimated abatement from Safeguard Mechanism reforms in aggregate, this does not include sector or facility specific abatement.

4. *Australia's emissions projections 2022* utilises a sector-by-sector approach to projecting future emissions. [The Methodology for the 2022 projections \(www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/methodology-for-the-2022-projections.pdf\)](http://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/methodology-for-the-2022-projections.pdf) outlines the methods applied.

For most sectors methods are designed to project emissions from new developments in aggregate rather than for individual new developments. The intent of the projections is to provide estimates of Australia's future greenhouse gas emissions and an understanding of the expected drivers of future emissions, rather than identify all new sources of emissions growth at the facility level. For example, for coal mines, the emissions projections estimate the amount of coal production projected to be met from new mines in aggregate, but they do not make assumptions about which potential new coal mines will proceed to production.

An exception is major new gas developments that are generally assessed on a project-by-project basis and emissions estimates have been provided as requested in questions 2 and 3 above.

The Methodology for the 2022 projections also outlines the data sources used to inform the production forecasts and emissions projections, which include government sources such as the Office of the Chief Economist and proprietary analysis. In general, new developments that are likely to proceed are identified through these sources and incorporated into the emissions projections via production forecasts. New developments include greenfield developments, expansions and backfill projects. The 2022 projections do not make a distinction between emissions from new developments that could become a 'new entrant' in the context of the Safeguard Mechanism, and new developments that expand the capacity or extend the life of an existing facility.