

Queensland Climate Transition Bill 2023

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Please consider this a submission to the

Inquiry into the Queensland Climate Transition Bill 2023

This bill, to be effective in achieving new state-wide emissions reduction targets needs to be enacted promptly. The bill needs to be passed to enable action that can impose conditions on any resource authority that is non-compliant and if need be, to cancel that authority.

At present, the blatant disregard to emission reductions by the CSG industry is continuing in the way it always has. The practice of flaring methane gas while working on compressor stations should and must be handled in a better manner than has always been the way. In this present environment, the practice of flaring of methane gas into the atmosphere is completely unacceptable.

Methane gas is some 83 times more polluting and damaging than carbon dioxide, however carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere until utilised and does not break down. As has been implemented in the USA, methane is no longer able to be flared. The CSG industry must be able to contain this gas while maintenance is carried out and not let it escape or be released. The amount of methane presently escaping through dewatering of underground coal seams is at nonacceptable levels and methane gas is now bubbling in waterways and rivers that have never had this issue.

Minister Plibersek (Federal Gov) is well aware of the situation outlined above and has provided a reply indicating that the government is accepting of the above practice as the long-term plan was on track to reduce emissions. Please see attachments relating to this issue.

The Queensland Transition Climate Bill 2023, if passed would enable the speed up of new state-wide emissions reduction targets so essential to reach the 75% reduction in emissions on the 2005 emissions levels by 2030. This bill may allow the net zero by 2035 become a reality. The establishment of the fossil fuel export reduction target is essential to phase out exports of coal, oil and gas extracted or produced from Qld by 31 Dec 2030.

The enactment of this bill will allow Queensland to lead the way in curbing carbon emissions – something that the Federal Government have been hesitant to enact promptly.

By passing this bill, the QCTA could have significant powers to amend the fossil fuel activities as mentioned above and impose the necessary conditions on resource authorities to change their old ways or have their authority cancelled.



30 March 2023

Dear Minister Plibersek,

The attached photo was captured this evening whilst driving home and is the flaring by Arrow Energy of methane gas some 14.25 km from where photo was taken. This flaring of methane occurs for lengthy periods of time and would entail the addition of many thousands of tonnes of carbon into our atmosphere.

Please explain how with our present commitment to reduction in green house gas emissions this is still allowed to occur? As you are undoubtedly aware, methane is some 83 times more polluting and damaging than carbon dioxide and yet the CSG industry is not only allowed to continue but to expand over the next 25 to 30 years. Free methane escaping now through dewatered coal seams is ever increasing and this is methane gas not carbon dioxide. Coal seams should not be dewatered as it is the water that holds this polluting methane buried underground where it should remain.

As Australian Minister for Environment and Water I would appreciate a reply as to why this activity is still allowed to occur. The voting majority would not be privy to this sight and be completely unaware of these flaring activities. They would be outraged with such irresponsible and outright polluting activities allowed to continue and going completely unchecked.

Minister, this is not an isolated incident and occurs often from multiple sites over lengthy periods.

I await your reply to this important issue.

Regards

Bev Newton

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