

Submission Text: Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this inquiry.

I have lived within sight and sound of Bass Strait for most of my life and highly value its environmental biodiversity and sheer beauty. I am writing because I am concerned that the fossil fuel industry has contributed to pollution and loss of biodiversity through lack of adherence to environmental protection standards and regulations. I believe that to be due to systemic failures within the company to ensure best practice installation, maintenance and decommissioning standards are met.

I am concerned that workers who notice things not being done right are fearful of speaking out, as that would jeopardise their current and future employment within the industry. These are good people, who love the ocean and want to work in and on it - they want to do the right thing, but are ordered to cut corners. The fossil fuel companies are huge and powerful, the workers are often contractors, without a united voice, so essentially totally beholden to their employers.

Best practice decommissioning of offshore oil and gas infrastructure must ensure careful and proper adherence to all safety and environmental regulations. It should provide good jobs for the workers, remediate the marine environment and the materials should be recycled within Australia.

Please include the following in the Victorian Government planning, regulations and legislation:

A public register of oil and gas infrastructure, who is responsible for cleaning it up and how much it is estimated to cost. This would really help with community information and engagement - the ocean belongs to us all, we are all responsible for it.

Oil and gas companies should be required to pay "clean-up bonds" to a third party account to ensure that there is sufficient money for a proper clean-up once the oil and gas supplies are exhausted. The amount should be based on how much it would cost the government (ie the tax-payers) to do the job. The clean-up could then be done by either the company themselves, the government or a reputable third party, but whichever it should adhere to best practice standards.

Support to establish a decommissioning industry in Victoria - this would provide jobs for

workers and keep our skills and raw materials within Australia.

Place a moratorium on the export of scrap steel from offshore decommissioning projects and support recycling the steel in Victoria.

Sincerely,

Anda Banikos