I write on behalf of my daughters (aged 4 and 6). I fear for this generation especially, as they will grow up watching and experiencing the decline of nature and the impacts of climate breakdown, from bushfires and extinctions to ever-rising insurance premiums and possibly social collapse. While the breakdown of our climate has already begun, it is not too late to stop the worst impacts.

Gas is not a “transition fuel”. It is a dangerous fossil fuel that is driving climate change. Gas releases methane, which is far more potent than carbon dioxide. Recent studies have found that gas is actually worse than coal due to “fugitive emissions”, which have often been ignored or significantly underestimated (<https://bit.ly/3g4bdLY>).

If we are to have any chance of limiting global warming to +2C, we must cease all fossil fuel expansion immediately (<https://bit.ly/3f47dJQ>). As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, Australia is obliged to do everything we can to keep warming well below +2C. Committing to a new and unnecessary gas project is a clear breach of our Paris commitment.

We are already seeing the devastating effects of 1.1C of global warming – from the bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef to the Black Summer Bushfires, which claimed the lives of 33 Australians and ~1 billion animals, not to mention the estimated 445 people who died from smoke inhalation (<https://ab.co/3gdVZUN>).

The recent review into Australia’s environmental protection laws found that our “natural environment and iconic places are in an overall state of decline and are under increasing threat” (<https://bit.ly/39ruR1X>). The Narrabri Gas Project is an additional threat, which could irreversibly damage ground water, wildlife, agriculture and the Pilliga Forest.

Gas is not only an environmental disaster, it will also lead to higher energy bills (<https://bit.ly/3gcGnk0>). Clearly, this goes against the interests of the Australian people, especially as we face a deep recession.

Alternatives exist. Australia is blessed with abundant sun and wind. We could invest in renewables, which analyses show would create more jobs (<https://bit.ly/3f47GM6>) and cheaper energy (<https://bit.ly/3jD44UV>) – bringing enormous benefits to households, businesses and the economy, as well as the environment.

It is clear that the Federal Government has agenda to support the fossil fuel industry (<https://bit.ly/3f4LDVE>). This agenda is in direct conflict with the government’s most basic duty: to protect the people (including those who cannot yet vote). We demand the right to a safe climate, a habitable environment, and an economy that works for all people, not just big business.