

GLENCORE'S PROPOSED CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE PROJECT

SUBMISSION TO SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES ON
ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Committee Secretary

*Senate Standing Committees on Environment and
Communications*

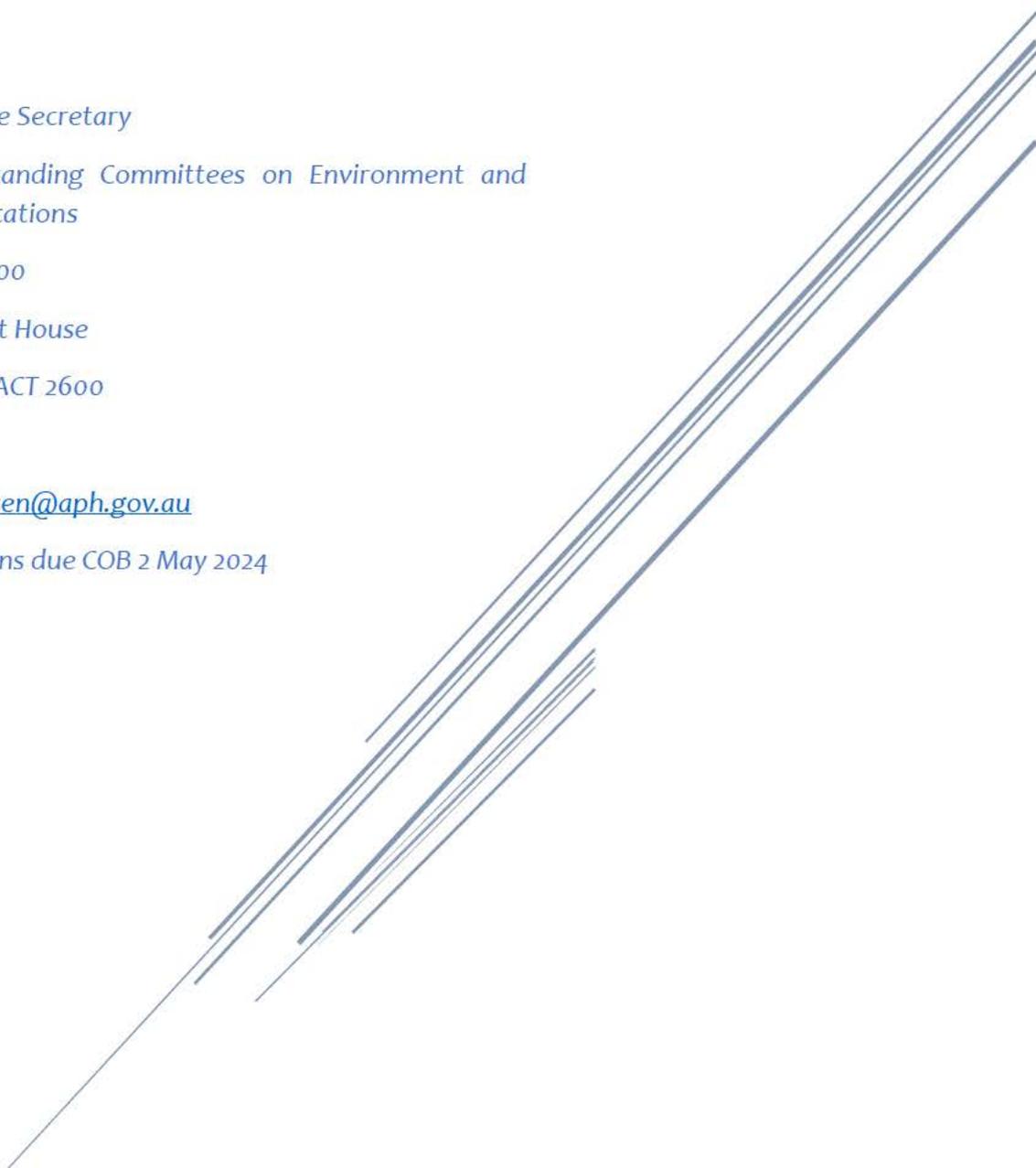
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Senate Inquiry into Glencore's Proposed Carbon Capture and Storage Project

- a) the environmental impact assessment process and the adequacy of the project's approval by federal and state regulatory bodies, including the decision not to classify the project as a controlled action under national environment law;

The initial application to the EPBC was made on the 9th of January 2022 and approved on 9th of February 2022. Given these timeframes, and the misleading title which excludes direct reference to the Great Artesian Basin, I would not be surprised if no objections were raised. Firstly, it was not widely known and secondly, with the removal of traditional newspapers as a requirement these companies are now able to "advertise" their approvals invisibly. If only advertised in, for example, Brisbane's Courier Mail, this may not have been seen by those most affected. The Great Artesian Basin covers 65% of Queensland and not all of these areas receive traditional newspapers anymore. There is no requirement either for the local councils to be notified or for them to advertise these projects to their local areas.

This approval is based on a desktop review. The significance of the location of this project, into Australia's greatest water resource, is not mentioned. Not in the project area. Not in the Study Focus Area. The Terrestrial ecological assessment report does not refer to the Great Artesian Basin, only the Surat Basin. Nor does the Matters of National Environmental Significance Report. In fact, NONE of the paperwork sent to the EPBC for Federal Government approval under the Environmental Act mentions the Great Artesian Basin. This is deliberate and raises questions about the intent by CTSCO to mislead the Federal Government and the Environmental Department.

We know now from Senate Estimates on 22 March 2023, that CTSCO (Glencore) did not provide their EIS and Technical Water report to the EPBC. When the EPBC determined that this was not a Matter of National Environmental Significance and therefore Not a Controlled Action, no technical reports were supplied or even requested by the Department of Environment.

The Great Artesian Basin is the world's largest potable water source covering 1.7 million square kilometres and estimated to carry 65,000 cubic kilometres of water. It is ignored by the EPBC in Section 2 of being worthy of national environmental significance. This is a flaw in the EPBC and in direct opposition to the intent of the Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan, as well as the Department's own statements.

The Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water states that the Great Artesian Basin "must be carefully managed by all Basin jurisdictions as well as the Commonwealth and stakeholders". This is to "ensure water security for a large part of Australia.

The Department goes on to explain that the Great Artesian Basin generates approximately \$13B per year, as a vital resource for 180,000 people. They have also identified that the

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have relied on this water source for more than 60,000 years, for their tribes to have lived in Australia's dry inland areas. Yet CTSCO want to inject carbon dioxide into this precious, valuable resource. Clearly the EPBC needs to apply more value to a water source of the size and importance as the Great Artesian Basin, and even add additional layers of protection to its own process to have prevented projects of potential destruction from proceeding this far, with now Federal approval.

Section 3 of the EPBC application when describing the project area, also fails to highlight that the Great Artesian Basin is affected in the hydrology 3.2, and in the outstanding natural features 3.4. I refer to my earlier point – did the Department know that this was about one of the world's most significant potable water supplies?

After the questions asked at Senate Estimates, it is now glaringly obvious that they did not. Or if they did, why would they approve the potential destruction of the Great Artesian Basin and the industries and communities that rely on it?

- b) the potential risks and impacts of the project on the groundwater quality within the Great Artesian Basin, especially concerning the findings related to the dification of groundwater and mobilisation of heavy metals such as lead and arsenic;

Glencore are seeking approval to inject 300,000 tonnes of hypercritical CO₂ (carbon dioxide) fluid into the precipice aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin at a trial site at Moonie, western Darling Downs. It has been claimed the Great Artesian Basin site has potential to store 1 billion tonnes of hypercritical CO₂ fluid.

Glencore have said this will lead to deterioration of environmental values of the receiving ground water. (Chapter 4, page 9 – referring to section 41 (2) c – the last paragraph on this page – “is unlikely to result in a deterioration of environmental values of the receiving groundwater outside of the GHG plume extent”. The receiving groundwater will be compromised where the GHG plume is injected.)

Glencore said in their technical assessment report that nobody should be allowed to draw water in close proximity to their injection site nor in a zone around injection site. Effectively saying the water will be useless after injecting CO₂.

Glencore cannot meet the current Environmental Authority/Regulations (s41(2)c). They are making application to the Queensland Government to **change** the environmental authority/regulations to allow them to put hypercritical fluid into any water aquifer in Queensland. This is noted in their Chapter 22 – Proposed Environmental Authority EPPG00646913 Condition Amendments and Chapter 4 – Approvals.

If they are successful in changing the Environmental Authority and Regulations, it will open avenues for anybody to take up carbon capture and storage technology and inject their industrial waste into the Great Artesian Basin.

Given the implementation of the Safeguard Mechanism, this will have huge ramifications given that 215 largest emitters in Australia can't find enough carbon offsets and will look to this technology. 30% of these industries are in Central Queensland.

Glencore are also implying that the Precipice Sandstone aquifer is confined and that this would then comply with EP Regulation s41 (3) as the GHG stream is to be released entirely into this aquifer. This aquifer is not contained and reaches the surface at several locations in Queensland, including the Carnarvon Gorge and springs associated with the Precipice Sandstone aquifer.

In the Groundwater Impact Assessment Technical Report (Appendix 9A) page 13 also states that "the Project does 'interfere' with groundwater", again confirming that the Queensland Government's Environmental Regulations cannot be met.

- c) the scientific basis and transparency of the data supporting the project's safety claims, including the robustness of fieldwork, data, and analysis presented by CTSCo and critiques by independent hydrogeologists and aqueous geochemists;

The geological reports state that the storage component of CCS in Queensland is not well established. Previous projects were abandoned due to unsuitable geology. **There has not been a comparable test carried out anywhere in the world, with CO₂ injections into potable water.** References to the Otway project and the Moonie project are not comparable. The Otway project is in a saline formation.

CTSCO's EIS submission, section 8.0 Geology, contains an abundance of technical reports. I note that page 29 8.2.7 Previous Studies highlights that this is a test site. We are proposing to test GHG injection into a permanent water supply to test "the storage component of CCS in Queensland is not well established". In fact, 8.2.7.1 notes that previous projects in Queensland were abandoned due to unsuitable geology and is why this test is proposed.

Let's read that again. Testing into the Great Artesian Basin geology to see if the storage will work. As previous studies have shown that there are problems.

"Key uncertainties related to ... lack of constraining seismic or well data in certain areas of the model ... where the suitability analysis suggests are the areas with the least risk for locating an injection site."

8.7 "Leakage of the GHG stream into the Evergreen Formation and shallower formations ... is the primary containment risk". The shallower formations. This means that the plume that has been injected 2.258km underground could potentially leak into the other 18 layers below ground level (page 43 Figure 8-16 Simplified classification of aquifers).

8.10 Proposed EA Condition amendments, specifically identifying and allowing the release of GHG stream into the groundwater of the Great Artesian Basin and is NOT subsequently required to rehabilitate if there is a problem.

CTSCO's own Groundwater Impact Assessment Technical Report (sections 9.0 and 9A in the initial EIS) clearly states that any site where CO₂ is injected into the precipice water source will in effect render it useless to anyone else in the future.

The Groundwater Impact Assessment Technical Report is extremely interesting and detailed. It includes highlighting the potential issues that may occur, such as the GHG Plume extending beyond initial/anticipated extents and even GHG Plume Dislocation.

These are very real possibilities that cannot be predicted, as this site is planned to be a "test" for Queensland's ability to absorb CO₂. There is also the potential of human activities impacting on the plume and its migration. Pre-existing faults in the caprock, over pressuring of the host rock. These are complex underground formations that have been in existence for over 60,000 years.

Even with these suggestions of possible outcomes, and the predicted limit of a 500m migration from the plume injection point in three years, it is still the impact on the water that is of greatest concern.

These points, from their own report, state that the CO₂ injection into the precipice water source will in effect render it useless to anyone else in the future:

7.2.5 Highlights that future Groundwater supply and users are unable to take water from the zone impacted by the plume.

7.3.2 Reiterates that the future users should not be allowed to take groundwater from the zones.

8.5 Groundwater users should not be allowed to take groundwater supply from the zone impacted by the plume.

- d) the potential socioeconomic impacts on agriculture and regional communities, relying on the Great Artesian Basin for water, including an assessment of the project's impact on existing and future water use rights;

The Great Artesian Basin is the world's largest potable water source covering 1.7 million square kilometres and estimated to carry 65,000 cubic kilometres of water. We are privileged to have this water source to supply water to 80 communities in Queensland.

The Great Artesian Basin generates approximately \$13B per year, as a vital resource for 180,000 people. They have also identified that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have relied on this water source for more than 60,000 years, for their tribes to have lived in Australia's dry inland areas.

The impact of testing into the Great Artesian Basin with a Carbon Dioxide plume of industrial waste could easily be catastrophic for Queensland farmers, towns and communities. Why would we risk destroying our water source that has reliably maintained agricultural industries and the associated communities in 65% of Queensland?

Noted in the most recent EIS is that the Water Act 2000 would enforce the need for a water licence for CTSCO to interfere with the water for the Project (Chapter 10 – Surface Water, page 8). One would only hope that the Queensland Minister for Water would see sense and not approve the licence to destroy Australia's most reliable water source as a "test". This is now in the new EIS Executive Summary page 11, "a water licence for interfering with water in the Precipice Sandstone aquifer".

Glencore have said this project will lead to deterioration of environmental values of the receiving ground water.

Glencore said in their technical assessment report that nobody should be allowed to draw water in close proximity to their injection site nor in a zone around injection site. Effectively saying the water will be useless after injecting CO₂.

This states the expectation that Glencore will destroy the water for the current and future users in the area of the project and cannot be permitted to go ahead.

- e) the consultation processes undertaken with stakeholders, including farmers, Indigenous landholders, environmental groups, and the broader public, and the adequacy of these processes in addressing stakeholder concerns;

Glencore has used the submission process to "Proofread" their original EIS. As such, they have deleted any references to negative effects to water/geology in their amended EIS and therefore consider that all submissions "have been addressed". This is simply editing. They have not altered their plans in a way that would reduce the effects on the Great Artesian Basin, only the wording of their plans to smooth over the areas that have been raised by farmers, Indigenous landholders, environmental groups and the broader public.

With the sheer size of the EIS, 3 versions (Draft EIS Nov 22, Final EIS Oct 23, and newly released Final Amended EIS Mar 24) and even the 80+ page Executive Summary, it is almost impossible to expect the average farmer and the broader public to have printed and read the thousands of pages of information.

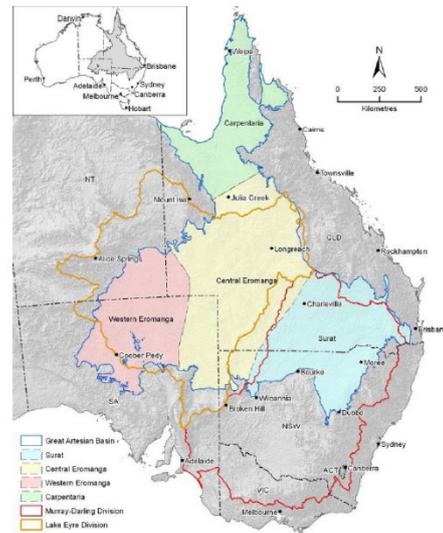
By its own design, this eliminates questions being asked of Glencore, when there is an incredible amount to read. And by splitting these up into individual appendices, the time taken to print all these documents was extended and made more difficult for the normal person. Even to find the questions that I posed in my Initial observations of the Draft EIS is now difficult as they have taken the time to smooth these issues over.

And yet NONE of these reports were required to be presented with the EPBC Approval application. From the Table 3-4 Summary of Issues and Views during consultation (Original EIS), it appears that not many groups or government departments wanted to discuss the Water Quality Impacts with CTSCO. I find it extremely difficult to understand how such a project could not have warranted questions from the local members about this. I would have expected that the majority of Stakeholders would have at least asked about impact to water quality.

Without water, you have nothing. No food, no agriculture, and no communities.

The Queensland Great Artesian Basin Advisory Council is listed in Appendix 3A (Original EIS) as a Potentially Interested Person. CTSCO states that they have been engaged since March 2021. Was the subsequent Great Artesian Basin Stakeholder Advisory Committee (GABSAC) which was announced in March 2022 made aware of the EPBC proposal that had just been approved by the Federal Government's process? This is the committee established with 14 representatives across Australia who have been appointed to provide advice to governments and Ministers on relevant issues affecting the Great Artesian Basin, including the environmental impacts that projects such as these could have on this National resource. Or did the identification process of noting that they were only "Potentially Interested" exclude this panel of knowledgeable and skilled people from having any input into the resource that their own Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan, reviewed 2019, sets out to protect? This is another flaw in the EPBC process.

Geographic extent of the great artesian basin and selected overlying surface water drainage divisions. Smerdon et al. 2012.



The map from the Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan on page 4, shows a better view of the scope of the potential disaster that this EIS is proposing. In pale blue is the Surat Basin, as part of the larger Great Artesian Basin which underlies over 1.7 million square kilometres in 4 states of Australia.

The ongoing issues identified in the Strategic Management Plan includes "maintaining continued recognition of the Basin as one of the world's largest and most significant groundwater resources".

Their opportunities identified the need to "Increase stakeholder awareness that the Basin is a declining and finite resource (Smerdon et al. 2012). The Basin's water resources require judicious use and stewardship of the remaining water pressure, temperature and water quality to ensure that its benefits continue to be available for as long as possible. New demand should not affect the improvements coming from the previous plan."

Eliminating this group of representatives, the Great Artesian Basin Stakeholder Advisory Committee (GABSAC), from the discussion table immediately raises questions as to what consultation has really been undertaken by CTSCO.

It is clear to me that Glencore CTSCO has not revealed their intentions or the ramifications of their proposals to any stakeholders fully.

This includes the Great Artesian Basin Management Authority, AgForce including all Agricultural producer bodies, Local, State and Federal Government representatives, Government Departments and the wider Public.

For example, was the Environmental Impact Statement, the Technical Water Assessment Report, the Safeguard Mechanism, Glencore's intentions to mine coal and produce hydrogen / electricity at Wandoan all made available to Mr Andrew McKnee, the Government Environment Officer, who signed off on the project with respect to the Federal EPBC Act on the 9th of February 2022 and gave a decision that this project "is not a controlled action"?

This is appalling as we now know that this information was not requested or provided. Thirty (30) days to approve a project that will alter Australia's greatest water source without even a technical report.

It is my view that Glencore has employed a deliberate strategy to advance their project with as little scrutiny as possible.

With the [updated EIS dated March 2024](#), there has been more detail provided around who Glencore spoke to and when. The dates shown in their Appendix 3D – CSE Selected Engagement Details gives a clear pattern of Glencore's intentions. In 2019 they engaged with Affected stakeholders, as defined by the Environmental Protection Act.

Then they went quiet. For example, when looking at Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF) they presented in May 2019 and their next meeting was in February 2023 – a year after they had received EPBC Approval with no technical water reports. **What was presented in May 2019 when these reports didn't exist?**

The National Farmers Federation didn't even get a meeting until November 2023. Australian Pork, SunPork, Australian Lot Feeders – November 2023 AFTER they had all objected to the Draft EIS. Glencore notes that they didn't put in a submission to the draft Terms of Reference. How could anyone put in a submission that they weren't aware of?

The Great Artesian Basin Groups likewise had a meeting in May 2019 when there were no technical reports available. They were next contacted a month AFTER the EPBC approval had been granted, 10 March 2022. The Western Downs Regional Council appears to be the only Local Government that was staying on top this, but even though they requested a council presentation on 10 Jan 22, this didn't take place until after approval was given. It appears that at this date the technical information was available although not shared with the EPBC.

With these affected groups subject to changes of representatives, Glencore has made no attempt to keep them informed and their own Selected Engagement table details that clearly.

State members in affected electorates were contacted in 2019, and then not until the EPBC approval was done. I myself was in contact with Glencore until October 2018, specifically in relation to the EPQ7 project and then heard nothing further until long after the EPBC approval in February 2022.

These patterns of communication will have affected the opportunity for many to have contributed to the initial Terms of Reference as well as the initial application to the EPBC Approval process.

I would be very interested to see how many applications to the EPBC were made with concerns about this project, given the amount of people unaware of it at the time.

- f) the potential precedent set by allowing CCS projects within the Great Artesian Basin and its implications for future projects, considering Australia's strategic interests in preserving its largest groundwater system;

The Great Artesian Basin is unique, only one of its kind in the world. It is the world's largest underground potable water source and covers 22% of the area of Australia, 65% of Queensland, 1.7 million square km, estimated to carry 65,000 cubic kilometres of water.

Glencore are seeking approval to inject 300,000 tonnes of hypercritical CO₂ (carbon dioxide) fluid into the precipice aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin at a trial site at Moonie, western Darling Downs. **It has been claimed the Great Artesian Basin site has potential to store 1 billion tonnes of hypercritical CO₂ fluid.**

The precedent of a test such as Glencore are proposing will open up the Great Artesian Basin to all of the world's biggest polluters. They cannot meet the Safeguard Mechanism requirements and must offset their processes with projects such as polluting our greatest water source.

30% of Australia's largest emitters are in Central Queensland.

If the Great Artesian Basin has the potential to store 1 billion tonnes of industrial waste, then there will be catastrophic impacts on the largest groundwater system in the world.

We will continue to destroy our own resources to meet targets that the other countries are ignoring. China continues to build coal-fired power stations and uses our own clean coal as it is the most efficient in the world, while we sell it to them but refuse to use it. In the meantime, planning to ruin our greatest water resource that creates \$13B annually for Australia.

The geological reports state that the storage component of CCS in Queensland is not well established. Previous projects were abandoned due to unsuitable geology. **There has not been a comparable test carried out anywhere in the world, with CO₂ injections into potable water.** References to the Otway project and the Moonie project are not comparable. The Otway project is in a saline formation.

Glencore have said this will lead to deterioration of environmental values of the receiving ground water. (Chapter 4, page 9 – referring to section 41 (2) c – the last paragraph on this page – “is unlikely to result in a deterioration of environmental values of the receiving groundwater outside of the GHG plume extent”. The receiving groundwater will be compromised where the GHG plume is injected.)

Glencore said in their technical assessment report that nobody should be allowed to draw water in close proximity to their injection site nor in a zone around injection site. Effectively saying the water will be useless after injecting CO₂.

Glencore cannot meet the current Environmental Authority/Regulations (s41(2)c). They are making application to the Queensland Government to **change** the environmental authority/regulations to allow them to put hypercritical fluid into any water aquifer in Queensland. This is noted in their Chapter 22 – Proposed Environmental Authority EPPG00646913 Condition Amendments and Chapter 4 – Approvals. As well as confirmed in the Groundwater Impact Assessment Technical Report Appendix 9A.

There is no reference to addressing the potential impacts on the Great Artesian Basin in the rehabilitation plans for Glencore. The bores and flowline will only be plugged and left in situ, filling with cement and capping both ends. Any impacts on the water source itself are not addressed as part of Glencore's final Amended EIS Executive Summary, March 2024.

g) the role of CCS technology in Australia's broader climate change mitigation strategy, including an evaluation of its efficacy, risks and alternatives; and

ACOLA presented a technology briefing on Carbon Capture and Storage and Carbon Capture and Utilisation in August 2022. Two of Australia's leading experts, Professor Peter J Cook CBE FTSE and Professor Sandra Kentish, Head of the School of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering who outlined the readiness and feasibility of knowledge at this point.

Professor Cook stated, when discussing the suitability of sites in Australia: "The Surat Basin – but they need more characterisation of rocks, you really have to characterise your rocks, you can't just stick the CO₂ in there anywhere, you really have to characterise your site and know exactly what is going to happen".

When asked about impacts on groundwater:

"The impact on groundwater is one of the things you look at when you are characterising the site. For the most part... you are looking for saline water, ... water that is not usable for cattle or people or agriculture, so you are making sure that you do not start off by having an impact on it through putting CO₂ in there.... Yes it has to be looked at and yes it can be avoided and is not a major issue for any well-chosen site."

These risks can be avoided – by preventing this project. The Great Artesian Basin water is estimated to be 60,000 years old. Why risk damage to this ancient water source?

The area at Moonie where the testing is to take place has a history of earthquakes. This alone should prevent injecting hypercritical carbon dioxide into the precipice sandstone aquifer.

The Amended EIS October 2023 continued to highlight these issues as follows:

Page 55 – Glencore concedes the precipice water of Great Artesian Basin can be used for many things, eg drinking water with treatment! Table 9-4 Environmental Values of Aquifer Systems in the vicinity of the Project.

Page 58 – pH values change from 8.35 to as low as 4 and are highly variable – **they will compromise the receiving ground water.** ****Confirmed in new EIS Executive Summary p59**, there will be changes to the pH value of the ground water, particularly affecting Irrigation/Farm Use water quality.

Page 59 – **Admission** that rock/ground water geochemical reactions will occur. Where this does occur, **the water will be unusable.**

Page 59 - Admission that Precipice Sandstone Aquifer is not a confined aquifer. It comes out of the ground and Carnarvon Ranges etc.

Page 61 – Map of where Precipice Sandstone Aquifer comes out of the ground.

Page 77 – Glencore admits they cannot meet existing environmental authority conditions. Further reference to the 330 000 tonnes.

The Amended EIS also referred to the role of this project in climate change stating:

Page 40 – Project will produce 266 368 tonnes of CO₂ itself. \$400 million to inject 330 000 tonnes of CO₂, for a net effect of **57 000 tonnes.**

Page 41 – Further reference to 330 000 tonnes of CO₂ = 0.577% of Queensland emissions – **AT THE COST OF GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN WATER.** ****Amended in new EIS Executive Summary p42**, to only contributing **0.1% to Queensland's emission reduction.**

0.1 % of Queensland emissions, which would then translate to reducing Australia's current emissions of 467 million tonnes (FY2023) by 57 000 tonnes = 0.01220557 % difference to Australia's emissions. Again - **AT THE COST OF GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN WATER.**

This data alone should be enough to convince most Australian's that the risk far outweighs any perceived benefit.

If Glencore is convinced that Carbon Capture and Storage is the way to go, why are they not doing this anywhere else in the world?

If this project were to succeed, at 330 000 tonnes = 0.01220557% reduction, then to reach our Net Zero targets we would need to allow the dumping of industrial waste on a mammoth scale, further compromising the safety of this irreplaceable water source.

The newest [EIS Executive Summary p60](#) concludes that “GHG storage injection testing is unlikely to result in a deterioration in the environmental values of the receiving groundwater resource, being the Precipice Sandstone aquifer, outside the GHG plume”. Unlikely, from a desktop review and modelling, but not impossible.

This statement also confirms that there will be changes to the Precipice Sandstone aquifer by the GHG injection. Remember that the plume itself will be almost 2km wide and over 2km below ground level. Modelling shows that it will move over time. The potential impacts are listed on page 37 of the [new EIS Executive Summary](#) “if the plume behaviour does not perform as predicted”, with 10 impacts suggested – including changes to other aquifers, pressure levels, and impacts on ground water.

There will also be the added impact of the 9 B-double trucks with their 20 foot long CO₂ containers carrying 36 tonnes of GHG per truck, transported with up to 18 truck movements per day. Plus the need for LPG tankers of up to 16 tonnes of LPG each week, and the dump trucks, low loaders and earthmoving equipment for construction. Additional carbon emissions that would all be avoided if the project were not to go ahead.

The latest EIS Executive summary also provides the following Economic Assessment p 77:

Benefits = \$3,162,000 per year from reduced CO₂ to atmosphere

With no calculations provided on these figures by Glencore, it would be assumed that this \$3M benefit would be created by using the social cost of carbon. This appears to be a highly subjective topic, with estimates ranging from \$20 per tonne to \$185 per tonne, or \$417 per tonne to \$54 per tonne - depending on your research.

The total cost of the project is stated to be \$210,000,000. \$210 Million Australian Dollars (page 38 Executive Summary, March 2024). It seems unlikely that Glencore would spend \$210M with a benefit to the world of \$3M. There must be something in it for them to expend this amount.

h) [any other related matters.](#)

With fresh water and potable water resources throughout the world in high demand and diminishing supply, it beggars belief that both the Australian and Queensland Governments would even consider allowing a project such as Glencore's to take place given that Aust is the driest habitable continent on the planet.

Glencore's plans to expand their coal mine at Wandoan are driving this push for Carbon Capture and Storage Testing in the Great Artesian Basin. They need the Carbon Credits and the "Green" credentials from this project to be able to continue mining coal. With the cost for the Carbon Capture and Storage estimated at \$20 per tonne of CO₂, Glencore will make around \$40 Billion – at taxpayers cost.

Australian taxpayers are facing the cost-of-living crisis that the zero net carbon policy has created and this will further impact our people. Our infrastructure needs due to the current Government's migration policy, allowing an additional 600,000 people to live in Australia in this year alone, will be impacted. We have a rising homelessness problem and these net zero fallacies are exacerbating these issues. We have no incentive for Australians to build houses while the cost of concrete is expected to rise by 50%. The governments cannot afford to build the roads, dams and other essential infrastructure but are instead focusing on these impossible targets while rushing to destroy our own natural resources.

This proposal for Carbon Sequestration into the Great Artesian Basin needs to be stopped. I see nothing in this to benefit the Australian people, destroying our greatest water source for a "test" while our money leaves our shores to a Swiss-based multi-national company

who have no allegiance or obligation to our country or it's people. **Glencore are in the business of making money.**

Allowing this proposal to progress will create the "Green" credentials that Glencore need to continue to mine coal and produce hydrogen, while achieving nothing in terms of reducing world carbon emissions.

Effectively the taxpayer will be subsidising Glencore to mine coal and destroy the Great Artesian Basin, Australia's greatest water source.

The Environmental Defenders Office is taxpayer funded to the tune of millions of dollars, yet they have been silent on this issue. Why?

I ask the Committee to request that they explain their indifference to such an important issue. The hypocrisy of the Environmental Defenders Office should be exposed and put on the record.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this critical issue facing Australians. I firmly believe that Glencore has not revealed their intentions or the ramifications of their proposals to any of the affected parties fully. And that they have employed a deliberate strategy to advance this project with as little scrutiny as possible.

I urge the committee to prevent the destruction of Australia's greatest water source, the Great Artesian Basin, and to protect it at all costs.

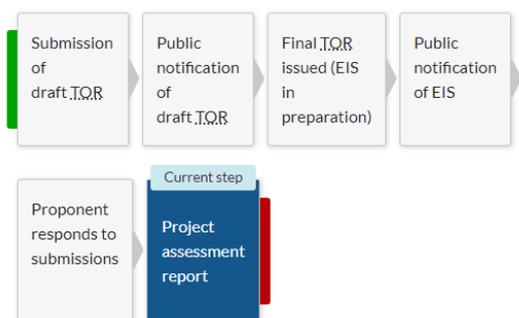
It is too important to rely on the Queensland Department of Environment to get it right and prevent the industrial waste from being dumped into our water source.

Their determination that the EIS is adequate in Oct 2023 shows that they are not. The new Executive Summary from Glencore dated March 2024 states (page 12) that the DES has deemed it to be adequate and publicly published. [About \(ctsco.com.au\)](https://www.ctsco.com.au) *Final Amended EIS – March 2024, 00 Executive Summary*

However, the Department's website (at 26/4/24) states that the DESI is preparing the assessment report. [Surat Basin Carbon Capture and Storage Project | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au)

Environmental impact statement (EIS)

The process for the assessment of this project is as follows:



DESI is preparing the assessment report.

Once again we see Glencore being deliberately misleading, and unable to be trusted.

With the newest Executive Summary only becoming available recently (28/3/24), they are still working to slide this project through with as little scrutiny as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Boyce MP

Federal Member for Flynn

Our ref: BOYCE Submission GAB Senate Enquiry/K