



# THE GREEN CONNECTION

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**To: Presidential Climate Commission Attention:**

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## **OUR KEY CONCERN IS HOW FOSSIL LOBBYING IS INFLUENCING LEGISLATION, INSTITUTIONS & ENERGY PLANNING**

The Green Connection is a registered non-governmental organisation, that believes economic growth and development, improvement of socio-economic status and conservation of natural resources can only take place within a commonly understood framework of sustainable development. It aims to provide practical support to both the government and nongovernmental/ civil society sectors, which are an integral part of sustainable development. The Green Connection is an environmental and social justice civil society organisation that promotes sustainable livelihoods and the achievement of environmental rights.

The Green Connection would like to submit its serious concerns on how, in our view, the fossil lobby is influencing legislation, institutions and energy planning in South Africa which could lead to the energy transition being unjust and further exacerbating poverty and only the elite benefiting.

The climate crisis is also acknowledged by [the International Energy Agency report](#) which highlighted that there is no need for new investments in the fossil fuel supply in our NetZero pathway. Our utmost concern is that the Department of Mineral Resources remains committed to accelerated extraction of fossil fuels such as oil and gas which would majorly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

[Offshore oil and gas pose a threat to functioning of marine ecosystems and to small-scale fishers that depend on oceans to make a living.](#) Small-scale fishers and fishing-dependent communities are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of offshore oil and gas exploration activities which could (among other things) lead to a depletion in the fish stocks upon which the livelihoods of these smallscale fishers and fishing communities depend. Such impacts include marine ecosystem impacts resulting from marine seismic surveys, as well as impacts arising from any catastrophic oil spills that could occur

because of an uncontrolled wellhead blowout related to offshore oil and gas exploration and/or production drilling).



The DMRE has promoted fossil fuels through the attempted legislation of the Upstream petroleum resources development bill and the gas amendment bill, as well as new legislation which seeks to consolidate petrosa, CEF and Strategic fuel fund.

PetroSA has embarked on various deals to expand its fossil fuel where we feel that PetroSA should be scaling down. DMRE has also promoted off shore oil and gas applications – which if they were realised would undermine our climate commitments as well as impact on oceans. Such applications should be halted.

The recent draft of the IRP reduces investments in renewable energy projects and promotes more fossil fuels which contradicts our international obligations to reduce emissions to well below 1.5 degrees as per Paris Agreement. In the face of a climate crisis which has claimed hundreds of [lives of vulnerable communities](#) in South Africa the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy continues to [promote acceleration of oil and gas](#) in oceans through the upstream petroleum development bill which does not move in-line with the climate change bill and that raises concern as marginalised communities will bear the brunt.

A just energy transition should not leave anyone behind and should ensure that voices of marginalised communities are heard. It should also provide a framework of how communities affected by mining, oil and gas will be rehabilitated while exploration of fossil fuels particularly the onslaught of oil and gas is phased out. While Department of Mineral Resources and Energy states that there is a global acceptance of gas and it plays a critical role as clean energy technology in the just energy transition from high carbon emissions to low carbon emissions that raises concern to us as [research](#) has proven methane emissions from gas to be more potent than that of carbon dioxide.

We ask the PCC to intervene in the IRP2023 process and to demand that DMRE withdraw its IRP and focus on the Energy Plan (Integrated Energy Plan as per section 6 of the National Energy Act) before looking at an IRP. Section 6 is to be enacted on 1 April 2024 and we want DMRE to work in collaboration with all the communities, as we are all affected, so as to build a sustainable economy.

Kind regards,

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Advocacy Officer

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