



ADAM BANDT MP

Mr Grant Hehir
Auditor-General
Australian National Audit Office
GPO Box 707
Canberra ACT 2601

25 August 2021

Dear Mr Hehir,

I write in relation to media reports today that Members of Parliament from the Australian Labor Party have written to your office to undertake an investigation into the management of the Beetaloo Co-operative Drilling (BCD) Program undertaken by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

An interim report by the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications has found a series of administrative discrepancies, undisclosed conflicts of interest, unexplained ignoring of Departmental advice and extensive personal relationships between the company and Government Ministers. A link to the report is provided below.

https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/reportsen/024744/toc_pdf/OilandgasexplorationandproductionintheBeetalooBasin.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf

On behalf of the Australian Greens, I also fully encourage you to investigate this grant program as a matter of urgency and priority, because on this occasion, the Parliament has oversight on whether or not the grant scheme - as currently designed and implemented - should proceed.

The BCD program was initiated by regulation under section 33 of the *Industry and Research Development Act 1986* and is therefore disallowable by the Senate. The dates in which this vote of the Senate could occur are between 19 October and 29 November 2021.

I understand this is a very tight timeframe, however the importance of an expedited ANAO inquiry cannot be understated. Your work would provide invaluable support to inform the decision-making of the Parliament, which your office is responsible to.

Usually the work of the Australian National Audit Office relates to programs that have come and gone, but on this particular program the ANAO is in a unique position to provide information to the Parliament so that Senators can be fully informed in casting their votes as to whether the program should proceed or not.

Thank you for considering this request to expedite the inquiry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Bandt'.

Adam Bandt MP

Leader of the Australian Greens
Federal Member for Melbourne

ADAM BANDT MP Leader of the Australian Greens • Federal Member for Melbourne

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