

## Offshore drilling (Letter published in Taranaki Daily News 20<sup>TH</sup> April 2020)

The [Taranaki Daily News article \(April 14\) on OMV's offshore drilling campaign](#) delivered good news and bad news, along with a solid helping of spin for which the industry and its proponents are renowned. The good news - OMV have completed their drilling campaign, albeit prematurely, in part because the 'Fly in fly out' work force simply can't do that now. The bad news - from a climate change perspective, is OMV's claim of finding more gas, possibly commercial quantities.

This announcement, which may be designed to reassure increasingly jittery shareholders, should not be cause for celebration if we are serious about addressing climate change. Gas is not a 'bridge' or transition fuel. When all aspects of mining, production and use, including fugitive emissions, are considered, it produces just as much greenhouse gas as coal, as peer-reviewed 'life-cycle' analyses have demonstrated. Unsurprisingly, long-term industry supporter Jonathan Young, along with PR body PEPANZ, were excited.

According to PEPANZ, there's only 11 years of gas reserves left. These are rubbery figures, yet mirror the urgency of a just transition. Young claimed that gas will remain an important part of our energy mix for decades, in the slow transition to a low carbon future. Unfortunately we have no more time for a slow transition, after decades of climate-denial lies.

We need, rapidly, to develop community-scale renewable energy projects with innovations like smart-grid, providing sustained employment and empowering communities, not more fossil fuel mining by so-called Carbon Majors most responsible for climate disruption.

Lyndon DeVantier, Okato.

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On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Joe Goodin responded with the following letter in Taranaki Daily News:

### **In support of gas (letter published TDN 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020)**

Lyndon DeVantier maintains we do not need gas in our lives (TDN, April 20). To show us leadership, Lyndon, can you please publically hand in your household barbeque gas bottles and stomp your feet outside the Aquatic Centre, where since 1999 countless families have enjoyed gas-heated water? Scream at kids entering about the evils of gas and demand cold water for all. How about you start supporting us in the oil and gas and renewable energy sectors actually doing something other than complaining? Your ill-informed, repetitive comments are tiresome and devoid of solutions. Meanwhile my company is involved in installing gas rigs and offshore wind farms, and local company EHL has a wave-powered generator proven and ready to work off the Taranaki coast right now. Yet the government refuses to get behind it, with continued silence from the Greens explaining their lack of support. Be useful and get behind companies like us that are spending our money making a difference. How about we turn off New Zealand's gas supplies tomorrow on your personal behalf and listen to the population tell you how much we really don't need gas?

Joe Goodin, New Plymouth

### **Don't delay transition to renewable energy (TDN, 5 May 20)**

Replying to Joe Goodin's letter (Daily News 22 April), I commend Joe's company for installing renewable energy. As to apparent lack of government interest in the wave energy project, Joe's question could be addressed by Venture Taranaki, a lead agency in our energy transition.

As to my carbon footprint, no one is perfect, but for the record my family do not have a gas barbeque or use gas in cooking or heating. We drive a second-hand EV and purchase electricity from a renewable energy provider. Also, with the large number of trees here, including hundreds we've planted, we are in so-called 'draw-down' (Carbon Neutral NZ Trust).

Joe accused me of being ill-informed and not offering solutions. Yet the final paragraph of my letter recommended community-scale renewable energy projects with innovative smart-grids, providing sustained employment and empowering communities. Such solutions are available and are being considered by government (MBIE's Smart Grid Forum). As to my other statements: Gas is not a 'bridge' or transition fuel, despite industry spin and political claims to the contrary. Terrence Loomis provides NZ perspective. I did not say 'turn off New Zealand's gas supplies tomorrow'. There's still 11 years' worth, according to PEPANZ, enough time to transition, consistent with recommendations from IPCC and all credible science agencies globally. Yet this challenge is made more difficult by our sense of entitlement, and industry dissembling (see 'Merchants of Doubt'). If we delay further, gas barbeques and heated swimming pools may be the least of our children's concerns.

Lyndon DeVantier, Okato