



## Premier of Queensland

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The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

The Queensland Government has decided to implement a legislative ban on carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the Queensland component of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB).

The ban follows a rigorous three-year assessment under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Queensland's independent environmental regulator has determined that CCS is not suitable to proceed in the GAB due to potential impacts on groundwater resources.

The GAB is not a confined aquifer, meaning there is significant risk to the environmental values of the groundwater, and anyone seeking to use that water, including for drinking, stock and crop irrigation, from the introduction of carbon dioxide waste. The GAB is also of major cultural significance to our Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The ban clarifies that activities involving greenhouse gas storage or the injection of a greenhouse gas stream into underground formations within the GAB are not permissible. The ban includes enhanced petroleum recovery activities that use a greenhouse gas stream.

The Queensland Government's decision has been welcomed by many stakeholders, including the agricultural sector and much of the wider community.

We are doing what we can here in Queensland, but the GAB does not stop at our state borders. It is important that similar measures are implemented in other jurisdictions that also sit over the GAB. I seek your support in providing national leadership on this issue and in working with other jurisdictions in the best long-term interest of Australian communities, our national economy and the natural environment, by banning CCS across the entire GAB.

The Queensland Government is not ruling out CCS in other areas outside the GAB. While Queensland is on track to deliver on our 75 per cent emissions reduction target by 2035, without needing to deploy CCS, the Queensland Government acknowledges that CCS has a potentially important role in helping further reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To support potential continuation in other parts of Queensland, a technical expert panel will be established to review the safety aspects of greenhouse gas storage for areas outside the GAB. This panel will be appointed soon and will report back in 2025.

I have written in similar terms to the Premier of New South Wales, the Honourable Chris Minns MP, the Premier of South Australia, the Honourable Peter Malinauskas MP, and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Honourable Eva Lawler, given their interest in the GAB.

I look forward to your support on this important national matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Miles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**STEVEN MILES MP  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**