

Giving away gas to 2030

Over half of Australia’s gas exports are given away, without payment of royalties or petroleum resource rent tax. Over the last four years, multinational companies made \$170 billion exporting gas they got for free. Based on Federal Government forecasts, to 2030 another \$170 billion of liquified natural gas will be exported based on free gas.

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INTRODUCTION

Previous Australia Institute research estimated that 56.2% of Australia’s gas exports pay no royalty,¹ while Federal Treasury has stated that “To date, not a single LNG project has paid any Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) and many are not expected to pay significant amounts of PRRT until the 2030s.”² This meant that over the four years to 2023-24, gas companies exported \$149 billion worth of liquified natural gas (LNG) based on Australian gas that they obtained without royalty or PRRT payment.

This briefing note updates these calculations based on the latest commodity forecasts by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER). These forecasts were published in *Resources and Energy Quarterly*: March 2025.³

This briefing note focuses on LNG volumes and dollar figures. It is important to remember that gas is a fossil fuel and its extraction and use are driving climate change. The year 2030 is important in climate change discussions as it is the year that national

¹ Ogge, Campbell and Verstegen (2024) *Australia’s great gas giveaway: How Australia gives gas to multinational corporations for free*, <https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/australias-great-gas-giveaway/>

² Treasury (2023) *Budget 2023-24: Budget Paper #1*, p180, <https://archive.budget.gov.au/2023-24/index.htm>

³ DISER (2025) *Resources and Energy Quarterly: March 2025*, <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/resources-and-energy-quarterly>

climate targets are set for. Australia should be phasing out gas extraction to 2030, not encouraging it by giving away the nation’s natural resources for free.

LNG EXPORTS: HISTORY AND FORECASTS

Table 1 below applies our earlier estimate of 56.2% of LNG exports based on royalty-free gas sources to DISER’s latest estimates of LNG volumes and values to the end of 2024-25.

Table 1: LNG volumes, values and royalty-free value, 2021-22 to 2024-25

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
LNG exports (Mt)	83	82	81	80	326
Total value of LNG exported (\$m)	70,571	92,237	68,588	71,680	\$303,076
Value of LNG exports produced using royalty-free gas (\$m)	39,661	51,837	38,547	40,284	\$170,329

Source: DISER (2025) Resources and Energy Quarterly: March 2025

Table 1 above shows that multinational corporations are expected to have exported 326 million tonnes of LNG over the four years to the end of 2024-25, worth \$303 billion. \$170 billion of this was based on royalty-free gas, with no PRRT payments.

Table 2 below shows that this great gas giveaway is expected to continue, based on DISER’s forecasts to 2030.

Table 1: LNG volumes, values and royalty-free value, 2021-22 to 2024-25

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	Total
Volume of LNG exports (Mt)	80	82	80	80	78	399
Total value of LNG exported (\$m)	68,328	64,419	62,587	56,722	51,202	303,258
Value of LNG exports produced using royalty-free gas (est) (\$m)	38,400	36,204	35,174	31,878	28,776	170,431

Source: DISER (2025) Resources and Energy Quarterly: March 2025

Table 2 shows that based on current forecasts, the Australian Government expects to export 399 million tonnes to 2030, maintaining export volumes despite the need to phase out global fossil fuel use. LNG exports are expected to be worth \$303 billion to

the multinational corporations that sell the gas, with \$170 billion based on royalty-free gas. Based on Treasury's statement that many gas exporters do not expect to pay PRRT until into the 2030s, indeed some expect to never pay PRRT,⁴ it is likely that the Australian community will not receive any payment for the extraction of public resources.

CONCLUSION

As this briefing note was being prepared, the 2025 Federal Election was called. The next parliament has the opportunity to end the great gas giveaway and the gas industry's free ride. This would assist not only in funding public services and the transition to clean energy, but would improve Australia's democracy by reducing the power of multinational gas corporations on the nation's energy policy.

⁴ Milne (2021) *Shell predicts free gas forever for Gorgon and Prelude LNG*, <https://www.boilingcold.com.au/shell-predicts-free-gas-forever-for-gorgon-and-prelude-lng/>