



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 319

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment, Hon Joshua Burgoyne MLA:

Environmental Impact Assessment Compliance and Enforcement

1. How many environmental impact assessments were conducted in 2025–26, and how many projects received environmental approval?
2. Of those approved, how many were subject to conditions of approval?
 - a. How many had enforcement action taken for breaches of those conditions?
3. How many active projects currently require monitoring by the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NTEPA), and how many on-ground compliance inspections were carried out in 2025–26?
4. The NTEPA 's annual report for 2024–25 records that it issued 15 warning letters for non-compliance with environment protection licence conditions and 4 penalty infringement notices. How many breaches of environmental approval conditions were identified in 2025–26, and what enforcement action was taken in each category? Please provide as a table by project type and action taken.
5. How many full-time equivalent compliance and monitoring officers are currently employed to enforce environmental regulations in the Territory?
 - a. What assessment has the Department made of whether current staffing is adequate given the scale of major projects across mining, gas and agriculture?
6. What monitoring is in place to assess the long-term impacts of large-scale projects on aquifers, rivers and cultural water sources?
7. How is the Government ensuring that gas and mining projects, including in the Beetaloo Basin and at Middle Arm, comply with environmental protections including waste management, emissions reporting and water use conditions?

8. Are proponents required to report scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3 emissions in environmental assessment and, if so, under which provision or guideline?
 - a. How is that information used in assessment, and in which published document is that use described?
 - b. If scope 3 emissions are not required to be reported, has requiring them been considered and, on what date?
9. The NTEPA's annual report for 2024–25 records that the annual Compliance Plan and Compliance Report Card are published, and that “the Compliance Report Card gives an overview of the findings and outcomes of compliance activities”. It states that the outcomes of 2024–25 regulation activities “will be detailed in the 2024–25 Compliance Report Card”.
 - a. Has the 2024–25 Compliance Report Card been published? If so, on what date; if not, by what date will it be?
 - b. Does the Compliance Report Card identify non-compliances by premises, licence or proponent, or only in aggregate?
 - c. Will environmental impact assessment data, groundwater modelling and project-level compliance status be published in a publicly accessible and timely manner and, if not, why not?
10. How is the public informed about community complaints received, and investigations undertaken, into environmental harm?
11. Budget Paper No. 3 for 2026–27 sets, for the environment output, a target that at least 80 per cent of assessment decisions under the Environment Protection Act 2019 are made within statutory timeframes, and that at least 90 per cent of environment management plan decisions under the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016 are made within 90 calendar days.
 - a. How many assessment decisions were made outside the statutory timeframe in each of the three years to 2025–26?
 - b. What is the consequence, for the proponent and for the decision, of a decision made outside a statutory timeframe?
 - c. On what basis is a target of 80 per cent compliance with a statutory timeframe set, rather than 100 per cent?
 - d. How many environment management plan decisions were made outside 90 calendar days in each of those years?
12. Budget Paper No. 3 for 2026–27 records, among the key performance indicators for the environment output, the measure “Northern Territory

Environment Protection Authority satisfaction with support provided”, with a target of at least 5.

- a. Budget Paper No. 3 records that the measure “ranges from a rating of 1 = extremely dissatisfied through to 6 = extremely satisfied”. Who is surveyed, how many responses were received in 2025–26, and is the result published?
- b. Is there any published measure of environmental compliance, enforcement or environmental outcomes for the Territory and, if not, has one been considered and on what date?
- c. The NTEPA 's annual report for 2024–25 records 59 site inspections and states that all sites identified in the 2024–25 Compliance Plan were inspected. How many sites were identified in that Plan, how is the Plan's scope determined, and by whom is it approved?
- d. How many licensed or regulated sites exist in total, and what proportion was inspected in 2025–26?
- e. The annual report records 59 site inspections for 2024–25 and, separately, three inspection measures expressed by reference to the Environment Protection Act (EP Act) and the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act (WMPC Act): “100% of premises that had an environmental approval issued under EP Act in place on 1 July 2025”, “100% of hydrocarbon processing facilities and landfills licensed under WMPC Act” and “100% of high-risk transporters and waste management facilities licensed under WMPC Act”. How many premises are in each of those three categories?