



MEDIA RELEASE

COMMITTEE ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORY'S ENERGY FUTURE

15 May 2014

REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Chair of the Committee on the Northern Territory's Energy Future, Mr Gary Higgins, today tabled the Committee's report on its preliminary inquiry into Key Challenges and Opportunities associated with meeting the Northern Territory's future energy needs.

"The inquiry considered the nature and operation of the NT's energy market, the availability of non-renewable and renewable energy sources, and the factors that impact on their development. " Mr Higgins said.

In addition to its considerable reserves of natural gas, the Committee found that the Territory is well placed to take advantage of technological developments in bioenergy, tidal power, low wind turbines, micro hydro systems and geothermal power, and build on its already highly successful deployment of a range of solar technologies. Mr Higgins said that, "All the groups we spoke to agreed that we need to ensure that in developing these resources we maintain the integrity of the Territory's fragile environment."

The Committee found that a key challenge for the NT will be developing an energy supply system that has the flexibility to take full advantage of a mix of resources and technologies; accommodate the trend towards customer independence from the grid; and maintain the capacity to deliver the most cost effective, efficient and sustainable access to energy by all Territorians over the longer term.

Mr Higgins pointed out that "there are a range of exciting prospects and opportunities on the horizon, the Committee looks forward to considering in more depth options and strategies for the Territory's long term energy security."

END

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