



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 252

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Ichthys Emissions Estimation and Health Risk Assessment

1. A review by the Department in early 2025 identified discrepancies between emissions reported to the National Pollutant Inventory and emissions reported under Environment Protection Licence 228 for 2023–24. In October 2025 the licensee revised its 2023–24 estimates upwards, including estimated benzene emissions from approximately 5 tonnes to approximately 500 tonnes.
 - a. On what date did the Department identify those discrepancies, and what action did it take between that date and the licensee's revision in October 2025?
 - b. Other than benzene, for which pollutants were estimates revised, and by what amounts?
 - c. Do the revisions apply to reporting years other than 2023–24 and, if so, which?
2. The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority is recorded as having initiated a range of measures in response to the revised emissions estimates, of which the review of the two Darwin airshed licences is one. What are the others, and on what date was each commenced?
 - a. Please state the action taken and its date, without reference to any matter currently before a court.
3. Has the Department reassessed any previous compliance decisions, approvals or enforcement actions in light of the revised estimates?
 - a. If so, with what result? If not, why not?

4. Has the emissions estimation methodology for the facility now been overhauled?
 - a. What independent auditing or verification processes are now in place?
 - b. What additional resources have been allocated to compliance and emissions monitoring?
 - c. How will the public be assured that future emissions reporting is accurate?
5. NT Health engaged SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd to prepare an Independent Preliminary Human Health Risk Assessment of emissions from the Ichthys LNG Acid Gas Removal Unit hot venting, revision 3.0 dated 26 February 2026. That assessment records the Air Environment (2025) review as concluding that “The ERM (2025) AGRU vent modelling assessment was conducted using a technically sound methodology”, but that its scope “was inherently limited since it included AGRU hot venting scenarios only, rather than providing comprehensive facility-wide air quality impact assessment of BTEX emissions”, with limitations including “incomplete BTEX compound coverage (addressing only benzene and toluene), insufficient methodological detail regarding emission estimation procedures and a five-year modelling period rather than covering the full 2018-2025 operational period”.
 - a. Has that assessment been published? If not, why not?
 - b. Has a health risk assessment covering the full 2018–2025 operational period and the full BTEX suite been commissioned? If so, by whom, with what funding, and by what date is it due?
 - c. If it has not been commissioned, on what date will it be, and what accounts for the delay?
 - d. Are the Air Environment (2025) review and the ERM (2025) modelling assessment published, and will they be provided?
6. How is the independence from both the licensee and the Government of the specialists engaged for health risk assessment work being ensured?