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Legislative Scrutiny Committee
C/- The Hon Oly Carlson MLA
Chairperson
By email: LSC@nt.gov.au

30 March 2026

To the Chair and members,

Minerals Titles Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

This letter responds to the Committee's invitation to the Tiwi Land Council (TLC) to make a submission to its inquiry into the Minerals Titles Legislation Amendment Bill 2026.

The timeframes to provide comment on this bill were incredibly and unreasonably short for any legislation, but particularly considering:

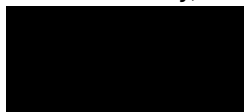
- a) The significance of this legislation – mining and petroleum legislation regulate some of the Territory's most significant public resources and allow private proponents to obtain exclusive rights to profit and benefit from those public resources.
- b) The complexity of the legislation and its interaction with Commonwealth law – specifically the operation of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976* (ALRA) and the *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA).¹
- c) That the Committee expects stakeholders to consider this bill in the same short window as six other bills, two of which are also of particular relevance to the land councils and our constituents.

The TLC shares the concerns expressed by the Central, Northern and Anindilyakwa Land Councils in their submissions, particularly as they relate to potential inconsistencies with ALRA. The TLC **recommends** that the Committee **extend the timeframe for its inquiry** and **schedule public hearings** to allow adequate consultation and properly examine the bill. Not doing so demonstrates poor governance and risks unintended consequences that may be detrimental to traditional owners, government and proponents.

Responding to the Committee's terms of reference, it is the TLC's view that:

1. The Assembly should **not** pass this bill in its current form.
2. The bill should be **amended** to reflect the recommendations made by the NT land councils.
3. The bill **does not** have sufficient regard to the rights of Aboriginal traditional owners.
4. The bill **does not** have sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament, due to the rushed nature of the consultation and the likely conflict with overriding Commonwealth legislation.

Yours sincerely,



Brendan Ferguson
CEO
Tiwi Land Council

¹ Note: for the TLC, interactions with the NTA will not apply, given all land on the Tiwi Islands is Aboriginal land under ALRA.