

30th January, 2019

The Secretary
Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee
GPO Box 3721
Darwin NT 0801
Email: EPSC@nt.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Re: Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Katherine Mining Services Association [KMSA], is a membership based, industry association that focusses on service and supply for the NT mining and onshore petroleum sectors. All of KMSA members also service other industry sectors in their individual businesses and we have considered the impacts of this bill from several angles.

Like most Territorians we consider it is very important to have a strong legislative framework around the newly developing onshore petroleum industry. As an industry association we want the assurance that the land, environment and our residents will be protected, and all industries will be able to co-exist compatibly in the NT.

A number of our members serviced the onshore petroleum industry for approximately five (5) years prior to the announcement of the moratorium. The new industry provided these businesses with sound opportunities that underpinned their survival and growth. The suspension of the industry's activity over the last two (2) years has negatively impacted on our members businesses revenue and stalled growth. Like other NT businesses our members are presently experiencing one of the most stressful periods in history.

KMSA recognises the potential regional benefits that the onshore petroleum industry will generate. Not just more work for KMSA members, but jobs for locals particularly in remote areas, long term careers for our youth, opportunities to expand higher education options to support skills development for the industry, improved regional infrastructure and more.

We consider the proposed amendments to be acceptable and request that this Amendment Bill be processed as soon as possible. Unnecessary delays only adds to uncertainty and extends the financial hurt that Katherine and NT Businesses are experiencing. We have had the moratorium and all had the chance to participate in the Scientific Inquiry, now it's time to let the onshore petroleum industry get underway without further delays.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond on this important Bill.

Yours sincerely,



Geoff Crowhurst
Chairperson
Katherine Mining Services Association