



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 258

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Safeguard Mechanism and NT Facilities

- 1. How many Northern Territory facilities are currently covered by the Commonwealth Safeguard Mechanism, and how many have exceeded, or are projected to exceed, their emissions baselines since the mechanism was strengthened in 2023?**

As at the 2024-25 reporting period, eight facilities operating in the Territory were covered by the Safeguard Mechanism. All eight facilities met their Safeguard Mechanism obligations and did not finish the reporting year above their allowable emissions limit.

Six of the eight facilities reported covered emissions above their Safeguard Mechanism baseline. However, these facilities used available compliance measures under the Safeguard Mechanism, including the surrender of Australian Carbon Credits and Safeguard Mechanism Credits, to manage their emissions obligations and reduce their net emissions to within their required baseline limits. The remaining two facilities operated below their baseline and generated surplus emissions capacity.

- a. If the Department does not hold that information, does it monitor Safeguard coverage and baseline performance for Territory facilities and, if so, from what source and how often?**

Facility-level Safeguard Mechanism data and publication notes are publicly available from the Clean Energy Regulator:

[2024-25 baselines and emissions data | Clean Energy Regulator](#)

The Department may review this information periodically or as required.

- b. Which Territory facilities does the Department understand to be covered, by name?**

The NT facilities covered in the 2024-25 reporting period were:

1. Darwin LNG Plant (Santos Limited);
2. GEM01 (Groote Eylandt Mining Company Proprietary Limited);
3. Gove Operations (RTA Gove Pty Limited);
4. McArthur River Mine Operations (McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd);
5. McArthur River Power Station (EDL NGD (NT) Pty Ltd);
6. Montara Operations (Jadestone Energy (Eagle Pty Ltd);
7. Newmont Tanami Operation (Newmont Tanami Pty Ltd); and
8. Start up and Operations of the Ichthys LNG Project (INPEX Operations Australia).

c. The Commonwealth's Safeguard Mechanism Review Consultation Paper of August 2026 records that facilities will report for the third financial year by 31 October 2026. Will the Department obtain and review those reports for Territory facilities?

Each year, the Commonwealth seeks input from the Department when preparing emissions projections for facilities covered by the Safeguard Mechanism. This includes information on existing covered facilities and proposed new facilities that may be incorporated into future safeguard modelling.

Data reported under the Safeguard Mechanism is publicly available at: [NGER reporting data and registers | Clean Energy Regulator](#).

The Department may review this information but is not responsible for the administration or compliance oversight of the Safeguard Mechanism.

2. Recommendation 9.8 of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory is expressed in terms of life cycle greenhouse gas emissions. The Department's Regulatory Statement: Regulation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the NT records the Commonwealth requirement "for all new onshore petroleum facilities in the Beetaloo Sub-basin to have net zero scope 1 emissions from entry (i.e. once their annual emissions exceed 100,000 tCO₂-e per year)". Questions about how that requirement relates to Recommendation 9.8 are put separately.

a. On the Regulatory Statement's own terms, the net zero scope 1 requirement applies once a facility's annual emissions exceed 100,000 tCO₂-e. What obligation to achieve net zero scope 1 emissions applies to a Beetaloo facility whose annual emissions remain below that figure?

Neither the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme or the Safeguard Mechanism requires facilities emitting less than 100,000 tCO₂-e /year threshold to achieve net zero scope 1 emissions. The Annual Emissions Reports available at [POINT](#), detail the methods for offsetting scope 1 emissions to a net zero position should actual greenhouse gas emissions exceed 100,000 tCO₂-e.

- b. How many interest holders conducting onshore petroleum activities in the Territory reported annual scope 1 emissions below 100,000 tCO₂-e in each of 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, and how many above?**

The regulator periodically audits annual emissions and the findings from the last audit can be found in this report: [Compliance Report Card 2023-24](#).

The regulator tracks annual reported emissions against the estimated emissions in the Environment Management Plan (EMP) and no interest holders have reported total emissions above the 100,000 tCO₂-e threshold.

- c. Does the Department assess whether an environment management plan is structured so as to keep annual emissions below the 100,000 tCO₂-e threshold? If it does, in which document is that assessment recorded, and has any plan been refused or amended on that basis? The statement of reasons for the plan recorded as STO8-2, approved 12 May 2026, records total scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions of “worst case emissions of 276,896 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t-CO₂-e) for the project” and that the regulated activity “will have a life cycle of five years”, while condition 11(f) requires the method of offsetting scope 1 emissions to a net zero position to be detailed only “should actual annual greenhouse gas emissions exceed the thresholds specified under the Safeguard Mechanism”. Was that plan assessed against the threshold on an annual basis?**

The EMP assessment requirements are set out in the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations and the Code of Practice: Environment available at: [Petroleum operations codes of practice, forms and guidelines](#).

Approval Notice and Statement of Reasons for EMPs are available at: [Environment management plan decisions](#).

Annual Total Emission Reports from Northern Territory gas developments are reported on the Petroleum Onshore Information Northern Territory public portal at [POINT](#).

The Australian Government publishes annual emission data at: [NGER reporting data and registers | Clean Energy Regulator](#).

For EMP STO8-2, the Department considered the projected annual emissions and total projected emissions over the life of the activity. The Assessment considered the nature and scale of emissions associated with the activity, including the annual emissions profile and total worst-case emissions estimate if beneficial use of appraisal gas is not available. Condition 11(f) applies if actual emissions exceed the applicable threshold during operations.

- d. What assessment has the Government undertaken of whether proposed Beetaloo Sub-basin projects are on track to meet the net zero scope 1 requirement, and can that assessment be provided?**

Annual Total Emission Reports from Northern Territory gas developments are reported on the Petroleum Onshore Information NT public portal at: [POINT](#).

The Australian Government publishes annual emission data at: [NGER reporting data and registers | Clean Energy Regulator](#).

A regulatory review of greenhouse gas emissions was published online at: [Compliance and enforcement](#).

- 3. The Commonwealth released its Safeguard Mechanism Review Consultation Paper in August 2026, inviting feedback by Friday 18 September 2026 - a date that falls before the answer to this question is due.**

- a. Has the Northern Territory Government made a submission to that review? If so, on what date, by which agency or Minister, and can it be provided?**
- b. If a submission was made, has it been published? If not, why not?**
- c. If no submission was made, why not, and was that decision taken by the Minister or by the Department, and on what date?**
- d. What position does the Government hold on baseline settings for Northern Territory facilities, and where has it been stated?**

- e. The consultation paper makes no reference to the Northern Territory or to the Beetaloo Sub-basin. Did the Government seek to have Territory-specific matters considered in the review and, if so, how?**

Making a submission on the Commonwealth's Safeguard Mechanism Review is not a current priority.