

04 April 2025

Secretary
Legislative Scrutiny Committee
GPO Box 3721, DARWIN NT 0801
Submitted via email: LA.Committees@nt.gov.au

RE: Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Australian Energy Producers welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill).

Industry strongly supports the preservation and protection of Aboriginal sacred sites and cultural heritage.

We appreciate the intent of the legislation to clarify requirements and provide for simpler and streamlined approval processes.

Regulatory streamlining and certainty are crucial for the timely development of the Northern Territory's vast gas resources. These resources represent a significant opportunity for all Territorians. Gas is central to the Territory's cleaner energy future, providing energy security through power generation for households, businesses and industry, supporting renewable deployment and critical mineral processing. A recent KPMG Economics report found that the oil and gas industry already contributes over \$2.3 billion to the NT economy every year, as well as supporting over 3,540 local jobs, including in regional areas¹.

Natural gas will play an important and long-term role in ensuring reliable energy for Australian households and industry. Prospective new fields in the NT represent a major source of potential new supply that can secure energy security for the Territory and could assist in addressing looming shortfalls in Australia's southern states, and to meet growing demand in our region.

Australian Energy Producers supports regulation that is clear, predictable, and efficient. We welcome efforts by the Government to simplify the process for the transfer and management of authority certificates, ensure that undertakings remain enforceable and to strengthen the boards governance structure to be effective and relevant.

We support the passage of the amendments through parliament.

Yours faithfully,



David Slama
Director NT

¹ www.industry.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/1210045/valuation-nt-maritime-industry.pdf