



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 255

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Net Zero Commitment and Emissions Trajectory

1. The Government's regulatory statement says the Territory remains committed to net zero emissions by 2050. What are the Territory's most recent emissions projections to:
 - a. 2030;
 - b. 2040;
 - c. 2050; and
 - d. are those projections consistent with achieving net zero by 2050?
2. Can the Minister table the modelling or pathway documentation that shows how net zero by 2050 is achieved under the Government's current energy policy?
 - a. If no such modelling exists, on what basis does the Government retain the 2050 commitment?
3. Since coming to government:
 - a. how many projects have had greenhouse gas emissions conditions imposed;
 - b. how many have been required to offset emissions; and
 - c. what total volume of emissions do those conditions cover?
 - d. The Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan submitted with environment management plan TAM2-3, revision 4.1 of 23 October 2024, provides that where emissions are below the Safeguard Mechanism trigger, minimum offset levels increase year on year by 3.7 per cent from a baseline financial year of 2023, reaching 11.1 per cent of total emissions offset in "Financial

year 2025” and 26.2 per cent in “Financial Year 2029”. Is a schedule of that kind sufficient to satisfy the Department’s requirements for a Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan, and is there a minimum offset proportion the Department will accept?

4. What are the Territory’s current per capita greenhouse gas emissions, and how do they compare with the national average and with other jurisdictions internationally?
5. Does the Department factor the downstream emissions of exported gas into its assessment of new gas projects?
 - a. If not, why not?
 - b. The Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan submitted with environment management plan TAM2-3, revision 4.1 of 23 October 2024, estimates that project’s scope 3 emissions for financial years 2025 to 2029 at 2,877,874 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, of which it states 98 per cent is the combustion of gas for electricity by the Power and Water Corporation. Is any part of a project’s scope 3 emissions required to be offset under an approved Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan?
 - c. For each environment management plan for onshore gas activity approved since 1 September 2024, what were the estimated scope 1 and scope 3 emissions, and what volume of each was required to be offset?
6. When a mining proposal is referred to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority, what consideration is given to the greenhouse gas emissions of the proposed operation?
 - a. In which document is that consideration recorded, and is it published?
 - b. For how many mining proposals assessed since 1 September 2024 were greenhouse gas emissions conditions recommended, and for how many were they imposed?
 - c. If the grant of a mining licence is not a matter for you, which Minister is responsible for deciding whether emissions conditions attach to it?
7. How many hectares of native vegetation were cleared in the Territory in 2025–26?
 - a. What funding is allocated to collect and publish land clearing data?

- b. Budget Paper No. 3 for 2026–27 sets a target that at least 80 per cent of applications for the clearing of native vegetation on unzoned land are assessed within 84 days. How many such applications were received in 2025–26, how many were approved, and what total area did the approvals cover?
 - c. How many applications were refused, and on what grounds?
 - d. Is there any published measure of the area of native vegetation cleared, as distinct from the timeliness of assessing applications to clear it? If not, has one been considered?
- 8. Does the Department consider the effect on future generations of emissions released now in its decision-making and approvals processes?
 - a. Where is the evidence of that consideration recorded?
- 9. In the absence of interim targets, what accountability mechanisms exist between elections to keep the Territory's emissions trajectory aligned with Australia's national commitments?
- 10. What specific actions is the Government currently taking toward the 2050 net zero commitment, and where are those actions published?