



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 317

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Climate Resilience Plan

1. The Northern Territory Climate Resilience Plan ('The Plan') is a three-page document setting out five strategic priorities and twenty-two actions. Its first action, Action 1.1, is to "Accelerate the production of low emissions energy, including from the Beetaloo Subbasin, to support long-term energy security for the Territory, Australia and our region".
 - a. On what basis is accelerating gas production from the Beetaloo Subbasin the first action of a climate resilience plan?
 - b. The Plan records that "Beetaloo gas is relatively low in emissions because it contains 1 – 2% carbon dioxide, which is low compared to alternative Australian gas sources". Does that comparison relate to scope 1 emissions, or to life cycle emissions, and in which document is the underlying analysis recorded?
 - c. On what date was the Plan approved, on what date was it published, and by whom was it approved? The published document carries no date, version number or approval record.
2. The Plan records that the Government is "working with the Australian Government on the national target of net zero by 2050", and that "the Australian Government's Safeguard Mechanism requires large emitters to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050".
 - a. Does the Northern Territory Government hold a net zero target of its own, as distinct from the national target and the Safeguard Mechanism; if so, in which instrument is it recorded?
 - b. The Regulatory Statement on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions records that "The Northern Territory Government has committed to a target of net zero emissions by 2050". Is that a Territory commitment, and if so why is it not stated in the Climate Resilience Plan?

- c. What responsibility does the Department hold for reducing emissions across the Territory as a whole, as distinct from regulating emissions from individual facilities?
3. Under the heading “Reporting progress”, the Plan records that “Over this period, Northern Territory GHG emissions are expected to trend upwards before declining as the Australian Government’s Safeguard Mechanism, and other reduction and abatement initiatives, take effect”.
 - a. Over what period are Territory emissions expected to trend upwards, by what amount, and on what modelling is that expectation based?
 - b. In what year are Territory emissions expected to begin declining?
 - c. Will the modelling underlying that expectation be published or tabled?
 - d. The Plan records that the Government “will track the emissions intensity of the Northern Territory economy”. Is emissions intensity, rather than total annual emissions, the measure against which the Plan’s progress will be assessed?
 - e. The Plan records that it “will be reviewed in three years”. From what date does that period run, and in what form will the Government “report publicly on the Plan’s implementation”?
4. Action 2.3 of the Plan is to “Promote investment in priority sectors, such as agriculture and mining, to lower the emissions intensity of production, including for research and development”.
 - a. What investment has been made or is proposed under Action 2.3, in which sectors, and at what value?
 - b. How is the lowering of emissions intensity under this action measured, and where is it reported?
 - c. The Plan records that most 2024 Territory emissions came from “the land use sector (45%), the energy sector (44%) and the agriculture sector (10%)”. Given the contribution of land clearing to the land use figure, how does increased investment in agriculture reduce total Territory emissions rather than emissions per unit of production?
5. What consultation was undertaken in developing the Plan with the communities most affected by climate impacts, including communities affected by recent flooding?
6. Does the Climate Resilience Plan address extreme heat?
 - a. If it does not, why was extreme heat not included, and was its inclusion considered during development of the Plan?

- b. What assessment has the Government made of heat-related illness and mortality in the Territory, and in which document is it recorded?
- c. How many heat-related presentations and admissions were recorded in Northern Territory hospitals in each of the three years to 2025–26? If those are not compiled, in which system are they recorded?
- d. Will the Plan be amended to address extreme heat and, if so, by what date?