



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

- 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?
 - 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?
 - 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?
- 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?