



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 322

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Weddell Data Centre Land Exclusivity

On 22 July 2026 Beetaloo Energy Australia announced to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) that the Northern Territory Government had granted the company exclusivity over 185 hectares of contiguous land at Weddell for a proposed integrated power and data centre development.

- 1. Under what instrument, and through what process, was exclusivity over the land at Weddell granted?**

The Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment as the Minister responsible for the *Crown Lands Act 1992* provided Beetaloo Digital Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of Beetaloo Energy Australia Limited) with a 12-month commitment not to deal in approximately 185 hectares of land at Weddell in a manner that would be inconsistent with its proposed development.

The Commitment does not grant tenure, approve the proposed development or commit Government to any future allocation of the land. No financial consideration is payable for the level of commitment provided.

The Commitment provides a degree of land security while Beetaloo Digital progresses early planning and investigations into the Project's feasibility, including infrastructure and site requirements, the preferred development footprint, and relevant environmental, planning and development pathways.

The commitment does not prevent the Northern Territory (NT) Government from continuing strategic planning, infrastructure investigations or other activities in the broader Weddell region.

Any future allocation of Crown land would be subject to relevant Crown land processes and any required statutory approvals. No decision has been made to grant tenure over the land.

a. Was the opportunity contested, or offered to a single proponent?

No

b. What conditions attach to the grant, and what is its term?

The proponent is to progress its investigations and provide Government with updates to support its ongoing consideration of the Project.

The proponent should advise NT Government if all or part of the land is no longer required for the purposes of the proposed project. The commitment is for 12 months from 14 July 2026.

2. Will the instrument, decision record and any conditions be published?

No

a. If not, why not?

The commitment only provides that the NT Government will not deal in the identified land in a manner that would be inconsistent with the proponent's development for 12 months.

3. What consideration, financial or otherwise, is the Territory receiving for the exclusivity?

None.

4. What water allocation is proposed or sought for the project, including any borefield supply, and on what pricing basis?

No water allocation has been proposed or sought by the proponent at this stage.

5. The announcement records that the campuses "would be powered by up to 2GW of on-site gas-fired power generation", and that "Beetaloo Digital intends to be a net contributor to the NT grid with generation capacity intentionally overbuilt so that surplus baseload power can be supplied to the local market".

a. Has the Territory or the Power and Water Corporation received any proposal for the development to connect to, or supply into, the Darwin-Katherine electricity system; if so, on what date and on what terms?

This should be referred to the Minister for Essential Services.

b. What assessment has been undertaken of the effect on the Darwin-Katherine system of generation of that scale connecting to it?

This should be referred to the Minister for Essential Services and/or the Minister for Mining and Energy.

- c. What arrangements, if any, have been discussed for the purchase of surplus generation, by whom and on what pricing basis?**

This should be referred to the Minister for Essential Services and/or Minister for Mining and Energy.

- d. The announcement records a proposed gas supply of “up to 200 TJ / day per GW of power generation”. What assessment has been undertaken of the effect of gas supply at that scale on domestic gas availability and price, and from which fields is it proposed to be supplied?**

This should be referred to the Minister for Essential Services and/or Minister for Mining and Energy.

- 6. Under what assessment pathway will the proposed development at Weddell proceed, including its on-site power generation?**

- a. Will it be assessed under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*, the *Planning Act 1999*, or another pathway and has that been determined?**

The Commitment does not circumvent any legislative requirements relating to environmental, planning, rezoning or development approvals.

There are likely to be a number of regulatory requirements. However, there has been no determination of the legislation that applies because the Project has not yet been defined.