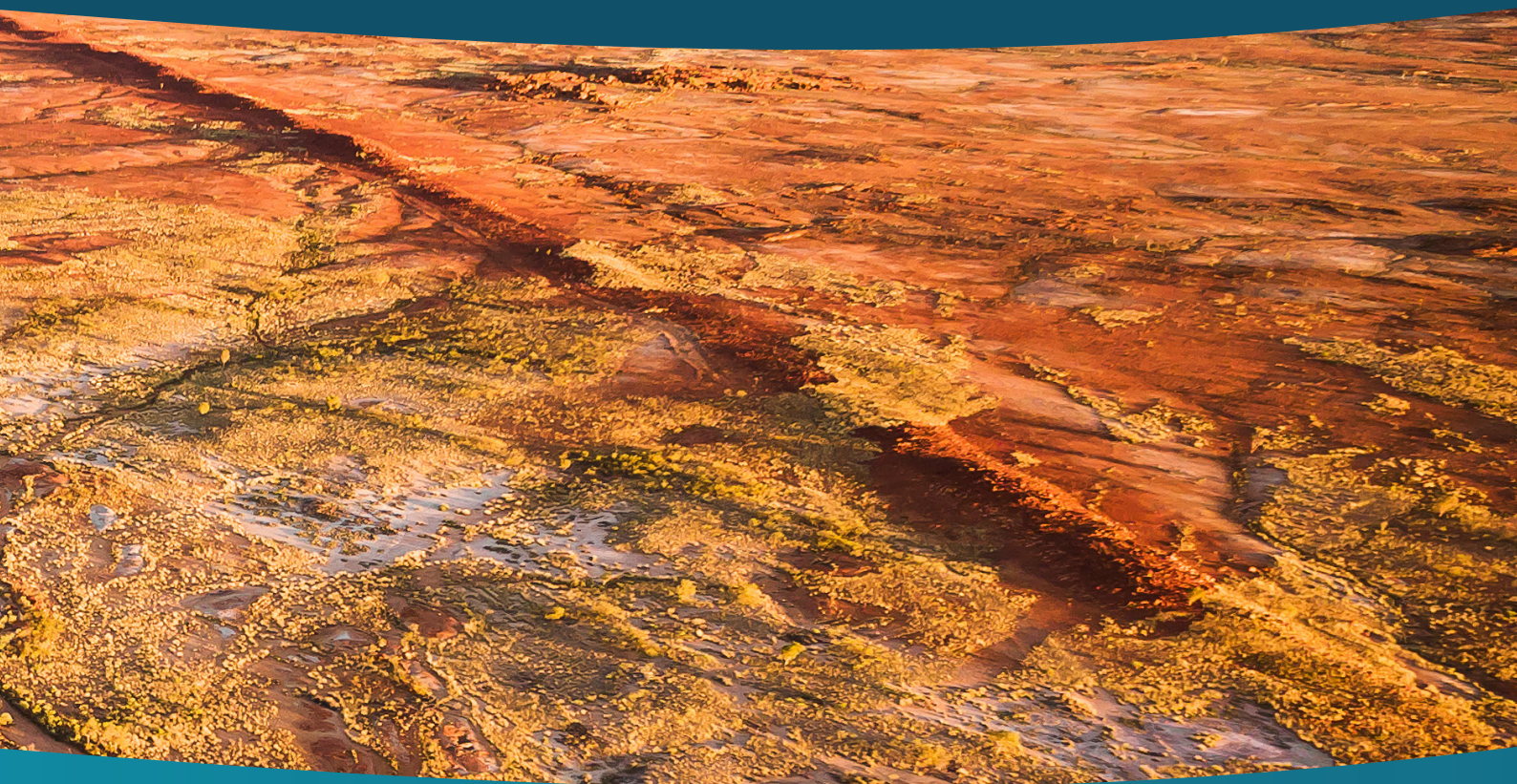


SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY INTO HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



**Building a productive onshore gas industry that
protects our unique environment and delivers local jobs**

hydraulicfracturing.nt.gov.au



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This Implementation Plan responds to the Final Report recommendations from the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*. To read the Inquiry report and recommendations, visit frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au

This plan has been developed in collaboration with relevant government departments and outlines responsible agencies, actions and stages of implementation.

The plan is in two parts. This document is the high level summary of the three stages of implementation and how and when each recommendation will be implemented. This plan is supported by the list of recommendations and further detail on how each will be implemented. Both the plan and the accompanying list of recommendations are available online at hydraulicfracturing.nt.gov.au.

Implementation of the plan is to strengthen regulation, ensure industry is accountable for its practices, safeguard water and the environment, respect community and culture, maximise the benefits and opportunities available to local businesses and communities, and ensure planning for future development.

Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry Implementation Taskforce
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Northern Territory Government's number one priority is creating opportunities for Territorians.

We also understand that a healthy environment is fundamental to a prosperous and sustainable community.

The Northern Territory is blessed with globally-significant stores of onshore shale gas.

Unlocking these reserves will create a new industry for the Territory and with it new jobs, investment, infrastructure and exciting, well-paid career pathways for our young people.

However, no amount of potential is more important than the existing jobs and industries that have built the Territory, or the lifestyles and cultures that make this the best place in the world to live.

We must ensure that both the Territory's bounty and beauty can be enjoyed for generations to come.

The Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing, chaired by the Honourable Justice Rachel Pepper, was commissioned to investigate if a shale gas industry could co-exist with other industries. The panel concluded that industry risks could be sufficiently managed if all of the inquiry's recommendations were accepted.

Government accepted all of the panel's recommendations.

These include continuing the right of veto for traditional owners under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act*, making sure traditional owners and pastoralists get a say and protections that ban petroleum activity in National Parks, Conservation Areas, Indigenous Protected Areas, towns, residential areas including nearby strategic assets, and areas of high cultural, environmental or tourism value.

We will also find the nation's best to conduct a SREBA – a Strategic Regional and Environmental Baseline Assessment. The SREBA will be a comprehensive environmental, social and cultural baseline map to measure against new and ongoing data as the industry matures.

The work we do in the Territory will not only radically transform our knowledge of some of our remote areas, but will also be the first of its kind in the world.

Data, not just from baselines, but from industry, such as chemical usage, will be publicly accessible.

Implementation of the 135 recommendations will take a number of years and require more community and industry input.

We have appointed Dr David Ritchie, a member of the Scientific Inquiry Panel, to hold government and industry to account as we implement the recommendations.

I encourage Territorians to be involved. There are a number of ways detailed in this plan.

Time will tell how big and fast this industry grows in the Northern Territory, as exploration confirms the scale of our shale gas reserves. Right now, we must be planning for this industry to grow safely.

A shale industry will be new in the Northern Territory, but lessons from our international partners are also important.

We have a unique opportunity to build a well-regulated and planned industry from the outset.

This report details that plan.

The faithful implementation of the Inquiry recommendations will enable a new and significant industry – one more step in delivering the Territory at its remarkable future.

I look forward to continuing to listen to and work with all Territorians to deliver local jobs and protect of unique and precious natural environment.



Michael Gunner
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS ALL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INQUIRY

The Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory released its final report on 27 March 2018.

The Scientific Inquiry was extensive in its engagement program, taking over 1200 submissions, holding public hearings throughout urban centres, and talking to Territorians at community meetings in urban regional and remote settings.

The report recommended that the Northern Territory Government should accept and implement all 135 recommendations in order to mitigate the risks, identified in the final report, to acceptable levels:

“...it is the Panel’s opinion that, provided that all of the recommendations made in this Report are adopted and implemented in their entirety, not only should the risks associated with an onshore shale gas industry be minimised to an acceptable level, in some instances, they can be avoided altogether.”

On 17 April 2018, after carefully considering the Inquiry findings, the Northern Territory Government accepted all the Inquiry’s recommendations and lifted the moratorium on unconventional shale gas developments in the Northern Territory.

The Inquiry recommendations are considerably more wide ranging than previous reports and reviews. Full implementation of the recommendations will be transformative, establishing a new bench mark for industry regulation. The required effort to implement these reforms is significant and the Northern Territory Government is committed to implementing these recommendations.

The Northern Territory Government has now developed this Implementation Plan, which will be updated regularly to reflect progress and further refine our implementation approach. In many cases we will need to gather more information, develop policies and consult further with stakeholders and the community.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The task of implementing specific recommendations is spread across several ministerial portfolios and

government departments. The government has established two additional oversight mechanisms to increase transparency and accountability outside normal government reporting systems: the appointment of an Independent Officer and the establishment of an Onshore Shale Gas Community and Business Reference Group.

Independent Officer

Dr David Ritchie has been appointed the Independent Officer to oversee the implementation of the recommendations. Dr Ritchie was a member of the Inquiry Panel that consulted widely with the Northern Territory community to hear their views on hydraulic fracturing.

The role of the Independent Officer is to provide the Chief Minister and government with independent advice on how the implementation is progressing and being managed. The nature of this role requires the Independent Officer to remain at arms-length from day-to-day decisions and processes relating to implementation.

Onshore Shale Gas Community and Business Reference Group

The Onshore Shale Gas Community and Business Reference Group has been established with representatives from the community, environmental groups, local business, the gas industry, land councils and local government. Its role is to provide a forum for government to seek advice and share information on the Implementation Plan to deliver on the recommendations and their subsequent execution.

Implementation Taskforce

The Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry Implementation Taskforce has been established within the Department of the Chief Minister to coordinate the delivery of the Inquiry recommendations and articulate an approach to implementing each recommendation, mapped in the Implementation Plan.

A Steering Committee of government Chief Executives guides the work of the Taskforce and assesses and manages risks to the delivery of this plan.

As this new industry takes shape we all have a role to play, working together to create local jobs and protect the environment.



WE ALL HAVE A ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

The government's role is to provide strong leadership and sound governance to ensure the Territory maximises the benefits of this defining moment in our development. This will involve a fundamental re-set to our regulatory environment. We must provide certainty to industry and protect the environmental, social and cultural assets that Territorians value. To do this we must increase our baseline knowledge to ensure we can effectively assess, monitor and mitigate any risks and ensure we have appropriate powers under the regulatory regime to safeguard the Territory environment. These rules must be clear and set by involving stakeholders in policy development, seeking out global best practices and setting new standards for transparency in decision making and compliance. As part of its continued commitment to building trust through transparency, the Northern Territory Government will communicate any obstacles or potential impacts, and explain risk management and mitigation options appropriately.

INDUSTRY

Effective implementation will require ongoing participation from industry. To realise the full spectrum of opportunities presented by onshore gas, industry must support the reforms outlined in the recommendations and commit to full accountability for industry practices and impacts. Industry must establish engagement practices that are participatory, inclusive and empowering, and work collaboratively and transparently with government, the community and local business.

As the industry establishes, operators with access to global expertise and leading technologies will be encouraged to transfer knowledge, and upskill local staff and businesses.

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL BUSINESS

Throughout the Inquiry process, members of the community were regularly engaged and ultimately contributed a great deal to the report's findings and recommendations. As we implement the recommendations, it is important that we continue to engage with Territorians to ensure the industry's development reflects Territorians' expectations.

In particular, we will work with land councils to ensure the dialogue with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities continues.

Local businesses are the vital mechanism through which Territorians will capture the benefits of this new industry. For a gas industry to develop in the Northern Territory it will be critical that local businesses continue to upskill workers and build their capacity and capability to ensure Territory goods, labour and ingenuity are factored into the operations and success of the industry.

Ongoing community involvement will also ensure that opportunities presented by the gas industry are realised, including benefits for Aboriginal Territorians.

THE IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

– AN OVERVIEW



Building a productive onshore gas industry that protects our unique environment and delivers local jobs

The recommendations have been grouped into six major reform areas. These reform areas bring together recommendations that require a similar or coordinated response, such as developing mandatory Codes of Practice, or managing social and cultural impacts.

All reform areas will be implemented with the objective of building trust through transparency. The reform areas are: Strengthening Regulation; Ensuring Accountable Industry Practice; Safeguarding Water and the Environment; Respecting Community and Culture; Maximising Regional Benefits and Local Opportunities; Planning for Industry. Some recommendations correlate with actions across the six reform areas. For consistency and accountability each recommendation is captured by only one action group within the six major reform areas.

Further information on the recommendations are outlined in the following tables. Additional detail, including the lead government agency and how each recommendation will be implemented, is available online at hydraulicfracturing.nt.gov.au/.

Building Trust through Transparency

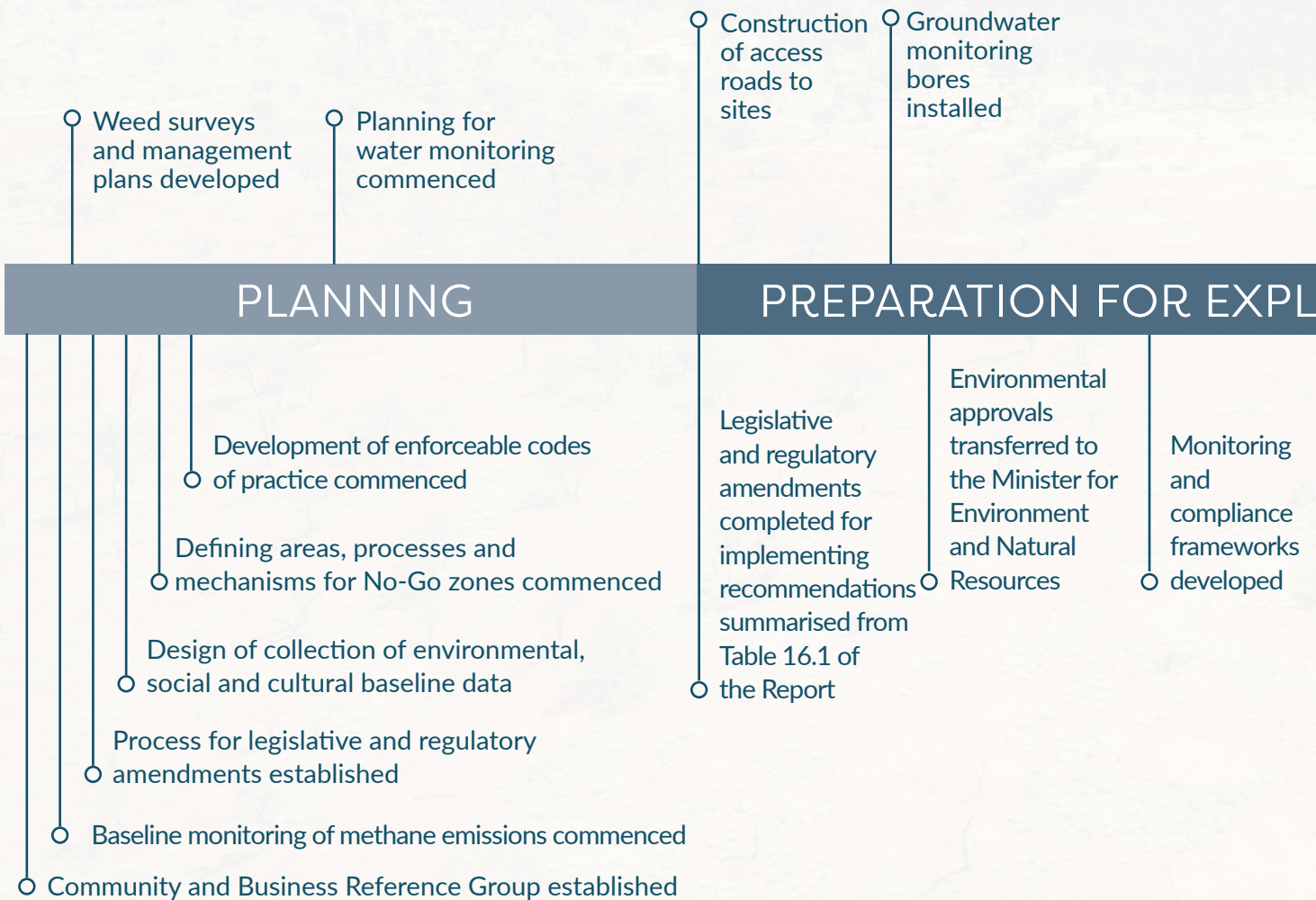
Strengthening Regulation	Ensuring Accountable Industry Practice	Safeguarding Water and the Environment	Respecting Community and Culture	Maximising Regional Benefits and Local Opportunities	Planning for Industry
Implementing a separate environment approval	Developing transparent and enforceable codes of practice	Collecting baseline data and informing regional management	Building a comprehensive framework for social and cultural baselines	Creating local training programs, skills assessment and employment	Defining areas, processes and mechanisms for no-go areas
Ensuring decisions are made transparently	Managing wastewater and chemical safety	Assessing, protecting and monitoring water resources	Conducting regional, social and cultural impact assessments	Maximising opportunities for Territory businesses	Improving roads and facilities
Holding decision-makers accountable	Monitoring gas companies and their operations	Maintaining and monitoring ecosystem health	Managing social and cultural impacts	Ensuring Territorians benefit from royalties	Planning for infrastructure, services, and industry impact
Giving the community a say	Ensuring gas companies comply with our laws		Ensuring respectful consultation, information, and negotiation		Addressing arrangements to access pastoral land
	Developing cost recovery arrangements				

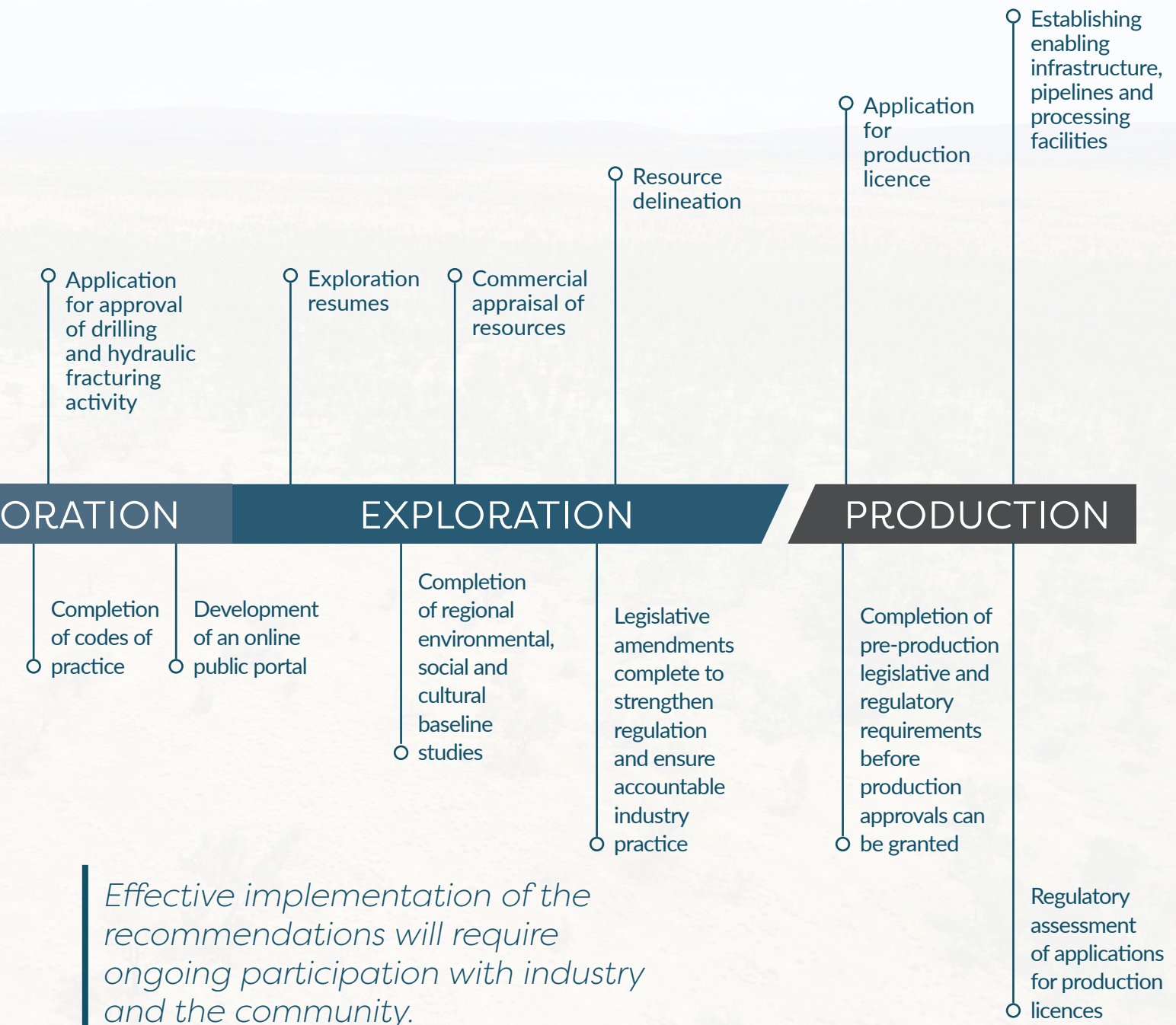
KEY MILESTONES

A visual representation of how recommendations and activities will be sequenced as industry develops

INDUSTRY

GOVERNMENT





IMPLEMENTATION STAGES

The Inquiry recommendations will be delivered in three stages aligned with major milestones as the industry develops.

STAGE ONE – PLANNING

Stage One outlines the tasks following the lifting of the moratorium. It covers setting up the governance arrangements for implementation, establishing the Onshore Shale Gas Community and Business Reference Group and starting work on some of the major reform areas.

This Implementation Plan is the major milestone in Stage One.

STAGE TWO – PREPARING FOR EXPLORATION

Stage Two comprises implementing the recommendations that need to be done early including those that the Inquiry determined must be complete before any exploration involving drilling or hydraulic fracturing and stimulation of unconventional wells. The recommendations summarised in table 16.1 of the Inquiry final report are:

- Codes of Practice for industry
- transfer of environmental decisions regarding petroleum from the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources
- baseline mapping and ongoing monitoring regimes for weeds, methane emissions and water quality near proposed drilling sites
- commencement of a broader Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment (SREBA).

Our goal is to complete this by the end of 2018.

STAGE THREE – EXPLORATION AND PREPARING FOR PRODUCTION

Stage Three covers the balance of the Inquiry recommendations and will take a number of years to complete. Stage Three must be completed before any production approvals are granted for unconventional gas. Many of the actions in Stage Three are still in planning and the detailed approach will be published in online updates to this plan. Actions in Stage Three may commence before Stage Two is complete.



TABLE 1: KEY MILESTONES IN EACH IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

Stage 1: Planning

- Continue ongoing community engagement, giving community a say
- Develop and publish Implementation Plan
- Establish the Community and Business Reference Group to build trust and transparency
- Strengthen regulation by establishing process for legislative and regulatory amendments
- Identify and meet resourcing requirements for implementation
- Commence design of Strategic Regional and Environmental Baseline Assessment (SREBA) model including building a comprehensive framework for social, health and cultural baselines
- Initiate development of transparent and enforceable Codes of Practice, including well integrity and decommissioning
- Commence definition of areas, processes and mechanisms for no-go zones

Stage 2: Preparation for exploration

- Continue ongoing community engagement, giving community a say
- Commence regional environmental, social, health and cultural baselines to safeguard water and the environment and manage social and cultural impacts
- Transfer environmental approvals to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, strengthening regulation and holding decision makers to account
- Ensure accountable industry practice by developing monitoring and compliance frameworks for the recommendations summarised in table 16.1 of the report
- Strengthen regulation by completing changes to regulations under the *Petroleum Act* and any consequential changes to other legislation to implement the recommendation summarised in table 16.1
- Complete changes so petroleum activities require water extraction licences under the *Water Act* to safeguard water and the environment
- Complete pre-exploration monitoring of methane emissions, groundwater quality and weed surveys and management plans
- Complete enforceable Codes of Practice initiated in Stage One
- Develop an online public portal to support transparency

Stage 3: Exploration and preparing for production

- Continue ongoing community engagement, giving community a say
- Amend legislation as required to strengthen regulation and accountable industry practice
- Introduce new *Environment Protection Act* to strengthen regulation
- Complete regional environmental, social, health and cultural baseline studies (SREBAs), to further protect and monitor our water resources and ecosystem health
- Implement all remaining recommendations

SREBA - Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment

BUILDING TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY

The principles of engagement, transparency and accountability are guiding our approach to implementing the recommendations. Working closely with all stakeholders, the Northern Territory Government agencies responsible for policy and regulation will ensure that accurate, reliable, and timely information is communicated, engagement is genuine, and feedback is valued and considered.

QUALITY ENGAGEMENT

We will continue to work closely with and involve stakeholders at policy, program and project level throughout the implementation of the recommendations. This approach will ensure that the needs of all stakeholders are understood so we can achieve the best outcome that directly benefits Territorians and protects our unique environment.

As we embark on reform we will remain inclusive in our engagement, using online feedback options and face-to-face meetings with community, business, industry, land councils and local government. Expert peer reviews will help us refine and improve our guidance materials.

BETTER ACCESS TO INFORMATION

To ensure transparency of gas companies' activities and impacts on our community or environment, the government will develop a new online portal as the central point for data on industry activity and environmental, social, health and cultural baselines and impacts. The portal will receive and publish real-time data. Information will be accessible to stakeholders and communities in the Northern Territory, and appropriate governance arrangements will be in place to protect confidentiality and individual privacy.

Culturally appropriate interpreter services will be used when consulting with Aboriginal people for whom English may not be their first language.

DECISIONS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The community will have the opportunity to comment on hydraulic fracturing Environment Management Plans (EMPs) before decisions are made.

To improve the rigour of decision making through transparency and accountability, members of the community will be able to more clearly see how decisions are made. We will publish the rationale for decisions, monitoring data and hydraulic fracturing EMPs.

The government will adopt statutory processes to increase decision makers' accountability, enabling people who are affected, directly or indirectly, by decisions concerning any gas development to challenge those decisions.

REAL-TIME MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

Finally, the government is committed to a regulatory regime that drives accountable behaviours. Industry will be regulated and compliance monitored with results published online, on a continuous basis.



STRENGTHENING REGULATION

A strengthened regulatory regime will ensure robust decision making by the government. The Inquiry told us that if the community can see how decisions are made, have input into the decision making process and can challenge decisions, the community will be more confident in and supportive of the government's decisions. We need to ensure that industry has certainty about its proposed work plans.

The government will transfer the authority to approve Environment Management Plans (EMPs) under the *Petroleum (Environment) Regulations* from the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources. The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) will have additional members with specialist skills and experience in the assessment and management of the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing to be able to provide the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources with advice on whether or not that Minister should approve certain activities. This will ensure decisions about the environmental impacts of both the unconventional and the conventional gas industry are made independently. The Minister for Primary Industry and Resources will retain responsibility

for regulating all non-environmental aspects of the petroleum industry, including resource management, operational and tenure matters.

We will also ensure government decisions are transparent so the community and industry understand how and why decisions are made. The law already requires approved EMPs and statements of reasons to be published online. We will increase transparency by requiring that reasons for other decisions are published including, for example, why the responsible Minister has decided to release land for exploration and why the Minister believes a gas company is a "fit and proper person" to hold a petroleum interest. We will also amend the law so public comment will be sought on draft EMPs for hydraulic fracturing activities received by the Minister and published.

Transparency will be incorporated into the decision making processes. We will make the regulatory changes required to allow open standing to challenge administrative decisions under the *Petroleum Act* and *Petroleum (Environment) Regulations*, including the approval of EMPs and petroleum exploration permits.

STRENGTHENING REGULATION	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Implementing a separate environmental approval		
The Northern Territory Government will transfer the power to approve Environment Management Plans (EMPs) under the <i>Petroleum (Environment) Regulations</i> from the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources. The NT EPA will have additional members with expertise in the environmental impacts associated with hydraulic fracturing and will be able to provide the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources with advice on whether or not the activity should go ahead under a proposed EMP.	14.34	2
The government will give further consideration to whether or not the establishment of a "one-stop-shop" independent regulator would be appropriate for regulating the gas industry in the Northern Territory in the long term.	14.35	3

	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Ensuring decisions are made transparently		
<p>The government will notify the public of any proposed land release for any onshore gas exploration, and will seek feedback prior to any proposed land release.</p> <p>The government will amend environmental and petroleum legislation to require the publication of reasons why decisions were made, including, for example, why the Minister has decided to release land for exploration.</p> <p>All notices and reports of environmental incidents will be published.</p>	14.2 14.12 14.16	2
<p>The government will amend environmental and petroleum legislation to require the publication of reasons why decisions were made, including, for example, why the Minister believes a gas company is a “fit and proper person” to hold a petroleum tenure for both exploration and production tenures.</p>	14.20	3
ACTION – Holding decision makers accountable		
<p>The principles of ecologically sustainable development will be applied to all decisions relating to the onshore gas industry.</p> <p>The cumulative effects of industry development will be considered in decision making.</p> <p>The government will make the regulatory changes required to allow open standing to challenge administrative decisions under the <i>Petroleum Act</i> and <i>Petroleum (Environment) Regulations</i>, including the approval of Environment Management Plans and petroleum exploration permits</p>	14.11 14.19 14.23	2
<p>The government will amend the <i>Petroleum Act</i> and <i>Petroleum (Environment) Regulations</i> to allow merits review and allow standing to relevant third parties.</p> <p>Government will review the existing arrangements around the allocation of legal costs of unsuccessful legal action by litigants who have genuinely pursued action in the public interest.</p>	14.24 14.25	3
ACTION – Giving the community a say		
<p>The government will allow any person to lodge an objection to the grant of an exploration permit within a prescribed time limit and the Minister must consider those objections in decision making.</p> <p>The government will publish draft Environment Management Plans for hydraulic fracturing online so that any person can make a comment, and the Minister will need to consider those comments in decision making.</p>	14.10 14.15	2

ENSURING ACCOUNTABLE INDUSTRY PRACTICE

The Northern Territory Government is inviting the gas industry into the Territory to perform the important task of exploring for and extracting a publicly owned resource. While gas companies are here we require them to obey our laws.

First, we need to be very clear about how we require gas companies to operate and the standards we expect them to reach. The Inquiry told us that having transparent and enforceable Codes of Practice is one way to make these requirements clear. We will develop Codes of Practice and other guidance materials to underpin every one of these requirements, such as how methane emissions will be minimised, how well integrity will be maintained, how solid wastes must be managed, how induced seismic activity can be minimised and how human health will be protected at all times.

We will require the gas companies to tell us what chemicals are used in hydraulic fracturing (and why), and what chemicals come out of the wells. We will mandate the public disclosure of this information. The government will keep track of the types of chemicals, their quantities, what they will be used for, how they will be transported, how spills will be prevented and managed and how the chemicals are removed or treated after their use. Gas companies will be prohibited from releasing any chemicals or wastewater into the environment. Wastewater will be required to be stored in enclosed tanks to ensure there is no leakage or overflow during the wet season, and well pads will be treated to ensure that spills cannot leak down into underlying aquifers.

The government will implement various tools to ensure gas companies comply with our laws. For example, we will enact a broader range of powers to sanction gas companies if they do not comply with our laws. We will review and increase penalties for environmental offences so that they are in line with best practice. We will look at implementing “chain of responsibility” laws similar to the kind introduced in Queensland to ensure that gas companies do not avoid complying with their environmental obligations. We will reverse the onus of proof so that gas companies – not landholders or the state – will need to prove in court that they did not cause environmental harm. We will also empower the community by establishing whistleblower protections and a whistleblower hotline that can be used if someone sees a problem. All these tools will work together to require gas companies to comply with our laws.

The gas industry will be accountable for the costs associated with regulating it. We will work with the community and industry to develop a framework that will ensure that, in the event of any environmental harm such as a leaky well or groundwater contamination, the industry – not Territorians – pays the clean-up costs in full. A non-refundable levy will be imposed on the industry before any gas production commences to ensure that money paid by the gas industry will be available for the long-term monitoring of wells.

ENSURING ACCOUNTABLE INDUSTRY PRACTICE	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Developing transparent and enforceable codes of practice		
<p>The Northern Territory Government will develop Codes of Practice and guidance for methane monitoring, well integrity, well decommissioning, treatment of solid wastes, seismic activity and human health. These codes will incorporate the Inquiry's recommendations, including, offset and set back distances, multilevel monitoring bores be installed, and that wells be pressure tested. The codes will be made enforceable via legislation, before any further hydraulic fracturing environmental management plan approvals are granted.</p> <p>Gas companies will be required to develop and implement well integrity management systems and plans, adopt international standards that reduce the risk of upstream methane emissions during exploration and production, and consult with government, landholders, land councils, local government and local communities around setback distances from community infrastructure.</p> <p>The government will develop a wastewater management framework so everyone knows where the wastewater from hydraulic fracturing goes and how it is treated.</p>	<p>5.1 5.3 5.4 5.5a 7.11 9.1 9.2 9.6 10.2 14.18</p>	2
<p>The government will work with industry, local businesses and independent scientific experts to develop guidelines for how solid wastes will be managed.</p> <p>The government will work with other jurisdictions, industry and independent scientific experts to develop a system to measure and minimise the impact of induced seismic events during hydraulic fracturing.</p> <p>The government will develop specific guidelines for human health and environmental risk assessments that are consistent with national frameworks and standards.</p> <p>The government will require that gas companies publicly disclose details of all faults that could compromise well integrity.</p> <p>The government will require gas companies to demonstrate that they have minimised the surface footprint of development and reduced the visibility from major public roads.</p> <p>Gas companies will be required to implement standards that manage the risk of methane emissions during exploration and production.</p> <p>The government will replace the Schedule under the <i>Petroleum Act</i> with Codes of Practice.</p>	<p>5.6 5.7 7.4 7.15 8.15 9.7 14.17</p>	3

ENSURING ACCOUNTABLE INDUSTRY PRACTICE

ENSURING ACCOUNTABLE INDUSTRY PRACTICE	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Managing wastewater and chemical safety		
<p>The government will amend the law to require disclosure of all chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing and all chemicals and naturally occurring radioactive minerals that come out of the well during exploration and production.</p> <p>The government will require industry to keep track of waste from the moment it leaves the site until it is ultimately treated.</p> <p>The government will not let gas companies release chemicals or wastewater into the environment. Gas companies will be required to have wastewater management and spill plans in place, will be prevented from discharging wastewater to drainage lines, waterways, temporary stream systems or waterholes, will have to enclose all wastewater in tanks to ensure waste does not leak out during the wet season, and design well pads to ensure that surface spills cannot leak down into underlying aquifers.</p>	7.10	2
	7.12	
	7.17	
<p>The government will review transport options for chemicals and wastewater associated with the onshore gas industry to determine whether additional practices or arrangements need to be considered to avoid the risk of spills and contamination.</p>	7.14	3
ACTION – Monitoring gas companies and their operations		
<p>The government will have monitoring programs in place for methane emissions so existing ambient emissions can be distinguished from emissions generated from industry activity. All the monitoring programs will include the collection of baseline data. The government will make sure the results of the monitoring are made publicly available. The government will ensure that industry funds pre and post-production monitoring programs.</p> <p>The government will work with other similar jurisdictions, industry and scientific experts to develop a monitoring and compliance strategy that will be reviewed by an independent expert, and made available to the community and industry to comment upon.</p>	9.5	2
	14.26	
<p>The government will ensure decommissioned and orphan wells continue to be monitored after they stop producing to ensure gas and chemicals do not leak into the environment.</p> <p>The government will consider the use of a tiered regulatory model for monitoring to apply only when the industry is well established.</p>	5.2	3
	14.28	

	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Ensuring gas companies comply with our laws		
The government will establish whistleblower protections and a hotline to allow industry participants and the community to report instances where they may be concerned about the industry's compliance with the law.	14.27	2
The government will require gas companies to develop road use agreements to ensure they clearly state and monitor expectations around transport safety and road use.	12.10 14.29 14.30	3
The government will enact a broader range of powers to sanction gas companies for non-compliance.	14.31	
The government will review penalties for environmental offences to bring them into line with world leading practice.	14.32	
The government will introduce a chain of responsibility laws similar to the kind introduced in Queensland to ensure that gas companies do not avoid complying with their environmental obligations.	14.33	
The government will reverse the onus of proof so that gas companies will need to prove in court that they did not cause instances of environmental harm.		
ACTION – Developing cost recovery arrangements		
Greenhouse gas emission baseline data and ongoing monitoring will be the responsibility of the regulator and funded by the gas industry.	9.4 14.1	3
The government will prepare a discussion paper on proposed cost recovery arrangements. To ensure the Northern Territory remains a competitive location for the industry, the arrangements will be informed by a comparative analysis of regulatory fees in other jurisdictions, as well as consultation with industry and other stakeholders.	14.13 14.14	
The government will work with the community and industry to develop a financial assurance framework that ensures that the gas industry – not Territorians – will be financially liable for any environmental damage.		
The government expects the industry to bear the costs of monitoring of gas wells, long after the wells have stopped producing gas. A long-term non-refundable levy on gas companies will be introduced to cover the costs of long-term monitoring of wells.		

SAFEGUARDING WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

One of the areas of community concern about the development of a gas industry in the Territory, and the use of hydraulic fracturing, is the risk of damage to our natural environment. Much of this concern is focused on water; competition between the gas industry and other water users, the potential for impacts on groundwater and aquatic ecosystems from water extraction, and risk of contamination of surface or groundwater and associated rivers and wetlands.

The government is implementing all the recommendations of the Inquiry, many of which will safeguard water and other environmental values through strengthening regulation and ensuring accountable industry practice. More specifically, the government will ensure gas activities are subject to the provisions of the *Water Act*, and water extraction will be licensed. Practices that pose an unacceptable risk to water resources, such as the use of surface water or reinjecting waste into aquifers, will be prohibited. Water allocation planning will identify the estimated sustainable yield of groundwater resources in regions subject to gas development, and ensure appropriate allocation of water to all users, including the environment and cultural uses.

Climate change is a global issue and the Chief Minister has written to the Prime Minister to commence discussions on offsetting greenhouse gas emissions. The Northern Territory climate change and environmental offsets policies are under development and will be progressed in parallel with the delivery of this implementation plan.

Managing our valuable water and other environmental assets in regions that may be developed for gas requires a detailed knowledge of the ecology and biodiversity of surface and groundwater ecosystems, and a sound understanding of aquifers and surface water systems. The Inquiry recognised that this detailed knowledge is lacking in many parts of the Territory.

To address this, the government will work with independent experts, research agencies such as CSIRO, and industry to undertake a comprehensive Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment (SREBA) in prospective onshore gas basins before granting any production approvals.

A SREBA will provide baseline data to properly assess all the biophysical risks, allow planning to minimise the potential for cumulative impacts and provide a baseline for monitoring to ensure satisfactory environmental outcomes.

It is anticipated that each SREBA will take at least three years to complete, and be largely funded by industry.

Planning has already commenced for a SREBA in the Beetaloo Sub-basin, where the first gas developments are expected to occur. In this region, the Australian Government Geological and Bioregional Assessment Program will also provide independent scientific advice on potential environmental impacts of gas extraction, along with appropriate mitigation and management approaches.

In line with the government's approach to managing all aspects of the developing gas industry, transparency will be an important aspect of each SREBA, and the results of all studies and the underlying environmental baseline data will be readily available to the public.

SAFEGUARDING WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Collecting baseline data and informing regional management		
<p>The Northern Territory Government will require that baseline weed assessment is undertaken in all areas subject to exploration for gas, before exploration takes place. This will be funded by industry, and carried out to standards established through guidelines prepared by the NT Government. Approval for exploration or production activity will include a requirement for ongoing weed monitoring and management to prevent new incursions or spread of weeds.</p> <p>The government will require regional baseline monitoring of methane concentrations for at least six months before granting any further exploration approvals. A longer-term regional methane baseline will be collected during a SREBA, before the grant of any production approvals. Methane monitoring will be funded by industry and undertaken in accordance with guidelines developed by external experts, commissioned by the NT Government.</p>	<p>8.2 9.3</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>The government will commission a Strategic Regional Environment and Baseline Assessment (SREBA) for all regions where gas development will occur, starting immediately in the Beetaloo Sub-basin. A SREBA will be completed prior to any production approvals for gas developments in that region. The government will also work with CSIRO and the Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy to maximise the alignment between the SREBA and the Geological Bioregional Assessment undertaken by those agencies.</p> <p>A SREBA will include identifying, mapping and characterising groundwater dependent ecosystems.</p> <p>A SREBA will also identify and map the distribution of threatened species and their habitats. This information will be considered in the environmental assessment of onshore gas projects, to minimise the impacts of habitat loss. The government will ensure ongoing monitoring of any important populations of threatened species within onshore gas project areas.</p> <p>As part of a SREBA, the government and external experts will undertake modelling of the regional groundwater systems in the Beetaloo Sub-basin, to assess the risk of impact of extraction related activities on groundwater quality and quantity.</p> <p>The government will develop a repository for all data informing a SREBA, and make all results from a SREBA readily available to the public.</p>	<p>7.16 7.19 8.6 14.21 15.1 15.2 15.3</p>	<p>3</p>

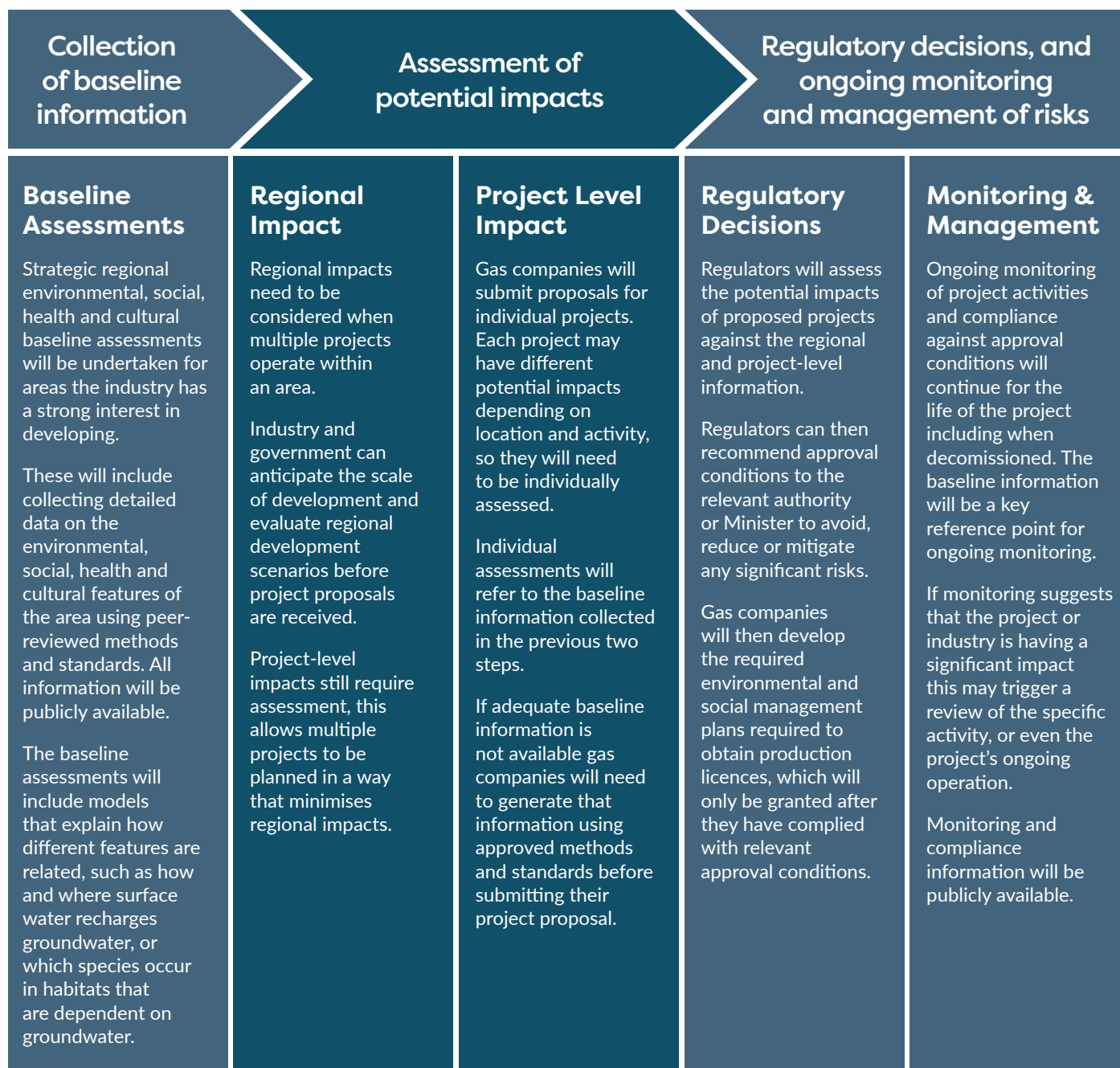
SAFEGUARDING WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SAFEGUARDING WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Assessing, protecting and monitoring water resources		
<p>The Northern Territory Government will amend the <i>Water Act</i> to cover mining and petroleum activities, which will ensure that water extraction for onshore gas activities will require a licence under the <i>Water Act</i>. This will include consequential amendments to mining and petroleum legislation.</p> <p>The government is considering the most effective regulatory mechanism to prohibit the use of surface water resources for any onshore gas activity, which will be implemented prior to any further exploration approvals for unconventional gas. The government will also implement measures to prohibit the reinjection of wastewater into aquifers.</p> <p>Regulatory amendments will be developed to protect existing water use by ensuring that the extraction of water for hydraulic fracturing does not occur within at least 1km of existing or proposed groundwater bores for domestic or stock use without the landowner's consent.</p> <p>Gas companies will be required to develop and implement monitoring programs to ensure the quality and quantity of groundwater is not adversely affected by gas operations.</p>	<p>7.1 7.6 7.8a 7.9 7.13</p>	2
<p>The government will develop options for a water pricing model that will be subject to community consultation.</p> <p>The government will ask the Australian Government to consider the merits of amending the Commonwealth Environment Protection and <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> so that the use of water in Northern Territory onshore gas triggers assessment under the Act.</p> <p>The government has commenced scoping for a regional water assessment of the Beetaloo Sub-basin, including the Roper River region, as part of a SREBA. This will be completed before any production approvals are granted. The government will undertake similar water assessments of other prospective areas of gas activities as they are identified for potential development.</p> <p>The government will declare or extend water control districts over areas where there is potential gas activity, starting with the Beetaloo Sub-basin. Water allocation planning in these areas will identify the estimated sustainable yield of water resources, allocate water to uses and establish rules to guide water trading and water licensing decisions. This process considers the impact of water extraction on all uses, including groundwater-dependent ecosystems, cultural values and the environment. Water advisory committees with key stakeholder representatives will be established to support the development of water allocation plans.</p> <p>Gas companies will need to ensure that their activities, including any new infrastructure such as roads or pipelines, do not adversely affect the flow and quality of surface waters or increase the risk of erosion.</p>	<p>7.2 7.3 7.5 7.7 7.8b 7.18 8.12 8.13 8.14 14.22</p>	3

	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Maintaining and monitoring ecosystem health		
<p>A baseline assessment of weeds will be required in any area subject to exploration for onshore gas. Gas companies will be required to have an approved weed management plan and fund a dedicated weeds officer for each gas field to ensure effective weed surveillance and management.</p> <p>The government will develop an environmental offsets policy, which the community will have the opportunity to comment on, by the end of 2018.</p>	8.3	2
	8.4	
	8.9	
<p>A SREBA will include studies of poorly known ecosystems that may be particularly vulnerable to impacts from water extraction and hydraulic fracturing, such as subterranean aquatic ecosystems and stygofauna. The regional baseline data collected for a SREBA will be essential for rigorous assessment of the environmental risks associated with the approval of onshore gas projects, as well as strategic planning of the development of gas fields and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>The regional biodiversity assessment will inform the identification of areas of high conservation value, from which onshore gas will be excluded.</p> <p>Detailed mapping of the distribution of high-value or sensitive habitats will allow infrastructure to be planned to avoid these areas.</p> <p>A SREBA will be completed prior to any production approvals for gas developments in that region, and industry will bear much of the cost of undertaking a SREBA.</p> <p>Gas companies will be required to have fire management plans for exploration and production areas, with robust monitoring programs and management actions to maintain fire regimes within established long-term regional baselines.</p> <p>The government will develop guidelines and implement regulatory measures to ensure sensitive habitats are identified and protected, minimise the extent of clearing of native vegetation for infrastructure, and ensure effective rehabilitation and revegetation of sites and corridors over time.</p> <p>The government will also introduce regulatory measures to ensure that indirect negative impacts on environmental health from gas developments are minimised, particularly risks associated with the spread of weeds and changed fire regimes.</p> <p>Discussions have already commenced with the Australian Government around accommodating the Northern Territory onshore gas industry within Australia's national climate policy framework, and our national emission reduction commitments.</p>	7.20	3
	8.1	
	8.5	
	8.7	
	8.8	
	8.10	
	8.11	
	9.8	

TABLE 2: STRATEGIC REGIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE ASSESSMENTS (SREBA) EXPLAINED

The report highlighted the importance of Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessments (SREBAs) and Social Impact Assessments (SIAs). The information collected in these studies will inform assessment, mitigation planning, regulation and monitoring of development, as shown in the diagram below.



RESPECTING COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

As the Northern Territory develops and new industries establish it is important to manage growth in a way that enhances our Territorian way of life, respecting the cultural, recreational and environmental assets we hold dear.

Embedding respect for our communities and the people that live in the Northern Territory is critical to ensure Territorians gain the greatest benefit from industry expansion, while mitigating and reducing social impacts.

The Northern Territory Government will introduce a Social Impact Assessment policy to manage the impact emerging industries can have on the lives and lifestyles of Territorians. Regulatory triggers can be detected through the environmental assessment process and moderated under the *Environment Assessment Act*.

Gas companies will be required to complete a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for endorsement by the regulator. Impacts they identify will be mitigated through a Social Impact Management Plan.

The government will work with traditional owners through land councils, native title holders,

pastoralists and regional communities to build comprehensive regional, social, health and cultural baseline information about what is important to them in their areas. Information gathered will range from recreational hotspots to health and wellbeing data. Information will be developed for open use except where information is deemed sensitive or confidential.

The baseline will inform SIAs and management plans for the development of the unconventional onshore gas industry in the Northern Territory.

Impacts need to be identified and responded to at all stages of development. This emerging industry must be culturally sensitive to the communities in which it operates and engage communities, particularly Aboriginal communities, in an informed and collaborative way.

The Northern Territory Government will develop and release guidelines to assist gas companies to identify social impacts.

RESPECTING COMMUNITY AND CULTURE	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Building a comprehensive framework for social and cultural baselines		
The Northern Territory Government will work with industry and independent experts to establish regional social, health and cultural baseline data before granting production approvals.	12.1	3
	12.2	
	12.5	
	12.6	
	12.7	
	12.17	
The baseline will provide gas companies with information to conduct their Social Impact Assessments, and will assist with transparent monitoring and evaluation, including assessment of cumulative impact management, where possible. The industry will fund these and the results will be made publicly available. The production of the social, health and cultural baseline data, and the assessment of the social impacts, will be overseen by the regulator.		
Community advisory groups will be established to provide ongoing feedback on the social and cultural impacts of industry development.		

RESPECTING COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Conducting regional social and cultural impact assessments		
<p>The Northern Territory Government will commission a regional level strategic Social Impact Assessment (SIA) to be completed before production approvals for the Beetaloo Sub-basin. This will include a comprehensive cultural impact assessment designed with land councils and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA). The terms of reference for this strategic SIA will be drafted and released for public feedback.</p> <p>There are three steps to developing the Beetaloo strategic SIA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish social baseline data and information based on the framework outlined above. 2. Government will develop a coordinated strategic SIA with industry, identifying a range of potential outcomes 3. In consultation with industry, government will establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess impacts at a regional level. <p>Industry will fund these assessments. Gas companies will be responsible for undertaking SIAs for their own projects, and then developing Social Impact Management Plans (SIMPs) as part of the environmental approvals process, along with relevant monitoring and compliance processes.</p>	12.20	3
ACTION – Managing social and cultural impacts		
<p>The government will establish a policy and associated guidelines for conducting SIAs and SIMPs. Gas companies will be expected to engage communities early in the development of these assessments and plans, including land councils, to fully understand and manage the potential impacts on shared infrastructure such as roads, accommodation and other services. Gas companies will be expected to upgrade or invest in new infrastructure such as roads or housing where necessary.</p> <p>Human health risk assessment reports will be prepared for the appropriate regulator before production approvals are granted.</p> <p>Gas companies must take an iterative, participatory approach to managing their social impacts including community engagement that is transparent and promotes community cohesion in order to support their social licence to operate. Collaborative strategies to enhance positive, and mitigate negative, social impacts that include procedural fairness and trust are key to establishing a social licence to operate and to ensure that communities are heard.</p>	10.1 12.3 12.4 12.8 12.11 12.12 12.13 12.16 12.18 12.19	3

	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Ensuring respectful consultation, information and negotiation		
Gas companies will have to obtain an Authority Certificate from the Aboriginal Area Protection Authority (AAPA) before they undertake specific activities on site.	11.1	2
Gas companies will be expected to engage the AAPA early in their planning process to provide the AAPA the opportunity to comment on those plans and, where necessary, explain plans to stakeholders.	11.2	
The government will adopt processes to protect the sub-surface features of a sacred site.	11.3	
	11.4	
	11.5	
	11.6	
	11.7	
Gas companies will be required to comply with section 41(6) of the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act</i> when supplying information to Native Title holders for the purposes of negotiating an onshore gas exploration agreement. Gas companies will be expected to use interpreters to ensure information is available in a familiar form.		
The government, gas companies and land councils will work together to develop an appropriate information program for Aboriginal people who will be affected by any onshore gas industry.		
Aboriginal communities and Traditional Owners will be involved in the design and development of cultural assessment and implementation planning. This includes consultation in relation to Aboriginal land rights under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act</i> and <i>Native Title Act</i> as detailed in the final report.	11.8	3

MAXIMISING REGIONAL BENEFITS AND LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

It is important that the Northern Territory takes maximum advantage of the economic opportunities that an onshore unconventional gas industry will bring to our remote regions. The main way we can do this is through making sure that Territorians are well placed to provide goods, services and workers to the industry.

A growing onshore gas industry will create direct and indirect jobs ranging from technical specialists in drilling and engineering to civil works and providing services like accommodation. The prospect for Territorians to be trained and working in this industry with its global reach is a great opportunity. To ensure Territorians are able to secure these jobs, we need to work with the industry to understand the skillsets required. Government will work with training providers to review our higher education and vocational education training offerings and ensure that Territorians are being trained in areas the industry will need. Education, training and upskilling will need to start now to ensure we have a pipeline of talent ready as the industry grows.

Providing the highest quality and reliable services is vital to our local business and industry competing successfully as this industry takes shape. Territory businesses have already demonstrated that they can compete on price, quality and after sales service. As it expands, the onshore gas industry will create a number of additional opportunities, ranging from environmental management to pipeline construction over the decades this industry will run.

The Department of Trade, Business and Innovation already has a suite of programs to support the growth of industry capabilities in the Northern Territory, and will develop bespoke programs once the gas industry's plans and needs are defined in greater detail.

A collaborative approach between industry and government will see Territorians in the array of skilled and unskilled jobs, within the industry and across our goods, manufacturing, services and supply networks that will exist well into the future.

MAXIMISING REGIONAL BENEFITS AND LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Creating local training programs, skills assessment and employment		
<p>The Northern Territory Government will refresh its framework that aims to maximise the contribution of private sector projects in the Territory. Under this framework, companies will be required to develop a plan that clearly articulates their commitments and strategies to deliver training and employment outcomes for local and regional stakeholders.</p> <p>The skills and employment requirements for each stage of a project will be assessed and mapped against the capabilities of the local industry and workforce. The plans will be expected to address employment, training and business development programs to maximise opportunities for local businesses and residents.</p>	12.14	3
	13.2	
	13.3	
	13.4	
	13.5	

	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Maximising opportunities for Territory businesses		
The exact nature of the opportunities for Northern Territory businesses will become clearer as the gas industry collects and collates the early results from exploration activity and gradually refines its development plans.	12.15	3
	13.6	
	13.7	
These development plans will identify the scale, location, breadth of services, volume of materials, schedule, and scale and location of enabling infrastructure such as roads, pipelines, accommodation, waste management facilities and professional services required to support the production of gas.	13.8	
	13.9	
	13.10	
The government will work with the gas industry and industry development partners such as the Northern Territory Industry Capability Network, the Chamber of Commerce and industry peak bodies to define the scope and timing of the opportunities for Territory businesses throughout the life cycle of the industry.		
ACTION – Ensuring Territorians benefit from royalties		
The government can expect to receive increased royalty and tax revenue from an onshore gas industry. The government will investigate options for allocating royalty revenues that facilitate economic, business and social development in the regions and the Northern Territory more broadly.	13.1	3
	14.9	
The government will work with the pastoral industry and the gas industry to determine the best way to compensate pastoralists for the impact gas operations may have on their businesses.		

PLANNING FOR INDUSTRY

Places with experience in gas industries share some common learnings. People in these regions, for example the east coast of Australia or in Pennsylvania, often talk about missed opportunities to better plan and prepare as their industry started and grew.

We have the unique advantage of realising that we are at the beginning of an industry that has significant potential in our region. In the Northern Territory we will work with industry and stakeholders, to learn from other regions where issues are the same to get our planning right in the Northern Territory.

Firstly, we must use our existing knowledge and new knowledge derived from any SREBA processes to effectively manage competing land interests and put no-go zones in place to protect areas of high value.

Identifying areas of high value and their existing and potential land use will provide us with data, that together with information on industry's development

pathways, can help us prepare for the growth of the gas industry and manage impacts at a regional level.

We will work with industry to understand how their development plans will impact our regional towns to inform population driven planning for schools, health and housing.

The government will also ensure that transport network planning reflects the development pathways of industry so that wear, tear and congestion is managed and roads are safe for all road users.

Pipeline, road and rail corridors will be considered in planning and new regional infrastructure will be developed to benefit multiple users wherever possible.

The government will work with pastoralists and industry to develop and legislate a fair access regime requiring land access agreements with standard minimum protections for pastoralists be in place before industry accesses pastoral leases.

PLANNING FOR INDUSTRY	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Defining areas, processes and mechanisms for no-go areas		
The Northern Territory Government recognises that there are areas of the Territory where gas activities must never occur. The Inquiry recommended that areas such as national parks, towns and areas of cultural and ecological significance should be declared Reserved Blocks under the <i>Petroleum Act</i> . The government will give effect to the intent of this recommendation while preserving the right of Traditional Owners to control development on their traditional land.	14.4 14.5	2
The government does not approve any application for an exploration permit in relation to areas that are not prospective for onshore gas or where co-existence is not possible.	14.3	3

	REC #	STAGE
ACTION – Improving roads and facilities		
<p>The government will maintain its role for overseeing the transport network, with industry being accountable for developing management plans to mitigate any potentially adverse impacts on the Northern Territory transport system.</p> <p>The government will work with all levels of government, community and industry to identify and manage infrastructure risks and opportunities and investigate funding options including from the private sector to support infrastructure associated with the projects.</p>	5.5b 8.16 12.9	3
ACTION – Planning for infrastructure, services, and industry impact		
<p>As part of the regional level baseline Social Impact Assessment (SIA) the Northern Territory Government will undertake studies to identify the infrastructure the industry requires and potential risks to other users.</p> <p>These studies will be designed with input from local communities and the gas industry, and put out for public feedback. Infrastructure considered in these studies will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transport systems, especially road and rail • pipeline requirements • wastewater management systems • accommodation requirements • infrastructure shared with the broader community. 	13.11 13.12	3
ACTION – Addressing arrangements to access pastoral land		
<p>The Northern Territory Government understands that the development of the unconventional gas industry in Australia has, in some cases, caused tension between pastoralists and gas companies.</p> <p>The government will work with the pastoral and gas industries to legislate a fair land access regime that will require gas companies to reach an agreement with pastoralists before they access pastoral leases.</p> <p>The government will develop, through consultation, a process for how pastoral lessees should be compensated for the impact that gas production operations have on their pastoral operations, which will be made enforceable via legislation.</p>	14.6 14.7 14.8	2

CURRENT REFORMS THAT SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION

The Northern Territory Government's decision to accept all the recommendations of the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory* was a significant commitment to delivering a productive onshore gas industry that creates local jobs and protects our unique environment.

The development of an onshore gas industry in the Territory will allow us to also capitalise on a number of other initiatives that are already underway. These include:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Economic Development Framework highlights the significant opportunity this industry presents. The Northern Territory has globally significant onshore energy reserves and can contribute to improving global and national energy security, and in doing so deliver significant local economic growth opportunities.

WATER POLICY AND REGULATION

The *Water Act* is being amended so that it covers mining and petroleum industries. This is one of a suite of regulatory and policy changes that are proposed to provide greater certainty for users and protections for the environment.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OFFSET POLICIES

The government is developing climate change and environmental offset policies. They will contribute to protecting our environment as we grow and develop. The public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on these draft policies as they are developed later in 2018.

ENERGY POLICY

The government is developing an energy policy. The policy will consider our energy mix, responding to the *Roadmap to Renewables Report*, infrastructure requirements and industry development.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

The government has committed to a comprehensive environmental regulatory reform program. This will provide certainty and improve community confidence in the environmental impact assessment and approval system. The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority will undertake assessment of significant environmental impacts, and the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources will issue the approval.

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT POLICY

The government is developing a Social Impact Assessment policy that will provide guidelines for what is required and how we will identify, assess and regulate social impacts.

This policy will ensure all future developments meet the highest standards of social and cultural impact identification, assessment and management in the best interests of the community.

REPORTING ON PROGRESS

Delivering this complex plan will take time. We need to build our understanding of our natural resources and social, cultural and recreational assets and pressures. We need to amend and create new legislation, improve regulation and develop expertise across our agencies. We need to take the time to consult with stakeholders on policy changes and consider all potential consequences to ensure that we see an industry develop that coexists with other industries and the Territory environment and lifestyle we treasure.

Implementing all the recommendations and working with stakeholders as the industry develops will require a considered, staged approach. Some of the recommendations require further policy development, stakeholder consultation and legal advice to achieve the best outcome.

The implementation program will have both government and independent oversight.

Comprehensive progress reports will be released regularly, covering all six reform areas.

The progress of implementation activity will be reported via a dedicated website designed to provide a broad range of information, including progress reports.

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN IMPLEMENTATION

Territorians were great contributors to the Inquiry and we invite you to continue to participate as we enter the next stage of developing the industry.

Sign up for regular updates on the website hydraulicfracturing.nt.gov.au
email the taskforce at hydraulic.fracturing@nt.gov.au or phone **+61 8 8999 6573**

Visit hydraulicfracturing.nt.gov.au to find more information including implementation detail for each of the recommendations.



hydraulicfracturing.nt.gov.au

