

## COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS REFERENCE GROUP COMMUNIQUE

Meeting eight, Tuesday 8 December 2020, Darwin, Northern Territory

### Purpose of the meeting:

To provide a forum for the Community and Business Reference Group (the CBRG) to review the seventh progress update on implementation of recommendations from the Final Report of the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing – Implementation Plan* for the period 1 May to 31 October 2020.

### Eighth meeting of the Community and Business Reference Group:

- The CBRG held its eighth meeting on 8 December 2020 in Darwin and via WebEx. Several Senior Officers from relevant NT Government agencies and Dr David Ritchie, Independent Overseer were in attendance to answer any questions from the group.

### Progress and Reporting

- The Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) provided an overview to the CBRG of two detailed meeting papers on:
  1. HFI implementation 6 month progress update: for the period of 1 May – 31 October 2020, including Dr Ritchie's letter to the Chief Minister as Independent Overseer
  2. CBRG term conclusion and ongoing oversight of implementation
- CM&C, Senior Officers in attendance and Dr David Ritchie opened to the CBRG for questions on the papers and progress report.

### Discussion on papers

- Further detail requested on:
  - water allocation planning areas in the Beetaloo, including Mataranka/Daly Water areas;
  - Lifecycle Emissions and recommendation 9.8, does it include downstream processing?;
  - ongoing process of nomination or assessment for no go zones to be declared (recommendation 14.4); and
- All further detail was taken as questions on notice and will be provided to requesting member of CBRG

### CBRG Term

- The Chair noted that the term of the CBRG was due to conclude on the 31 December 2020, having already been extended twice from its original term by one and a half years.
- CM&C provided details on mechanisms of targeted stakeholder engagement and oversight in place for the subsequent execution of implementation including:
  - the extension of the term of the Independent Overseer, Dr Ritchie to December 2021;
  - the Aboriginal Information Program Working Group with membership from Land Councils, AAPA and APPEA;
  - Beetaloo Regional Reference Group to provide advice on the implementation of the SREBA studies,
  - Direct and regular local content and business sector updates;
  - Ongoing public reporting through the website progress updates and community bulletins; and

- Ongoing opportunity for CBRG members to seek briefings from agency officers/Ministers and access to Dr Ritchie.
- Upon request from the group, CM&C committed to the ongoing sending out of the six monthly update to CBRG members post cessation of the group
- Dr Ritchie committed to holding videoconference/in person on items of interest post circulation of the future 6 month progress updates to group, particularly with representatives of environmental groups upon request
- The Chair presented the view that the group has served its purpose and that there's no sound reason to request a further extension noting all other oversight and engagement mechanisms in place.
- The Chair noted the CBRG term ceases on 31 December 2020 and recommended no further extension be requested of the Chief Minister. This request was supported by members.
- The Chair thanked members for their contributions during the duration of the CBRG term.