

Overview

Over the last four years, the Territory Government has been working to implement the 135 recommendations from Justice Rachel Pepper's Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing by developing multiple safeguards for the regulation and monitoring of an onshore gas industry.

This work has been overseen by Dr David Ritchie, (who was a member of the original Inquiry panel as Independent Officer) operating at arm's length from government. Dr Ritchie has provided advice to government to ensure an onshore industry that will be operating to world's best practice and, accordingly, we will deliver tough and uncompromising new measures that will safeguard the Territory's environment.

A strong regulatory framework and a clear pathway that continues to ensure that Aboriginal people have a say are now in place.

A major part of the Government's response has been the Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment (SREBA), which is the most comprehensive series of regional scientific studies ever conducted in the Northern Territory.

This large body of data and research from the SREBA will be used to assess risks and help monitor and mitigate impacts on the Beetaloo region.

There are now much stronger environmental, cultural, social, economic and health protections in place than ever existed before the Inquiry.

The Territory Government is carefully managing the onshore gas industry through this strengthened regulatory framework, ensuring greater transparency and accountability – and with Aboriginal people having a seat at the table.

This means all applications made for gas production in the Beetaloo Sub-basin – subject to the industry's successful exploration and appraisal results – will go through a rigorous approval and monitoring process. These reforms will continually be assessed and be responsive to opportunities to refine or adapt them as required.

The new industry standards set a very high bar with clear expectations and transparency for industry compliance.

The Northern Territory Government has undertaken a very considered and balanced approach in the transition to renewables so that it never loses sight of what makes the Territory the best place to live.

Along with the NT's world-class renewable resources, the highly prospective onshore gas resources will support energy security during the transition to renewables – and will improve living standards for all Territorians.

Where can I find more information?

- The Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing implementation of recommendations: hydraulicfracturing.nt.gov.au and hydraulicfracturing.nt.gov.au/resources/factsheets and hydraulicfracturing.nt.gov.au/resources/fast-facts
- The free mapping tool to for documents and information about Petroleum Onshore Information, NT: point.nt.gov.au
- The Petroleum activities, operations and reporting: nt.gov.au/industry/mining-and-energy/petroleum-activities
- Code of Practice for onshore petroleum activities in the NT: depws.nt.gov.au/onshore-gas/onshore-gas-in-the-northern-territory/code-of-practice-onshore-petroleum-activities-in-the-nt
- The Environment Management Plans: depws.nt.gov.au/onshore-gas/environment-management-plan
- The Petroleum guidance materials: depws.nt.gov.au/onshore-gas/guidelines
- Petroleum reserved blocks and land tenure: nt.gov.au/industry/mining-and-energy/land-tenure-and-availability/petroleum-reserved-blocks
- Compliance and reporting: depws.nt.gov.au/onshore-gas/onshore-gas-in-the-northern-territory/industry-compliance-and-reporting
- The SREBA Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment: depws.nt.gov.au/sreba
- The Territory's Gas: territorygas.nt.gov.au