

Approval notice and statement of reasons

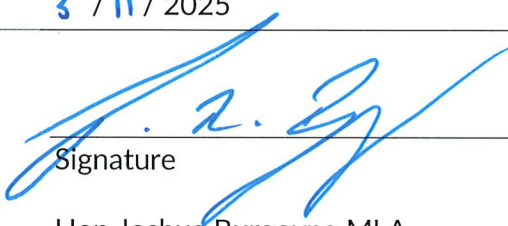
Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016 (NT) (Regulations)

Interest holder	Tamboran B2 Pty Ltd ACN 105 431 525 Falcon Oil and Gas Australia Limited ABN 53 132 857 008
	Nominated Operator – Tamboran B2 Pty Ltd
Petroleum interest(s)	Exploration Permit 117 (EP117)
Environment management plan (EMP) title	Beetaloo Basin Shenandoah South Sand Wash Plant
EMP document reference	TB2-HSE-MP-028, (TAM4-2) prepared by Tamboran B2 Pty Ltd dated 2 October 2025
Regulated activity	Conducting 11.2 ha of land clearing Construction and operation of a temporary sand wash plant and ancillary infrastructure. Construction of in-ground water management infrastructure including settlement basins, decant water ponds and raw water ponds. Management and recycling of reject sand and water and rehabilitation of sand wash plant.
Is the EMP a new plan submitted under reg 6 or a revision of a current plan submitted in accordance with reg 18, or regs 15 and 17?	This is a new plan submitted under reg 6.
Was the regulated activity referred ¹ for consideration whether environmental impact assessment was required?	No
Was environmental impact assessment ² required?	N/A
Has an environmental approval ³ been issued for the regulated activity?	N/A
Has an Authority Certificate under the <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i> been issued for the regulated activity?	Yes C2025/092
Date an EMP compliant with reg 8 was first submitted under reg 6	12 August 2025
Date within which the EMP was published for comment under reg 8A, if applicable	N/A
Date further information was required and submitted under reg 10, if applicable	1 October 2025 (requested) 3 October 2025 (received)
Date of resubmission notice under reg 11(2)(b) and date EMP was resubmitted, if applicable	1 October 2025 (requested) 3 October 2025 (received)
Date of resubmission notice under reg 11(3) and date EMP was resubmitted, if applicable	N/A

¹ This means a referral under the *Environment Protection Act 2019 (NT) (EP Act)* and/or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act)*.

² This means a requirement for an environmental impact assessment to be conducted under the EP Act and/or the EPBC Act.

³ This means an approval granted under the EP Act and/or the EPBC Act.

Date a notice setting out a proposed timetable for consideration of the EMP was issued under reg 11(2A), or reg 11(3)(c), if applicable	N/A
Proposed timetable given in notice under reg 11(2A), or reg 11(3)(c), if applicable	N/A
Where provided under s29B of the <i>Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012 (NT) (NT EPA Act)</i> , the dates the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) was requested to, and provided, advice on EMP	N/A
Date of decision	3 / 11 / 2025
Decision maker	
	Signature
	Hon Joshua Burgoyne MLA, Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment

1 Approval notice

1. I approve the EMP under reg 11(3)(a)(i).
2. The approval is subject to the following conditions:

Condition 1: Within 45 days of completing land clearing activities, the interest holder must submit to Onshoregas.DLPE@nt.gov.au geospatial files (as shapefiles and inclusive of metadata).

Condition 2: The interest holder must submit recordable incident reports to Onshoregas.DLPE@nt.gov.au no later than 5 pm ACST 15 days after the end of each quarter, being 15 April, 15 July, 15 October and 15 January each year while the approved plan remains in force, and must be submitted regardless of whether an incident occurred during the reporting period or not.

Condition 3: By 1 October of each year, the interest holder must submit to Onshoregas.DLPE@nt.gov.au a completed Annual Environmental Performance Report (AEPR) for the preceding 12-month period of 1 July to 30 June. The Template must be completed in accordance with the *Onshore Petroleum Annual Environmental Performance Reporting Guideline (21 December 2023)* as updated from time to time.

Condition 4: The interest holder must maintain records demonstrating that all process water generated, stored, or transferred onsite is fully contained. Any release beyond the system must be reported to Onshoregas.DLPE@nt.gov.au as soon as reasonably practicable.

Condition 5: By 31 October of each year, the interest holder must submit to Onshoregas.DLPE@nt.gov.au the emissions report required by clause D.6.2⁴ of the Code, which must:

⁴ Clause D.6.2(b) of the Code requires annual actual greenhouse gas emissions to be provided even where emissions are below the NGER Act threshold of 25 ktCO₂-e for scope 1 and scope 2 emissions reporting.

1 Approval notice

- a) calculate emissions in accordance with the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008;
- b) document actual annual greenhouse gas emissions from conduct of the regulated activity estimated and reported under the Commonwealth *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (NGER Act) versus predicted emissions in the EMP (TAM 4-2);
- c) demonstrate the actual emissions have been verified by an auditor registered under the Register of Greenhouse and Energy Auditors established under section 75A of the NGER Act. Verification of the sand wash plant emissions may be undertaken as part of a wider facility emissions verification process;
- d) include a summary of all regulated activities conducted which have contributed to greenhouse gas emissions during the reporting period; and
- e) account for differences between actual and predicted emissions with reference to all parts of the regulated activity with potential to create greenhouse gas emissions.

Condition 6: The interest holder must record all accidental releases of liquid contaminant or hazardous chemicals in a site spill register, which records:

- a) the liquid contaminant or hazardous chemical spilled or leaked;
- b) the GPS co-ordinates of the location of the spill or leak;
- c) the source and volume of the spill or leak;
- d) the volume of impacted soil removed for disposal and the depth of any associated excavation; and
- e) the corrective actions taken or proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of an incident of a similar nature.

Condition 7: Progressive rehabilitation must commence no later than 12 months following permanent cessation of the regulated activity within the site.

Condition 8: Within 90 days of the anniversary of the commencement of rehabilitation under the EMP (TAM 4-2), and thereafter annually, the interest holder must provide a rehabilitation monitoring report which:

- a) provides the dates vegetation monitoring analogue sites were established and surveyed during the preceding 12-month period;
- b) provides the dates rehabilitation monitoring was undertaken during the preceding 12-month period;
- c) analyses and compares rehabilitation progress against analogue sites and the rehabilitation criteria in the EMP;
- d) includes corrective actions identified for rehabilitated areas and the date those corrective actions were implemented, or the date they are proposed to be implemented; and
- e) is accompanied by geospatial files (as shapefiles and inclusive of metadata) identifying the areas rehabilitated during the preceding 12-month period.

2 Material considered

1. The following material has been taken into account in making this decision:
 - a. Beetaloo Basin Shenandoah South Sand Wash Plant Environment Management Plan (TAM4-2) dated 2 October 2025.
 - b. The principles of ecologically sustainable development referenced in reg 5A and the approval criteria set out in reg 9(1).
 - c. The Authority Certificate issued under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*.
 - d. The Code of Practice: Onshore Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory (Code) as set out in reg 4A.

3 Statement of reasons

1. The EMP meets the approval criterion in reg 9(1)(a), because it contains all the information required by Schedule 1 of the Regulations. reg 9(1)(a)
2. I have taken into account the approval criterion in reg 9(1)(b) by noting the nature and scale of the regulated activity and bearing it in mind during my consideration of the impacts and risks. In particular, I note that: reg 9(1)(b)
 - a. The nature of the regulated activity is as follows:
 - i. Construction and operation of a temporary sand wash plant and ancillary infrastructure.
 - ii. Groundwater extraction
 - b. The scale of the regulated activity is as follows:
 - i. A total surface disturbance of 11.2 ha.
 - ii. An estimated groundwater usage of <100 ML pa.
 - iii. A peak traffic movement of 8 vehicles per day.
 - iv. A workforce of up to 32 personnel.
 - v. Anticipated emissions of 9622 tCo₂-e (total).
3. The approval criteria in reg 9(1)(c) requires that I be satisfied that the activity will be carried out in a manner by which the environmental impacts and environmental risks of the activity will be reduced to a level that is both: (i) as low as reasonably practicable; and (ii) acceptable. In assessing whether the EMP meets the approval criteria, I note that my decision is a prescribed decision (under reg 5A) for s 6A of the Act, and as such requires me to consider and apply the principles of ecologically sustainable development. In accordance with reg 12(3), I provide the following information about how the EMP meets the approval criteria, and the manner in which I have taken into account the principles of ecologically sustainable development when considering whether or not the plan meets the approval criteria. reg 9(1)(c)
4. The principles of ecologically sustainable development are defined at section 18-24 of the *Environment Protection Act 2019*, and I address each in turn:
 - a. The decision-making principle (s 18 *Environment Protection Act 2019*) requires effective integration of long-term and short-term environmental and equitable considerations, and for processes to provide for community involvement in relation to decisions and actions that affect the community. Related to this, I note the following:

- i. The regulated activity is low impact and of short duration (five years plus rehabilitation), and forms one component of a broader onshore petroleum exploration program in the region. The regulated activity will inform decision-making about longer-term petroleum activities.
 - ii. Public consultation on the EMP was not required under the Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016, as the EMP does not propose drilling or hydraulic fracturing activities. The public was made aware that the EMP was under assessment via the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment's (the Department's) website.
 - iii. Next, I have considered short-term and long-term environmental impacts of carrying out the regulated activity.
 - iv. The information before me suggests short-term environmental impacts are negligible.
 - v. The information before me suggests long-term environmental impacts are negligible.
 - vi. There is no particular contest between economic, social and environmental considerations that requires further mention.
 - vii. Taking an integrated view of long-term and short-term environmental and equitable considerations, I am satisfied that the considerations on balance and taken together support approval of the EMP.
- b. The precautionary principle (*s 19 Environment Protection Act 2019*) applies when there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage and requires that lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. I am satisfied that the regulated activity does not pose a threat of serious or irreversible environmental damage.
- c. The principle of evidence-based decision-making (*s 20 Environment Protection Act 2019*) requires decisions to be made on the best available evidence in the circumstances that is relevant and reliable. I am of the view that the evidence before me satisfies this requirement for the following reasons: I am satisfied that the best available evidence has been obtained because:
- i. The EMP was developed by persons who have professional qualifications, training, skills and experience on the subject matter of environment, safety, risk management, and petroleum development and operations, as well as consultants with experience working in the Beetaloo Sub-basin.
 - ii. The interest holder employed a comprehensive process to obtain relevant information including baseline assessments, archaeological assessments, stakeholder engagement and consultation with relevant NT government agencies.
 - iii. The EMP has undergone review and assessment by a multi-disciplinary team in the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment and NT government agencies, which has informed my decision on the EMP.
 - iv. The interest holder provided further information to address these concerns, these included environmental performance standards and measurement criteria, environmental impacts and risk, aspects of the spill management plan and erosion and sediment control plan.
 - v. No concerns regarding the sufficiency of information to support the EMP are apparent from the comments of stakeholders, or the internal assessments. On

the contrary, they indicate and I am satisfied that the information before me is comprehensive.

- vi. I believe the information regarding the proposed regulated activity adequately provides the best available evidence in the circumstances that is relevant and reliable to the evidence-based decision-making process.
- d. The principle of intergenerational and intra-generational equity (s 21 *Environment Protection Act 2019*) requires that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of present and future generations. I have given consideration to the impact on present and future generations as follows:
 - i. This criterion requires me to turn my mind to whether the benefits of the proposal disproportionately burden present or future generations, or particular groups or communities of present or future generations.
 - ii. I have considered the benefit for future generations from increased economic activity in the region and am satisfied that exploration is a necessary precursor for future economic gains that may be achieved through a viable onshore petroleum industry.
 - iii. I have considered the use of groundwater and am satisfied that the proposed use will not result in either short-term or long-term impacts to other groundwater users.
 - iv. I have considered whether the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of each of these relevant groups.
 - v. The environmental burdens of the regulated activity will not disproportionately affect particular stakeholders.
 - vi. I consider that cumulative emissions are not significant when considered in context of 2023 NT and Australian emissions, which were approximately 23.58 million tonnes and 453.45 million tonnes respectively.
 - vii. I have considered the protection of cultural heritage and am satisfied that conduct of the regulated activity will not impact on preservation of cultural heritage for the benefit of future generations.
 - viii. Cultural values relating to sacred sites will be protected through the application of Authority Certificates issued to the interest holder under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* and measures for reporting on discovery of archaeological sites during civil maintenance activities.
 - ix. Accordingly I do not believe that the carrying out of the regulated activity in accordance with the EMP would have an effect contrary to the principle of inter or intra-generational equity.
- e. The principle of sustainable use (s 22 *Environment Protection Act 2019*) requires that natural resources should be used in a manner that is sustainable, prudent, rational, wise and appropriate. In applying this principle, I have considered the following:
 - i. I note that the EMP has assessed the cumulative impacts of groundwater extraction from the Gum Ridge Formation and a groundwater extraction licence has been granted (GRF10285).
 - ii. The total anticipated water demand for this regulated activity is up to 100 ML which is approximately 22.2% of Tamboran's annual maximum water entitlement of 450 ML. Existing licensed groundwater located on the

- adjacent Kyalla 117 N2 well pad and up to two new groundwater bores will be used to meet the water requirements.
- iii. No additional groundwater extraction licences are currently required for the regulated activity. Any future consideration of groundwater use will include an application for an extraction licence.
 - iv. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the concept of sustainable use of natural resources has been taken into account.
- f. The principle of biological diversity and ecological integrity (s 23 *Environment Protection Act 2019*) requires that biological diversity and ecological integrity should be conserved and maintained. I have applied this principle as follows:
- i. I believe the information I have regarding the existing biodiversity and ecosystems that are to be affected by the regulated activity; the effects that are likely; and the mitigation measures reasonably available, is sufficient.
 - ii. The regulated activity does not pose a significant risk to any regional populations of threatened species. No core habitat for threatened fauna was identified in the project area, but 14 threatened species potentially occur in the wider landscape.
 - iii. The EMP outlines measures to minimise impacts on environmental values, including the management of threatening processes such as weeds and fire. Where relevant, management measures are consistent with the requirements of the Code, the NT Land Clearing Guidelines and Weed Management Planning Guideline: Onshore Petroleum Projects. Specific examples of mitigation controls include use of water trucks to decrease dust emissions, biannual weed inspections and the requirement to have weed hygiene declarations prior to accessing the site.
 - iv. The conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity is vital to the achievement of ecologically sustainable development. Given the fundamental nature of this consideration, I have given importance to the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity in weighing whether I am satisfied the approval criterion in reg 9(1)(c) have been met.
 - v. It is often the case that the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity is vital to the achievement of ecologically sustainable development. By their nature, ecosystems are complex and interdependent systems and relationships; this needs to be considered in relation to what preserves their integrity. Biological diversity also represents a wealth of potential natural resources that may provide options for present and future generations. I have borne this in mind when considering the weight to be given to the evidence before me regarding the potential impacts of the regulated activity on biodiversity and ecological integrity.
 - vi. I am satisfied that the regulated activity does not pose a significant risk to the threatened species, important habitats or significant vegetation types. The measures to conserve and maintain biological diversity and ecological integrity in the EMP are appropriate, given the nature and scale of the regulated activity.
 - vii. If carried out in accordance with the EMP, the risks of the regulated activity to the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity are considered to be mitigated to an acceptable level
- g. The principle of improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms (s 24 *Environment Protection Act 2019*) requires that environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services, through application of the

'polluter pays' principles, consideration of full life cycle costs of providing goods and services, and pursuing environmental goals in the most cost-effective way. I have applied the principle as follows:

- i. The pollution and waste that will be generated by the regulated activity in the general course of its operation includes: emissions (e.g. fuel), solid waste and hazardous waste (e.g. spill contaminated material, tyres, used chemical and fuel drums and oil-contaminated material).
 - ii. I am satisfied that this pollution and waste will be disposed of by the interest holder at its own cost as set out in Table 16 and section 3.7.4 of the EMP.
 - iii. In relation to the risks of a pollution event that may occur unintentionally during the operations of the regulated activity, I consider that measures are in place to ensure the interest holder bears the costs of containment, avoidance, and abatement. Specifically, impacts and risks associated with contamination of soil, surface water and groundwater, are managed through requirements for the containment of contaminants and mandatory requirements for management plans for spills as defined in the Code.
 - iv. In relation to full life cycle costs, it is expected that the regulated activity will have a life cycle of five years, and at the end of this cycle the interest holder will take action to remove any residual pollution and waste as detailed by the EMP.
 - v. The interest holder is required to provide an environmental security calculated in accordance with the approved approach or methodology.
 - vi. With these measures in place, I am satisfied that the EMP and any relevant conditions ensures that environmental costs are not left as externalities to be paid for by Territory taxpayers or the local community. They will be fairly paid for by those who stand to benefit from the regulated activity, such as the interest holder, and consumers who choose to purchase the interest holder's products.
 - vii. In relation to options to pursue environmental goals in relation to the regulated activity, I have taken into account that these goals should be pursued in the most cost-effective way.
 - viii. I believe approval of the EMP with the conditions I have imposed is consistent with the principle of improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms.
- h. The EMP was not referred under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*, as the regulated activity does not have the potential to cause a significant impact on the environment. reg 9(3)
 - i. The existing environment along with its particular values and sensitivities is appropriately identified in section 4 of the EMP, and to the extent I do not agree or there is some uncertainty, I have imposed conditions to address the relevant risk or risks. reg 9(1)(c)
 - j. I agree with the risk assessment set out in Appendix I of the EMP, and to the extent I do not agree I have imposed a condition or conditions to address the relevant risk or risks.
 - k. The interest holder's risk assessment is applicable to activities in all seasons and the outcomes are reflected in the EMP that includes, for example; a weed management plan; bushfire management plan; rehabilitation management plan; emergency response plan; stakeholder engagement management plan; and spill

management plan. The EMP also includes the required elements for the ongoing management of erosion and sediments..

- l. The anticipated environmental impacts are appropriately identified in Appendix I of the EMP. The regulated activities are a new project scope which allowed cumulative effects to be identified and assessed. In EMPs for subsequent stages (if they proceed) the interest holder will need to continue to address cumulative effects.
- m. The EMP demonstrates how the interest holder will comply with relevant requirements of the Code in undertaking this regulated activity. This includes reference to applicable Australian and international standards that have been adopted for the regulated activity, as applicable. The EMP cross references relevant sections of the Code that apply to the mitigation and management measures to enable the reviewer to identify and confirm that the proposed activities comply with the Code, as applicable.
- n. I am satisfied that the interest holder has conducted ongoing stakeholder engagement in accordance with the Regulations. The EMP provides details of stakeholder engagement that meets Regulation 7 and Schedule 1, Clause 9 of the Regulations (Section 5 and Appendix J). Stakeholder engagement records (Appendix J) demonstrate that stakeholders raised objections about environmental impacts of the proposed activity that required specific changes from the interest holder. The EMP provides details of written feedback and input from stakeholders as part of the stakeholder engagement records. The risk assessment in the EMP details the potential environmental impacts of the activity and proposed environmental outcomes to manage impacts on social and cultural surroundings.
- o. I recognise the importance the community places on the protection of water, stakeholder engagement, social impacts and regulation and compliance. The EMP appropriately identifies the risks and potential impacts from the regulated activity and commits to mitigation and management measures to address these risks and potential impacts.
- p. There are no environmental impacts or environmental risks relating to the proposed regulated activity that I consider to be unacceptable.
- q. Overall, having regard to the above, I am satisfied that the EMP is appropriate for the nature and scale of the activity, and demonstrates that the regulated activity is to be carried out in manner by which the environmental impacts and environmental risks are reduced to a level that is:
 - i. as low as reasonably practicable; and
 - ii. acceptable.