

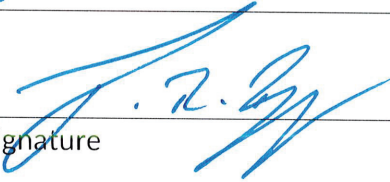
Approval notice and statement of reasons

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

Interest holder	Tamboran B2 Pty Ltd ACN 105 431 525 (ABN 42 105 431 525) Falcon Oil and Gas Ltd ACN 132 857 008
Petroleum interest(s)	Exploration Permit 98 and 117 (EP98 and EP117)
Environment management plan (EMP) title	Sturt Plateau Compression Facility – Appraisal Gas
EMP document reference	TAM2-3
Regulated activity	The EMP includes the following regulated activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil construction activities, including bulk earth works to level and grade the hard stand area on the existing 5.0 ha area on the Shenandoah S2 laydown area in preparation for installation of foundations, the majority of which will be driven steel pilings to minimise the use of concrete. • Construction of a camp (2.0 ha) and fencing / firebreak (1.0 ha) to support the Sturt Plateau Compression Facility (SPCF). • Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the SPCF and ancillary infrastructure that captures and converts appraisal gas from exploration and appraisal wells to clean gas, (delivered into the AGP via the Sturt Plateau Pipeline, subject to the approval of the recovery of appraisal gas under the <i>Petroleum Act</i>). • Tie in of the SPCF to the existing approved gathering networks between Kyalla 117 N2 and Shenandoah S2 to receive/manage wastewater. • Connection of the compression facility inlet separator to the Shenandoah S2 wastewater storage area via a new wastewater pipe. • All ancillary tie-in activities to the Sturt Plateau Pipeline, necessary to support the regulated activities. Compressed gas collected at the site will be metered and fed into the Sturt Plateau Pipeline.
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

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.

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 C2024/065 (Variation to C2024/031)
Date an EMP compliant with reg 8 was first submitted under reg 6	30 July 2024
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	13 September 2024 (requested) 26 September 2024 (requested) 2 October 2024 (received)
Date of resubmission notice under reg 11(2)(b), if applicable	N/A
Date EMP was resubmitted under reg 11(3), if applicable	N/A
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</i> (NT) (NT EPA Act), the dates the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) was requested to, and provided, advice on EMP	Date of Minister's request for advice: 25 February 2019 Date of NT EPA Advice: 25 October 2024
Date of decision	<i>26th</i> November 2024
Decision maker	 Signature
	Hon Joshua Burgoyne MLA, Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment

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

Condition 1: During the Wet Season as defined in the Code of Practice: Onshore Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory (the Code), the interest holder must retain records of inspections as required under the Code at the Sturt Plateau Compression Facility to submit to Onshoregas.DLPE@nt.gov.au when requested with the following information:

- a) weekly inspection reports for secondary containment in use and, where relevant, the type and date of corrective actions taken, or date proposed to be taken, in response to issues identified in the daily inspection reports; and

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

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- b) all dates the Sturt Plateau Compression Facility operation was stopped due to Wet Season events and the date and time that the operation recommenced or is proposed to recommence.

Condition 2: Within 90 days of the anniversary of the approval date of the EMP (TAM2-3), and each subsequent 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. The AEPR template must be completed in accordance with the *Onshore Petroleum Annual Environmental Performance Reporting Guideline* as updated from time to time.

Condition 3: 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:

- 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 (unique EMP reference code);
- 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;
- 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 4: 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 5: Progressive rehabilitation must commence no later than 12 months following cessation of the regulated activity at each location ground disturbance has occurred during conduct of the regulated activity.

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.

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Condition 6: Within 90 days of the anniversary of the approval of the EMP (TAM2-3), and thereafter annually, but only after rehabilitation activities have commenced under the EMP. The interest holder must provide a rehabilitation 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. Sturt Plateau Compression Facility – Appraisal Gas Environment Management Plan (TAM2-3).
 - b. The principles of ecologically sustainable development referenced in reg 5A and the approval criteria set out in reg 9(1).
 - c. The NT EPA advice provided under s29B of the NT EPA Act.
 - d. The Authority Certificate issued under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*.
 - e. The Code of Practice: Onshore Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory (Code) as set out in reg 4A.
 - f. The Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan prepared by Tamboran B2 Pty Ltd, version 4.0 dated 8 July 2024.

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. Civil construction activities, including bulk earth works to level and grade the hard stand area in preparation for installation of foundations, the majority of which will be driven steel pilings to minimise the use of concrete.
 - ii. Construction of a camp and fencing / firebreak to support the SPCF.
 - iii. Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the SPCF and ancillary infrastructure that captures and converts appraisal gas from exploration and appraisal wells to clean gas.
 - iv. Tie in of the SPCF to the existing approved gathering networks between Kyalla 117N2 and Shenandoah S2 to receive/manage wastewater.
 - v. Connection to the compression facility inlet separator to the Shenandoah S2 wastewater storage area via a new wastewater pipe.
 - vi. All ancillary tie-in activities to the Sturt Plateau Pipeline, necessary to support the regulated activities. Compressed gas collected at the site will be metered and feed into the Sturt Plateau Pipeline.
 - b. The scale of the regulated activity is as follows:
 - i. The SPCF will be located on the repurposed 5.0 ha laydown hardstand area on the Shenandoah S2 site.
 - ii. Use of existing access tracks and gravel pits approved under TAM1-3.
 - iii. Land clearing associated construction of camp and fencing/firebreak to support the SPCF is 3.0 ha.
 - iv. An estimated groundwater use is 60 ML.

- v. The peak traffic movement for the regulated activity is 23 vehicles per day during construction and 3 vehicles per day during operations.
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 part of the appraisal phase and consequently if for a short duration of approximately 5 years including the construction of the compression facility. 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 and hydraulic fracturing activities. The public was made aware that the EMP was under assessment via the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE) website.
 - iii. The NTG agencies comments were addressed by the interest holder via modified EMP.
 - iv. Next, I have considered short-term and long-term environmental impacts of carrying out the regulated activity. Environmental impacts include direct and indirect effects on the physical, biological, economic, cultural and social aspects of the environment, and may include cumulative impacts or occur over time.
 - v. The information before me suggests short-term environmental impacts are as low as reasonably practicable and acceptable with the proposed mitigation in place.
 - vi. The information before me suggests long-term environmental impacts are as low as reasonably practicable and acceptable if the regulated activities area undertaken in the manner detailed in the EMP and the conditions of approval.
 - 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 have applied the precautionary principle as follows:

- i. There is some information that indicates the regulated activity may threaten serious or irreversible environmental damage, namely from contribution of greenhouse gas emissions.
 - ii. On the basis that the threat does warrant the application of the principle, it is necessary to consider if there is a significant degree of uncertainty as to the nature and scope of the environmental damage that may occur. In relation to the regulated activity under consideration, there is some uncertainty as to the contribution the emissions from the proposed activities in the EMP will have on climate change. The effect of the uncertainty is reduced on the basis that the interest holder must meet the obligations of the Australian Government's safeguard mechanism if the trigger value of 100,000 tCO₂-e per annum is exceeded. The effect of the uncertainty is also reduced given the interest holder has produced a Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan in line with the NT Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management for New and Expanding Large Emitters policy. The interest holder commits the environmental benefit achieved from the regulated activity is the reduction in scope 1 greenhouse gas emission. On this basis, I do not consider that the threat involves scientific uncertainty of a degree that triggers the application of the precautionary principle.
 - iii. To ensure greenhouse gas emissions are understood, I have imposed a condition requiring provision of an annual report of actual emissions, confirmed by an auditor registered under Register of Greenhouse and Energy Auditors.
 - iv. I am satisfied that the regulated activity does not pose a threat of serious or irreversible environmental damage. While conduct of the regulated activity will likely result in short-term and minor environmental impacts, I am satisfied the measures identified by the interest holder are effective to prevent 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 qualified professionals with expertise, skills and training in environment science, safety, risk management and petroleum development and operations, as well as consultants with experience working in 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 DLPE and NT Government agencies, which has informed my decision on the EMP.
 - iv. The interest holder has modified the EMP to address areas of uncertainty or requiring clarification.
 - v. No concerns regarding the sufficiency of information to support the EMP are apparent from the comments of stakeholders, interested persons, 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 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.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. I have considered the potential benefit for future generations from increased economic activity in the region and am satisfied that exploration and appraisal is a necessary precursor for future economic gains that may be achieved through a viable petroleum industry.
 - v. 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.
 - vi. The environmental burdens of the regulated activity will not disproportionately affect particular stakeholders.
 - vii. I consider that cumulative emissions are not significant when considered in context of 2022 NT and Australian emissions, which were approximately 16.73 million tonnes and 432.62 million tonnes respectively.
 - 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. Minimal ground disturbance is planned to occur.
 - 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 the findings of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing (HFI) in the NT that states: "... in the short to medium term, the Australian National Energy Market is likely to require higher levels of flexible, gas-fired generation, which can provide a reliable, low emissions substitute for ageing coal-fired generation, and

essential security services to complement variable renewable electricity generation.”⁵

- ii. I note the NT Government’s implementation of all the recommendations of the HFI, including establishment of the NT Government’s Policy Statement on Management of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Onshore Gas Industry. This Policy Statement commits to amendment of the NT legislative framework to require a Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan for all applications for onshore gas production and complements the Australian Government’s reforms to the Safeguard Mechanism.
 - iii. The total anticipated water demand for the regulated activity is 12 ML per annum which is approximately 2.6% of the interest holder’s annual maximum water entitlement of 450 ML per annum. Existing licenced groundwater bores will be used to meet the water requirements.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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).
 - vi. 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 18 threatened species potentially occur in the wider landscape.
 - iii. The DLPE Flora and Fauna Division is satisfied that the regulated activity does not pose a significant risk to the threatened species, important habitats or significant vegetation types. The mitigation controls identified in the EMP are adequate to reduce risks associated with potential impacts on biodiversity, such as noise, vehicle strike, dust, erosion and spills to be as low as reasonably possible.
 - iv. The EMP outlines measures to minimise impacts on affected environmental values, including the management of threatening processes such as weeds and fire. Where relevant, management measures for the threatening processes are consistent with the requirements of the Code, NT Land Clearing Guidelines and Weed Management Planning Guideline: Onshore Petroleum Projects. Specific examples of mitigation controls include construction and maintenance of fire breaks, designated smoking area, biannual weed monitoring and implementation of weed management plan.

⁵ Refer section 9.7.4 of the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*; p 233. Available at: <https://frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au/inquiry-reports?a=494286>

- 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 born 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. 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: liquid waste (sewage, grey, stormwater, SPCF wastewater), domestic waste and emissions.
 - ii. I am satisfied that this pollution and waste will be disposed of by the interest holder in accordance with the requirements of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* at its own cost as set out in the EMP at Section 3.16.
 - iii. In relation to the risks of a pollution event that may occur unintentionally during the operations of the regulated activity, I consider that the following measures are in place to ensure the interest holder bears the costs of **containment, avoidance, and abatement**. This includes:
 - 1) Impacts and risks associated with containment of soil, surface water and groundwater, which are managed through meeting mandated requirements for well integrity and clean-up of spills and leaks and remediation of impacted soil; and
 - 2) Impacts and risks associated with loss of containment of wastewater, which are managed through containment measures.
 - 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 environmental security calculated in accordance with the approved approach of methodology, prior to the commencement of the activities.
 - vi. The spill management plan includes commitments to immediately remediate spills and leaks, so as to reduce the risk of long-term contamination of the environment and avoid environment impact legacies.
 - vii. Measures are in place to conduct continuous waste management and remediation. Wastewater from the SPCF will be directed to the Shenandoah S2

wastewater storage area and managed accordingly as approved under the TAM1-3 EMP⁶. General waste is collected in dedicated bins and skips for back-loading to approved facilities.

- viii. With these measures in place, I am satisfied that the EMP 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.
- ix. 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.
- x. 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 NT EPA did not require the EMP to be 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 NT EPA reviewed the EMP for the regulated activity against the approval criteria in regulations 9(3)(a) and 9(3)(c) of the Regulations and other matters the NT EPA considered relevant, and has provided advice about the EMP.
- i. The NT EPA has provided the following in relation to the regulated activity and the EMP:
- i. In accordance with the request under s 29B of the NT EPA Act, the NT EPA reviewed the EMP against the approval criteria in regulation 9(1) of the Regulations and other matters the NT EPA considered relevant, and has provided advice about the EMP. Relevantly:
- (1) The NT EPA recommended that should the EMP be approved, it be subject to certain conditions. The NT EPA's recommendations have informed the conditions of this approval. All conditions are outlined in section 1 (2) of this Approval Notice.
- (2) The NT EPA concluded that the EMP for the regulated activity, subject to the recommended approval conditions, is appropriate for the nature and scale of the regulated activity and demonstrates that the regulated activity can be carried out in a manner that environmental impacts and environmental risks of the activity will be reduced to a level that is as low as reasonably practical and acceptable.
- ii. I have considered the NT EPA's advice and recommendations and these have been incorporated where relevant into this Statement of Reasons and the conditions in the Approval Notice.
- j. 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)
- k. I agree with the risk assessment set out in Appendix K of the EMP, and to the extent I do not agree I have imposed conditions to address the relevant risk or risks.

⁶ TAM1-3: Beetaloo Basin Shenandoah South E&A Program EMP, EP98 and EP117 (<https://depws.nt.gov.au/onshore-gas/environment-management-plan/approved-emps>)

- l. 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; spill management plan; wastewater management plan; rehabilitation management plan; emergency response plan; stakeholder engagement management plan; and methane emission management plan. The EMP also includes the required elements for the ongoing management of erosion and sediments. This is consistent with the requirements of the Code that allows for the regulated activity to occur in the wet season months when contingency planning is provided and minimum freeboard in wastewater infrastructure is maintained.
- m. The anticipated environmental impacts are appropriately identified in Appendix K of the EMP. The regulated activity is a continuation of current activities and cumulative effects have been identified and assessed. In EMPs for subsequent stages (if they proceed) the interest holder will need to continue to address cumulative effects.
- n. The EMP demonstrates how the interest holder will comply with relevant requirements of the Code in undertaking these regulated activities. 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. The EMP provides wastewater management commitments and management plans that meet the requirements of the Code.
- o. 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, Appendix J, Appendix J.1.1 and Appendix J.1.2). Stakeholder engagement records demonstrate that stakeholders did not raise 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.
- p. I recognise the importance the community places on the protection of water, human health management of chemicals and waste, 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.
- q. There are no environmental impacts or environmental risks relating to the proposed regulated activity that I consider to be unacceptable.
- r. 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.