

MS19-000464

To: Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction (For Information)

cc: Minister for the Environment

EMISSIONS FROM NORTHERN TERRITORY ONSHORE GAS

Recommendation:			
1. That you note that emissions from development of onshore shale gas in the Northern Territory may be difficult to offset and could impact on Australia's progress in meeting Paris Agreement commitments.			
Minister:			Noted / Please discuss
Comments:			Date:
Clearing Officer: Sent: 11/7/19	Kristin Tilley	First Assistant Secretary, Climate Change Division	Ph: s22 Mob: s22
Contact Officer:	Edwina Johnson	Assistant Secretary, Industrial and Air Quality Branch	Ph: s22 Mob: s22

Key Points:

1. Following an independent inquiry into hydraulic fracturing, the Northern Territory (NT) Government has lifted a moratorium on fracking for onshore shale gas. Production of NT onshore shale gas is expected to lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions after 2030, and possibly earlier.
 - a. In 2018, Wood Mackenzie considered prospects for NT fracking production to be weak in the short to medium term due to infrastructure and cost constraints. They noted potential for a pilot project in the mid-2020s, using existing infrastructure, but considered development is more likely in the early to mid-2030s.
 - i. Based on this advice, the Department's 2018 emissions projections assume production will commence post-2030 and don't include any emissions from NT shale gas to 2030. This assumption will be reviewed for the 2019 projections.
 - b. The NT Government expects exploration to re-commence from late July 2019, and that production could start at a small scale in 2025, depending on the industry's assessment of commercial viability as a result of exploration.

2. The most likely region for shale gas development in the NT over the next decade is the Beetaloo Sub-basin. Resource estimates have a high degree of uncertainty, but Geoscience Australia's current Energy Resource Assessment estimates that the undiscovered prospective shale gas resource for the McArthur Basin is 222,200 PJ, the majority of which is in the Beetaloo Sub-basin. This is larger than any one of the North West Shelf conventional gas resources.

3. The Government committed \$8.4 million in the 2019-20 Budget to accelerate development of the Beetaloo Sub-basin. This will accelerate environmental assessments, develop a strategy to support Indigenous communities, and examine the feasibility of fast-tracking production for domestic use.
 - a. The Beetaloo Sub-basin will require significant connecting infrastructure if gas can be proven to be produced economically, this includes north to Darwin. The existing Amadeus Pipeline is old and too small (with 104TJ/day capacity). The Northern Gas Pipeline (NCP) which became operational in January 2019 has a 90TJ/day capacity (33PJ per year) with around 80 per cent of its capacity already contracted. An expansion to the NCP or investments in a new pipeline adjacent to the NCP may be required if significant volumes of Beetaloo gas were to come east.
 - b. A lack of existing road and electricity infrastructure and restrictions from the wet season could also slow down development of the Beetaloo Sub-basin.
4. In responding to the independent inquiry, the NT Government (prior to consulting with the Australian Government) agreed to a recommendation that the NT and Australian Governments seek to ensure there is no net increase in the life cycle greenhouse gas emissions emitted in Australia from any onshore shale gas produced in the NT (extract from inquiry report at **Attachment A**).
 - a. Life cycle emissions include emissions associated with the extraction, processing, transport and use within Australia. The independent inquiry recognised there would be an emissions benefit from the displacement of coal-generated electricity by shale gas, but was not prescriptive on how life cycle analysis should be undertaken.
 - i. The inquiry noted that life cycle emissions from shale gas-generated electricity are 50-60 per cent of that from coal-generated electricity. It found that life cycle emissions from renewable sources are lower but noted gas can provide essential security services and complement variable renewable electricity generation.
 - b. Offsetting requirements in Western Australia have been resisted by industry. In March 2019, the WA Environmental Protection Authority issued guidelines for emissions from new or expanding projects. These were subsequently withdrawn to allow for further consultation (which is currently underway).
5. The NT fracking inquiry estimated developments could eventually lead to life cycle emissions in Australia of 5 Mt to 39 Mt CO₂-e per year. Larger production scenarios have increased LNG emissions, with the potential for up to two additional LNG trains.
6. In October 2018, the NT Government issued a Climate Change Discussion Paper that announced commitments to achieve 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, introduce new environment protection legislation, and develop an offsets policy.
7. Offsetting emissions of this quantum would be challenging, and they would add to Australia's Paris Agreement task if they occur before 2030 and are not offset. Under the Paris Agreement, Australia is expected to progressively tighten our targets every five years. If emissions from NT shale occur post 2030 and are not offset, they will add to the task to meet the post 2030 target (which is due to be set by 2025).
 - a. The NT Government is currently developing an offsets policy, which is likely to indicate which types of emissions credits would be eligible under the Territory's climate change policies, including those associated with fracking.

- b. We expect Australian Carbon Credit Units generated from Emissions Reduction Fund projects to be eligible; likely demand will depend on the eligibility of other (cheaper) credits in NT's offsets policy.

Consultation

Energy Division, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the NT Hydraulic Fracturing Implementation Taskforce were consulted in developing this brief.

Attachments

- A:** Background on independent inquiry and extract
- B:** Letter to the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP from the Hon Michael Gunner MLA
- C:** Reply to the Hon Michael Gunner MLA from the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP

ATTACHMENT A

Background on *Scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracturing in the Northern Territory*

1. In December 2016, the NT Government commissioned the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*. The inquiry's purpose was to investigate the environmental, social and economic risks and impacts of fracking of onshore unconventional gas reservoirs and associated activities. The Final Report was released in March 2018 and had 135 recommendations, including to lift the moratorium.
2. On 17 April 2018, the NT Government lifted the moratorium and accepted all 135 recommendations. On the same day, the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Hon Michael Gunner MLA, wrote to the then Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, seeking an agreement to work together to ensure there is no net increase in emissions from onshore shale gas development (Attachment B refers).
3. Mr Turnbull responded to the Chief Minister on 10 May 2018, welcoming the decision to lift the moratorium and indicating the Australian Government will work in partnership with the NT to help manage emissions, within existing policies (Attachment C refers).
4. The Department has been discussing offsetting options with the NT Government, including through a workshop in February 2019 to build the NT's understanding of Australian Government policies for greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Recommendation 9.8. *That the NT and Australian governments seek to ensure that there is no net increase in the life cycle GHG emissions emitted in Australia from any onshore shale gas produced in the NT.*

The Panel recognises that while this recommendation may present a challenging task, it is based on the principles of ESD. It also reflects widespread and strongly held concerns that were articulated to the Panel regarding the impacts of increased GHG emissions. To achieve this outcome, the increase in life cycle GHG emissions in Australia from any onshore shale gas produced in the NT (see Table 9.4) must be fully offset. For example, 26.5 Mt CO₂-e/y must be fully offset for a gasfield producing 365 PJ/y and 38.9 Mt CO₂-e/y must be fully offset in Australia for a gasfield producing 1,240 PJ/y. In the latter case, the residual emissions of some 60 MtCO₂-e/y are emitted overseas, and they should therefore be offset overseas.

There are various existing energy and climate change policies and commercial and public initiatives that support the reduction of GHG emissions and assist in meeting Australia's obligations under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to less than 2°C. Accordingly, fully offsetting these additional GHG emissions (see Table 9.4) may require strengthening existing policies and/or the introduction of new policies and initiatives to meet Australia's international obligations. There are a variety of strategies that may either be expanded or new strategies be implemented to achieve this recommendation, including: early retirement of coal-burning power plants; fitting of carbon capture and storage to gas or coal-fired power stations; higher emission standards for fossil fuel-burning vehicles; increased uptake of electric vehicles; international offsets; carbon credit offsets in agriculture and savannah burning; formal offset policies and markets; increased deployment of renewable energy; and reductions in deforestation. Any decisions to adopt such strategies and the implementation of mechanisms required to fully offset of GHG emissions from any onshore shale gas produced in the NT are, however, beyond the scope of this Inquiry when regard is had to the Terms of Reference.



CHIEF MINISTER

Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800
chief.minister@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8936 5500
Facsimile: 08 8936 5576

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

Malcolm

s22

The Final Report identifies that in order to mitigate and reduce the risks associated with an onshore shale gas industry in the Northern Territory to an acceptable level, all 135 recommendations must be implemented.

There are key areas where we will need to work collaboratively with the Commonwealth to realise this shared opportunity, including:

- a commitment by both our governments to work in partnership to ensure there is no net increase in life cycle greenhouse gas emissions in Australia from any onshore shale gas produced in the Northern Territory, consistent with Australia's commitments under the Paris Climate Accord;

s22

s22

Yours sincerely



MICHAEL GUNNER

17 APR 2018

Cc:

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Minister for the Environment and Energy
Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC18-028357

10 MAY 2018

The Hon Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Chief Minister *Michael,*

Thank you for your letter dated 17 April 2018 regarding a range of issues important to the Northern Territory.

I note your Government has accepted all 135 recommendations of the Independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory and welcome your decision to lift the moratorium on fracking. My Government is committed to developing the North, and with the moratorium lifted we will be pleased to work with your Government on gas development.

I welcome the Northern Territory's decision to accept the Inquiry's recommendation to ensure regions generating taxation revenue from shale gas extraction benefit from that activity. s22

[Redacted]

[Redacted] am pleased that lifting the moratorium provides other opportunities to support the development of a sustainable gas industry in the Northern Territory. s22

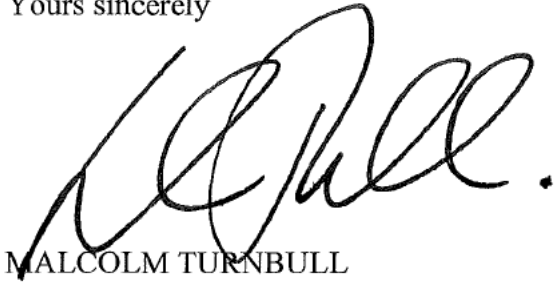
[Redacted]

My Government is committed to meeting Australia's international commitments under the Paris Agreement, while maintaining energy security and affordability and the competitiveness of our industries. The recent review of climate change policies found the existing suite provides the right approach to meeting our international commitments. The Government will work in partnership with you to help manage greenhouse gas emissions from onshore shale gas development using these policies.

s22

s22

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Turnbull', with a period at the end. The signature is fluid and cursive.

MALCOLM TURNBULL

From: [Edwina Johnson](#)
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: FW: MS19-000464 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 19 November 2019 8:06:45 PM

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 10:28 AM
To: Edwina Johnson
Subject: RE: MS19-000464 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Thanks Edwina.

From: Edwina Johnson
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 5:17 PM
To: s22 [@energy.gov.au](#)>
Cc: s22 [@energy.gov.au](#); DLOTaylor <DLOTaylor@environment.gov.au>; Jo Evans <Jo.Evans@environment.gov.au>; Rob Heferen <Rob.Heferen@environment.gov.au>; Rachel Parry <Rachel.Parry@environment.gov.au>; Lesley Dowling <lesley.dowling@environment.gov.au>; s22 [@environment.gov.au](#); s22 [@environment.gov.au](#); s22 [@environment.gov.au](#); s22 [@environment.gov.au](#)>
Subject: RE: MS19-000464 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Hi s22

- The Final Report of the Northern Territory Independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing presented three hypothetical development scenarios (gas production of 36.5, 146 and 365 PJ per year) modelled over a 25 year timeframe (2018-2043).
- The scenarios were modelled for the Northern Territory as a whole, but assume the majority of gas would be produced from the McArthur Basin and Beetaloo Sub-basin.
- The report found the development of an onshore gas industry in the Northern Territory could result in:
 - o real investment of between \$1.9 billion and \$11.2 billion
 - o net real income increases of between \$937.2 million and \$5.8 billion for the Northern Territory, and between \$3.4 million and \$12.5 billion for the rest of Australia
 - o creation of between 82 and 524 additional full time jobs each year over the 25 year period, a total of between 2,154 and 13,611 additional jobs in the Northern Territory.
- Modelling was conducted in 2017 by ACIL Allen, who noted the results were 'subject to higher than usual uncertainty'.
 - o ACIL Allen noted the modelling uncertainty was due to a 'lack of information about the size or scope of commercial shale gas reserves in the Northern Territory (both in the Beetaloo sub-basin and in the Northern Territory more broadly), and the embryonic stage of the industry's life cycle.'

Thanks
Edwina

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 8:53 AM
To: Edwina Johnson <Edwina.Johnson@environment.gov.au>
Cc: s22 [@energy.gov.au](#); DLOTaylor <DLOTaylor@environment.gov.au>
Subject: MS19-000464 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Hi Edwina

Thanks for MS19-000464.

Do you know what the expected total investment, direct jobs created and ongoing jobs (or any other key economic metrics) are if the McArthur/Beetaloo basin is developed?

Thanks

s22

Adviser

Office of the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction | The Hon Angus Taylor MP

s22

From: [Media](#)
To: s22 [redacted]; [Media](#)
Cc: s22 [redacted]
Subject: RE: ABC Darwin - NT onshore gas emissions [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 25 October 2019 11:24:09 AM
Attachments: [image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image009.jpg](#)
[image010.jpg](#)

Hi s22,

The line area has asked for a bit more guidance about answering the question below. Would you like a response about any discussions the department has had with the NTG?

- What if any discussions has the federal Environment Minister had with the NTG about offsetting emissions from NT onshore gas development and have any undertakings been made?

Many thanks,

s22

Media Team

Communications and Engagement Branch
Department of the Environment and Energy
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601

T: s22 [redacted]



From: s22 [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, 24 October 2019 4:24 PM

To: Media

Cc: s22 [redacted]

Subject: Fwd: ABC Darwin - NT onshore gas emissions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team

Can you please draft a response to the below by 12pm tomorrow?

Thanks

s22

| Senior Media Adviser

Office of the Hon Angus Taylor MP

Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction

Parliament House, Canberra

M: s22 [redacted]

E s22 [redacted] [@energy.gov.au](mailto:s22@energy.gov.au)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: s47F [redacted] [abc.net.au](mailto:s47F@abc.net.au)>

Date: Thu, Oct 24, 2019 at 4:22 PM +1100

Subject: FW: ABC Darwin - NT onshore gas emissions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

To: s22 [redacted] [@energy.gov.au](mailto:s22@energy.gov.au)>, s22 [redacted] [@energy.gov.au](mailto:s22@energy.gov.au)>

Hi s22 and s22, s47F from the ABC Darwin newsroom here. Forwarding this to your office on s22 advice, thanks.

From: s22 [redacted] [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)>

Sent: Thursday, 24 October 2019 2:49 PM

To: s47F [redacted] abc.net.au>; s22 [redacted]
[redacted] @environment.gov.au>

Subject: RE: ABC Darwin - NT onshore gas emissions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F [redacted]

I think you may need Minister Taylor's office.

s22 [redacted]

**Senior Media Adviser | Office of the Hon Sussan Ley MP
Minister for the Environment**

s22 [redacted]
[redacted]

From: s47F [redacted] @abc.net.au

Sent: Thursday, 24 October 2019 3:20 PM

To: s22 [redacted] @environment.gov.au>; s22 [redacted]
[redacted] @environment.gov.au>

Subject: ABC Darwin - NT onshore gas emissions

Hi s22 [redacted] and s22 [redacted], s47F [redacted] from the ABC Darwin newsroom here, I hope you're well.

I'm contacting you seeking more information about what the NT government says it's doing to work with the federal government around greenhouse gas emissions from onshore gas development in the Territory.



For your understanding, the NTG promised when it lifted its moratorium on hydraulic fracturing last year that it would work with the federal government to ensure there was no net increase to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions as a result of fracking in the NT (see recommendation 9.8 on page 35 <https://frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au/inquiry-reports?a=494327>).

The NTG has been saying since that discussions were underway with the federal environment department, which confirmed to me in May this year that talks had taken place. No further detail has been provided by either party.

I'm writing to you to ask:

- what if any discussions has the federal Environment Minister had with the NTG about offsetting emissions from NT onshore gas development and have any undertakings been made?

My contact details are below if you need clarification. Please let me know if a deadline of COB tomorrow Friday 25th October won't work.

	s47F [redacted] Reporter
	[redacted]
	<small>s47F</small> [redacted] @abc.net.au
	T s47F [redacted]
	[redacted] 
	[redacted]

-

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From: [Media](#)
To: s22 ; [Media](#)
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: ABC Darwin - NT onshore gas emissions [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 25 October 2019 12:18:05 PM
Attachments: [image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image009.jpg](#)
[image010.jpg](#)

H s22 ,

We've included a sentence indicating the Department's interactions with the Northern Territory. We have noted in square brackets that we are not aware of any meetings between Minster Taylor and his counterpart on this matter.

And just confirming you'll provide the final response to the journalist, and if so could you please copy us in?

Many thanks,

s22

//

The Department has been engaging with relevant Northern Territory agencies on this matter, including a workshop in February 2019, a teleconference in August 2019 and as part of other Commonwealth-State meetings.

//

[The Department is not aware of any meetings between the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction and his Northern Territory counterpart in relation to this matter]

Media Team

Communications and Engagement Branch
Department of the Environment and Energy
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601

T: s22



From: s22

Sent: Thursday, 24 October 2019 4:24 PM

To: Media

Cc: s22

Subject: Fwd: ABC Darwin - NT onshore gas emissions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team

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s22 | Senior Media Adviser

Office of the Hon Angus Taylor MP

Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction

Parliament House, Canberra

M: s22

E: s22 [@energy.gov.au](mailto:s22@energy.gov.au)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: s47F [@abc.net.au](mailto:s47F@abc.net.au)>

Date: Thu, Oct 24, 2019 at 4:22 PM +1100

Subject: FW: ABC Darwin - NT onshore gas emissions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

To: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@energy.gov.au>, s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@energy.gov.au>

Hi s22 [redacted] and s22 [redacted], s47F [redacted] from the ABC Darwin newsroom here. Forwarding this to your office on s22 [redacted] advice, thanks.

From: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 24 October 2019 2:49 PM

To: s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@abc.net.au>; s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>

Subject: RE: ABC Darwin - NT onshore gas emissions [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F [redacted]

I think you may need Minister Taylor's office.

s22 [redacted]

**Senior Media Adviser | Office of the Hon Sussan Ley MP
Minister for the Environment**

s22 [redacted]
[redacted]

From: s47F [redacted] <[redacted]@abc.net.au>

Sent: Thursday, 24 October 2019 3:20 PM

To: s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>; s22 [redacted] <[redacted]@environment.gov.au>

Subject: ABC Darwin - NT onshore gas emissions

Hi s22 [redacted] and s22 [redacted], s47F [redacted] from the ABC Darwin newsroom here, I hope you're well.

I'm contacting you seeking more information about what the NT government says it's doing to work with the federal government around greenhouse gas emissions from onshore gas development in the Territory.

For your understanding, the NTG promised when it lifted its moratorium on hydraulic fracturing last year that it would work with the federal government to ensure there was no net increase to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions as a result of fracking in the NT (see recommendation 9.8 on page 35 <https://frackinginquiry.nt.gov.au/inquiry-reports?a=494327>).

The NTG has been saying since that discussions were underway with the federal environment department, which confirmed to me in May this year that talks had taken place. No further detail has been provided by either party.

I'm writing to you to ask:

- what if any discussions has the federal Environment Minister had with the NTG about offsetting emissions from NT onshore gas development and have any undertakings been made?

My contact details are below if you need clarification. Please let me know if a deadline of COB tomorrow Friday 25th October won't work.



s47F [redacted]

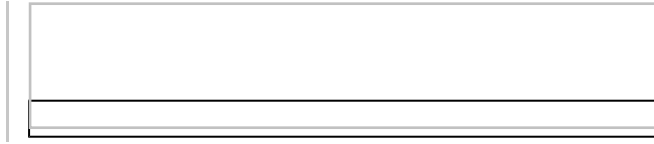
Reporter

[redacted]

s47F [redacted]

T s47F [redacted]

<[redacted]@abc.net.au>



-

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From: Media

Sent: Tuesday, 1 October 2019 5:00 PM

To: s22 [redacted]@energy.gov.au; Media <Media@environment.gov.au>

Cc: s22 [redacted]@energy.gov.au

Subject: RE: Interview or statement request for Angus Taylor on climate change responses from s11C(1)(a) ABC News Darwin - for some time between today Tue 1 Oct to Friday 4 Oct
[SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi s22,

Please see suggested responses below.

- Some of the scientists studying climate change impacts in the Top End feel that the Federal Government's efforts to reduce Australian emissions are so minimal they amount to negligence
 - The Australian Government has a comprehensive suite of policies to meet our emissions reduction commitments. We will meet and beat our 2020 target. The Government's Climate Solutions Package (CSP) is a \$3.5 billion investment to deliver on our 2030 Paris target.
- Some of the scientists feel that Federal Government support for fossil fuel projects including a large Northern Territory shale gas industry, and more northern offshore gas developments is irresponsible because these projects will dramatically increase Australia's emissions
 - Emissions from Northern Territory's gas industry are included in Australia's emissions projections.
 - Through the Climate Solutions Package the Government has accounted for every tonne of abatement toward the 2030 target.
- I also want to ask about whether the Federal Government is doing enough to support and encourage emissions offset schemes, such as the Top End indigenous controlled savanna burning carbon abatement market
 - The Emissions Reduction Fund supports practical action to reduce emissions across our economy, including growing trees to store carbon and remove it from the atmosphere, storing carbon in the soil and better fire management in northern Australia.
 - This supports businesses, communities and farmers across Australia to boost agricultural productivity, support jobs in rural and Indigenous communities, improve biodiversity and water quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - The Climate Solutions Fund provides an additional \$2 billion to build on the success of the Emissions Reduction Fund.
 - More than 44 million tonnes of the 190 million tonnes of contracted emissions

- reductions have already been delivered.
 - There has been strong participation in northern Australia under the Emissions Reduction Fund, with around 100 projects registered.
 - More than 80 savanna fire management projects are being undertaken in northern Australia, helping to reduce high intensity wildfires by using traditional knowledge to do controlled burns. 51 of these projects have been awarded carbon abatement contracts by the Clean Energy Regulator to deliver around 13.6 million tonnes of abatement, valued at over \$150 million.
 - The Department has partnered with the Queensland and Northern Territory governments to support Indigenous participation in the ERF through a new Indigenous Carbon Industry Network.
 - The Network is helping knowledge and information exchange between Indigenous carbon projects across northern Australia.
- Whether the Federal Government is doing enough to support research into the climate change impacts that are being experienced in the tropical north of Australia and how they could be mitigated
 - The Government provides access to national climate science and adaptation information to help Australians understand the potential impacts from a changing climate.
 - This, and the other roles of the Australian Government for climate adaptation, are outlined in the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy.
 - For example, the Government invested in the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) to develop an online resource called CoastAdapt.
 - CoastAdapt, launched in 2017, gives councils and businesses in the coastal zone an accessible means of identifying, assessing and responding to climate change risks.
 - The Australian Government provides information on the Climate Change in Australia website to ensure government, businesses and communities can make informed decisions in response to climate change impacts.
 - The website provides comprehensive information and projections on climate change impacts around Australia, including dedicated information for Northern Australia.
 - The Government is focused on making sure its continuing investment in climate science delivers the most effective results.
 - In 2016 the Government established the National Climate Science Advisory Committee to ensure Australia's research effort is coordinated and delivers the science needed for Australia to manage the challenges from climate change.
 - And whether the Federal Government is planning to fund Top End infrastructure projects to protect residential and other assets, such as coastal cities, remote indigenous communities, from climate change effects including sea level inundation, storm surge and cyclones
 - The National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy, released in 2015, outlines the roles of each level of government in Australia.
 - These roles and responsibilities were agreed by the Council of Australian Governments Select Council on Climate Change in 2012.

- According to the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy, the federal government is responsible for:
 - providing access to national climate science and adaptation information, and
 - managing the climate change risks of its own Australian Government policies, programs and assets.
- State and territory governments play the leading role in climate change adaptation, and are responsible for the management of climate change impacts such as inundation, storm surge and cyclones, together with affected councils.
- The federal government has provided the climate science and information governments, businesses and communities need to make informed decisions about managing those impacts.
 - For example, the Climate Change in Australia website by the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology contains the most comprehensive information on Australia's climate change projections.

Kind regards,

s22

Media Team

Communications and Engagement Branch
Department of the Environment and Energy
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601

T: s22



From: s22

Sent: Tuesday, 1 October 2019 4:41 PM

To: Media <Media@environment.gov.au>

Cc: s22 <[redacted]@energy.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Interview or statement request for Angus Taylor on climate change responses from s11C(1)(a) ABC News Darwin - for some time between today Tue 1 Oct to Friday 4 Oct
[SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Tomorrow morning is fine.

Thanks

From: Media

Sent: Tuesday, 1 October 2019 4:40 PM

To: s22 <[redacted]@energy.gov.au>; Media <Media@environment.gov.au>

Cc: s22 <[redacted]@energy.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Interview or statement request for Angus Taylor on climate change responses from s11C(1)(a) ABC News Darwin - for some time between today Tue 1 Oct to Friday 4 Oct

[SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi s22 and s22,

Just tried giving you both a call to let you know we're not too far off with this one, but it's still undergoing clearance from a few areas.

Would it be ok if we got the response to you early tomorrow morning, or will you definitely need it tonight?

Kind regards

s22

From: s22

Sent: Tuesday, 1 October 2019 10:39 AM

To: Media <Media@environment.gov.au>

Cc: s22 <s22@energy.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Interview or statement request for Angus Taylor on climate change responses from s11C(1)(a) ABC News Darwin - for some time between today Tue 1 Oct to Friday 4 Oct

[SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Team,

Could I please get draft responses/talking points for the below questions by COB today?

Thanks, s22

From: s11C(1)(a) <[s11C\(1\)\(a\)@abc.net.au](mailto:s11C(1)(a)@abc.net.au)>

Sent: Tuesday, 1 October 2019 10:31 AM

To: s22 <s22@energy.gov.au>

Subject: Interview or statement request for Angus Taylor on climate change responses from s11C(1)(a) <[s11C\(1\)\(a\)@abc.net.au](mailto:s11C(1)(a)@abc.net.au)> ABC News Darwin - for some time between today Tue 1 Oct to Friday 4 Oct

Interview or statement request for Angus Taylor on climate change responses from s11C(1)(a) ABC News Darwin - for some time between today Tue 1 Oct to Friday 4 Oct

Hi s22,

I am putting together a series of 3 news features this week for the ABC TV News, Online and Radio looking at the impact of climate change on the Top End, efforts to adapt and mitigate those effects, and on Australia's efforts to reduce emissions and how the Top End is contributing to that positively and negatively.

Would I be able to carry out an on camera interview with the Minister Mr Taylor **any day from today Tuesday 1 Oct to Friday this week**, or get a

statement addressing the points below?

If I can get an interview or a statement by lunchtime on Friday that will be in time to include that into my stories for all platforms.

The areas that I want to ask about are:

- Some of the scientists studying climate change impacts in the Top End feel that the Federal Government's efforts to reduce Australian emissions are so minimal they amount to negligence
- Some of the scientists feel that Federal Government support for fossil fuel projects including a large Northern Territory shale gas industry, and more northern offshore gas developments is irresponsible because these projects will dramatically increase Australia's emissions
- I also want to ask about whether the Federal Government is doing enough to support and encourage emissions offset schemes, such as the Top End indigenous controlled savanna burning carbon abatement market
- Whether the Federal Government is doing enough to support research into the climate change impacts that are being experienced in the tropical north of Australia and how they could be mitigated
- And whether the Federal Government is planning to fund Top End infrastructure projects to protect residential and other assets, such as coastal cities, remote indigenous communities, from climate change effects including sea level inundation, storm surge and cyclones

Many thanks, s11C(1)(a)



s11C(1)(a)
Journalist, ABC News Darwin,
s11C(1)(a)
abc.net.au

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From: [Media](#)
To: s22 ; s22
Cc: [Media](#); s22
Subject: FW: ABC Darwin - Emissions discussions with NT government [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 14 May 2019 4:57:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)

FYI on Departmental response.

s22

Media Manager
Communications and Engagement Branch
Department of the Environment and Energy
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601

T s22

s22 [@environment.gov.au](mailto:s22@environment.gov.au)



The Department acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

From: Media

Sent: Tuesday, 14 May 2019 4:57 PM

To: s47F

Cc: Media

Subject: RE: ABC Darwin - Emissions discussions with NT government [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F ,

The Department of the Environment and Energy confirms it has discussed recommendation 9.8 of the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory* with Northern Territory Government officials.

You can attribute the above to a Departmental spokesperson if needed.

s22

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Communications and Engagement Branch
Department of the Environment and Energy
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The Department acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

From: s47F [@abc.net.au](mailto:s47F@abc.net.au)

Sent: Tuesday, 14 May 2019 11:43 AM

To: Media <Media@environment.gov.au>

Subject: ABC Darwin - Emissions discussions with NT government

s22 thanks for taking my calls just now.

As I mentioned, I am trying to verify a claim from the NT government that they have had policy discussions with the Federal Government on ways to ensure there is no net increase to greenhouse gas emissions from the NT as a result of allowing fracking to occur (this was a recommendation of the NT's fracking inquiry, which the government accepted).


Although the Chief Minister did write to the PM and OL to ask to work together on this issue, I have doubts about whether any policy work has in fact occurred, despite the NTG's claims. Checking my texts, a spokesman for the Chief Minister has told me discussions have taken place with "the department of environment and energy".

He would not tell me when the discussions occurred, but the NTG has been [making that claim since December](#) (rec 9.8, p18). It is repeated by a minister at the bottom of this Fairfax article today: <https://www.smh.com.au/federal-election-2019/labor-s-1-5b-plan-to-unlock-gas-would-create-more-emissions-than-adani-coal-mine-experts-say-20190513-p51mwa.html>


I have gone back to the NTG this morning asking them exactly what policy options have been canvassed.

Are you able to tell me whether or not

ABC



s47F
Reporter
[Redacted]
P **s47F**
[Redacted] [@abc.net.au](#)
T **s47F**
[Redacted]



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