



24 July 2019

NT gas industry ready to get back to work

APPEA has welcomed today's confirmation by the Northern Territory Minister for Primary Industries and Resources Paul Kirby, and Environment Minister Eva Lawler, that changes to the regulatory framework for the onshore gas industry have been completed to enable the sector to get back to work.

The near two-year moratorium and subsequent 16-month implementation process has been completed after the Government enacted the recommendations of its Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing.

This signals a strong decision by the Government to support the development of the NT's abundant gas resources.

The recommendations now implemented include the creation of detailed codes of practice, shifting of responsibility for approvals to the Environment Minister, improving transparency and disclosure requirements, amendments to the Water Act and the release of a series of "no go zones" for oil and gas activity.

APPEA Northern Territory Director Keld Knudsen welcomed the NT Government's acknowledgment of the key role the oil and gas industry can play in revitalising the Territory's economy.

"The industry will play a crucial role in growing the Territory's economy and promoting regional development through further investment in developing the NT's natural resources," Mr Knudsen said.

"The sector remains committed to working with the Territory Government and local business community to maximise opportunities for employment while making a meaningful low-carbon contribution to our energy needs.

"The Territory's oil and gas industry offers jobs, local contracts and diversified incomes while upholding safety and operating safely to protect water and the environment.

"We're determined to play our part to ensure all Territorians benefit from the development of their natural resources."

Mr Knudsen said APPEA's member companies stand ready to invest billions of dollars into the economy if currently planned exploration is successful.

Media contact: Brad Watts – 0447 793 444 – bwatts@appea.com.au