

NOTICE OF DECISION AND STATEMENT OF REASONS

Section 48 of the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (EP Act)

Regulation 50 of the *Environment Protection Regulations 2020* (EP Regulations)

Name of proposed action	Project Ares
Proponent	Energy North Pty Ltd
NT EPA reference	EP2026/052
Nature of the proposed action	Utilities and services and Energy (renewable)
Description of proposed action	The proposed action is for a hyperscale data centre campus located on Murrarji Station (NT Portion 851), approximately 52 km north-west of Elliot and 100 km south-west of Daly Waters. The proposed action includes: • a hyperscale data centre (total information technology capacity of 1 GW) • up to 4 GL/yr of groundwater extracted from the Wiso Basin • a large scale (7,000 ha) solar farm • solar photovoltaic generation up to 3,000-megawatt peak • battery energy storage systems up to 16 gigawatt hours • gas fired power generation infrastructure • non-process infrastructure (access roads, airstrip, workers accommodation, laydown areas, workshops, rail siding, waste management) • a preliminary disturbance footprint of 19,150 ha within a Project area of 186,000 ha. The proposed action is anticipated to have an operational life of at least 25 years for the data facility, with the overall project exceeding 30 years.
Person authorised to make decision	Dr Paul Vogel AM Chairperson Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Delegate of the NT EPA under section 36(1) of the <i>Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012</i>
Decision	To accept the above-named referral of a proposed action (Project Ares) for standard assessment in accordance with regulation 44(1) of the EP Regulations To accept the referral as a proponent initiated EIS referral under regulation 46 of the EP Regulations
Signature	
Date of decision	6 July 2026

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Energy North Pty Ltd – Project Ares

Note after this decision, the referral will publish in accordance with regulation 51 of the EP Regulations. Public consultation on the accepted referral will inform the NT EPA's decision under regulation 58 of the EP Regulations on whether environmental impact assessment is required.