

Environment Division
Arnhemica House, Level 1
16 Parap Road, PARAP NT 0820

22 July 2026

Hon Joshua Burgoyne MLA
Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment
GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801

Postal address
GPO Box 3675
DARWIN NT 0801

E ntepa@nt.gov.au

T 08 8924 4218

CC: Joanne Townsend, Chief Executive Officer Department of Lands,
Planning and Environment

File reference
33-F26-57

CC: Dr Paul Burgess, Northern Territory Chief Health Officer

Dear Minister

Re: Provision of NT EPA advice on the Review of Environment Protection Licences for LNG Facilities in the Darwin airshed

I am writing to you to provide advice in accordance with section 25(2) of the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012* (the Act). This advice relates to the progress and recommendations of the LNG licence review that was initiated by the NT EPA earlier this year and is relevant to the matters listed in section 25(1) of the Act.

As you are aware, in October 2025, INPEX advised of significant under-reporting of benzene and other air emissions from the Ichthys LNG facility at Bladin Point. The under-reporting raised concerns about air quality in the Darwin airshed and prompted the NT EPA to initiate a range of measures to improve the regulation of air emissions from licensed facilities.

One of these measures was the review of LNG licences issued under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* in the Darwin airshed. The [Terms of Reference](#) for this review were published on the NT EPA website earlier this year.

The licence review (**Attachment A**) has now been completed. The draft report was peer-reviewed by regulatory operations officers at the NSW EPA, who found that the recommendations are sound and based upon modern regulatory best practice. A technical review was not conducted by NSW EPA and was not considered necessary, as the review report focuses on broad recommendations with technical details to be addressed through licence amendments.

At its meeting on 14 July 2026, the NT EPA endorsed the recommendations of the review for changes to existing LNG licences. Publication of the report is expected in August 2026.

In summary, the main recommendations include:

- Strengthening of hot venting limits for both facilities, with a view to achieving 99% availability of pollution control equipment (acid gas removal incinerators/thermal oxidisers).
- A requirement to avoid concurrent hot venting from both facilities to minimise cumulative impacts.
- The introduction of concentration and mass emission limits for pollutants where not currently implemented.
- The requirement to install continuous monitoring equipment for the acid gas stream.
- A requirement to establish a community consultative committee to inform the public and stakeholders about issues affecting the community.
- Conditions to strengthen transparency through improved monitoring, reporting and publication of relevant information.
- A requirement for an audit to verify implementation of best practice pollution control every five (5) years.
- Alignment of requirements for fugitive emissions management.

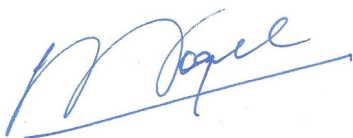
The recommendations of the review represent a step change in the regulation of LNG facilities in the NT. The implementation of some of the recommendations may require material investment by industry.

Together with the Territory Government's recent announcement of a legislated air monitoring network funded by industry and operated by government, the implementation of the review's recommendations will be an important complementary measure and will provide the community with confidence that Darwin's air quality is protected and that current industries, and any future development, will not have unacceptable impacts on human health and the environment.

The implementation of the review will require amendments to existing licences. Consultation with licensees is part of the established process for licence amendments and will occur throughout the amendment process.

If you would like to discuss the review, please do not hesitate to contact me or Tess Cole-Adams in the Department in relation to any matters raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Vogel', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Dr Paul Vogel AM
Chair, Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA)