



Andrew Scott
Acting Manager Environmental Assessment
Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Northern Territory Government
PO Box 3675
PARAP NT 0820

Via: Andrew.Scott@nt.gov.au

Re: Invitation to Comment – Referral of Bonaparte Carbon Capture and Storage Project under the EP Act (NT)

Dear Mr Scott,

Thank you for inviting comment on the referral of the Ichthys Carbon Capture and Storage Project under the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (EP Act). The comments address matters relevant to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

On 13 November 2025, a valid referral for the same proposal was received under the EPBC Act from INPEX Operations Australia Pty Ltd (EPBC 2025/10356).

On 11 December 2026, the department suspended the referral decision timeframe period to consider whether the referral as submitted should be assessed in full under the EPBC Act, or under a relevant strategic assessment agreement with the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSEMA).

On 19 January 2026, INPEX withdrew the EPBC Act referral and indicated their intent to resubmit at a later stage. The department understands this will be after certain amendments to the EPBC Act will come into force, making assessment pathways for CCS projects clearer. Should the project be re-referred, the department will again seek comments from the NT EPA on the new referral.

If you have any questions, please contact the NT Assessments Team by email at EADSAandNTSection@dcceew.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Dr Josh Bray
Acting Director
SA & NT Section
Environment Assessments West Branch

9 February 2026

Cc: eia.NTEPA@nt.gov.au