

The Hon Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory
GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Chief Minister

RE: COMMENTS ON IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

I write to you in my capacity as Independent Officer for the Implementation of the 135 recommendations from the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory, to provide comments on the Implementation Plan.

The collaborative planning done by the accountable agencies is reflected in the Implementation Plan which is presented in a straightforward document with a practical tone that explains:

- Overall purpose of implementing the 135 recommendations;
- Who is doing what and who is accountable;
- How elements of the plan will be sequenced and why;
- When components of the plan will be completed; and
- The processes of review to ensure that the project stays on track.

The Plan is structured around an implementation framework that groups the 135 recommendations under six broad areas and 23 sub-areas of reform all of which are sourced from Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry. The task of implementing the framework is to be achieved in three stages. Stages 1&2 are to be completed this year and stage 3 by the end of 2021.

Stage 1, to be completed by July 31, comprises three broad tasks:

- Establish an Implementation Unit within the Department of the Chief Minister with resources and capability to oversee the implementation process.
- Develop a plan; an implementation framework, including details of who, when and how each of the recommendations will be implemented.
- Establish a Community and Onshore Shale Gas Industry and Business Reference Group to provide feedback to Government on the development of the implementation framework.

I have met regularly with the Implementation Unit and with the leadership teams of the agencies accountable for design and delivery of the Implementation Plan. I attended the inaugural meetings of the Community & Business and Onshore Shale Gas Industry Reference Groups. This, along with consideration of both draft versions and this final Implementation Plan, has informed my opinion that Stage 1 of implementing the 135 recommendations of the Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry has been completed satisfactorily and that work is underway on Stages 2 and 3.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', with a stylized, wavy flourish extending to the right.

DR DAVID RITCHIE

12 June 2018