



Hon. Justice Rachel Pepper
Chair
Hydraulic Fracturing Taskforce
GPO Box 4396
DARWIN NT 0801

Via email: fracking.inquiry@nt.gov.au

Jemena Limited
ABN 95 052 167 405

Level 16, 567 Collins Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000
PO Box 16182
Melbourne, VIC 3000
T +61 3 9173 7000
F +61 3 9173 7516
www.jemena.com.au

5 October 2017

Re: Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory Interim Report

Dear Justice Pepper

Jemena welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory's (the **Inquiry**) Interim Report (the **Report**).

Jemena owns and operates a diverse \$10.5 billion portfolio of energy and water transportation assets across eastern Australia, including electricity and gas distribution networks and gas transmission assets throughout eastern and northern Australia. We are currently constructing the 622 kilometre Northern Gas Pipeline from Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory to Mount Isa in Queensland.

While the Inquiry is yet to make any firm positions regarding the efficacy of fracking, Jemena was pleased that the Report provided a balanced view overall in relation to onshore gas exploration and development. We appreciate the Inquiry's preliminary finding that it requires additional information in order to determine the risks associated with hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" to the environment and community in the Northern Territory.

There is a large body of evidence in Australia and internationally that shows that a well-regulated unconventional gas industry is safe and the risks can be managed. We are encouraged by the Panel's efforts to explore and utilise this body of evidence, where suitable for the Northern Territory's circumstances.

Jemena was also encouraged that the Report indicated that attention is being focused on some practical ways that could help facilitate Northern Territory onshore gas development. This included the Inquiry meeting with the Queensland Gasfields Commission, an independent statutory body which facilitates interaction between landholders, regional communities and the onshore gas industry in Queensland. Jemena considers this to be a robust regulatory model that allows for onshore gas projects to be considered on a case-by-case basis and removes the need for blanket bans.

Gas plays an important role in the Australian and Northern Territory economies as it provides an affordable, reliable and low emissions source of power for Australian

households, electricity generation, commercial customers and large industrial users. An onshore gas industry will also create significant economic opportunities to improve Territory Government budget positions, and increase employment and economic prosperity for all Territorians. Due to the supply challenges facing the east coast of Australia, there is a huge opportunity for the Northern Territory to increase its role as a major contributor to the Australian gas market

Jemena eagerly awaits the release of the Inquiry's Draft Final Report in late October/early November 2017. We also look forward to the completion of the Inquiry's recommendations and a timely decision by the Northern Territory Government to deliver investment, economic and environmental certainty to all parties.

Please contact [REDACTED] for inquiries in relation to Jemena's submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Israelsohn', written in a cursive style.

Ian Israelsohn

General Manager Policy & External Affairs.