

February 18 2026

## Environment Centre NT slams massive new Beetaloo acreage release as reckless expansion of fracking industry

The Environment Centre NT has condemned the NT Government's announcement of a new onshore petroleum acreage release in the Beetaloo Sub-basin, warning the move doubles down on a high-risk industry that threatens water, climate and communities across the Northern Territory.

The NT Government [announced the release](#) of approximately 4,000 square kilometres of new exploration acreage to international oil and gas companies at a major industry conference in Houston this week. This is an area more than 5 times the size of Singapore.

If fracking companies successfully obtain exploration across the newly-released areas, it could see fracking brought to the doorstep of the town of Daly Waters, including the iconic Daly Water pub.

The expansion of fracking in the Beetaloo comes despite ongoing concerns about risks to groundwater, climate impacts and the long-term economic benefits for Territorians. Expert analysis shows that fracking in the Beetaloo Basin could generate [1.2 billion tonnes](#) of emissions, increasing Australia's emissions by up to 20%.

The Beetaloo Sub-basin is located in a region of extensive underground water systems that support communities, pastoralism and iconic Territory rivers and springs.

The announcement comes as Santos is progressing plans for its largest ever push into the Beetaloo Basin on Tanumbirini Station.

### Environment Centre NT Executive Director Dr Kirsty Howey said:

"At a time when the world is moving away from fossil fuels, the NT Government is travelling overseas to sell off more of the Territory to overseas frackers."

"Territorians have held fracking at bay for nearly 20 years, and for good reason. Fracking threatens everything we love about the Territory; our free-flowing rivers, magnificent springs, our climate, and incredible biodiversity."

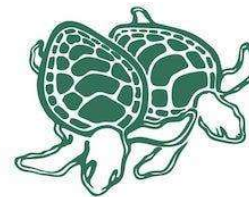
"Full-scale fracking in the Beetaloo would unleash a climate bomb, generating 1.2 billion tonnes of carbon pollution and increasing Australia's emissions by up to 20%. It's not compatible with a liveable future for the Northern Territory."

"This is not a plan for economic security. It is a plan that risks our water, our climate and the landscapes that make the Territory unique."

"This decision prioritises fossil fuel expansion over the long-term health and prosperity of the Territory."

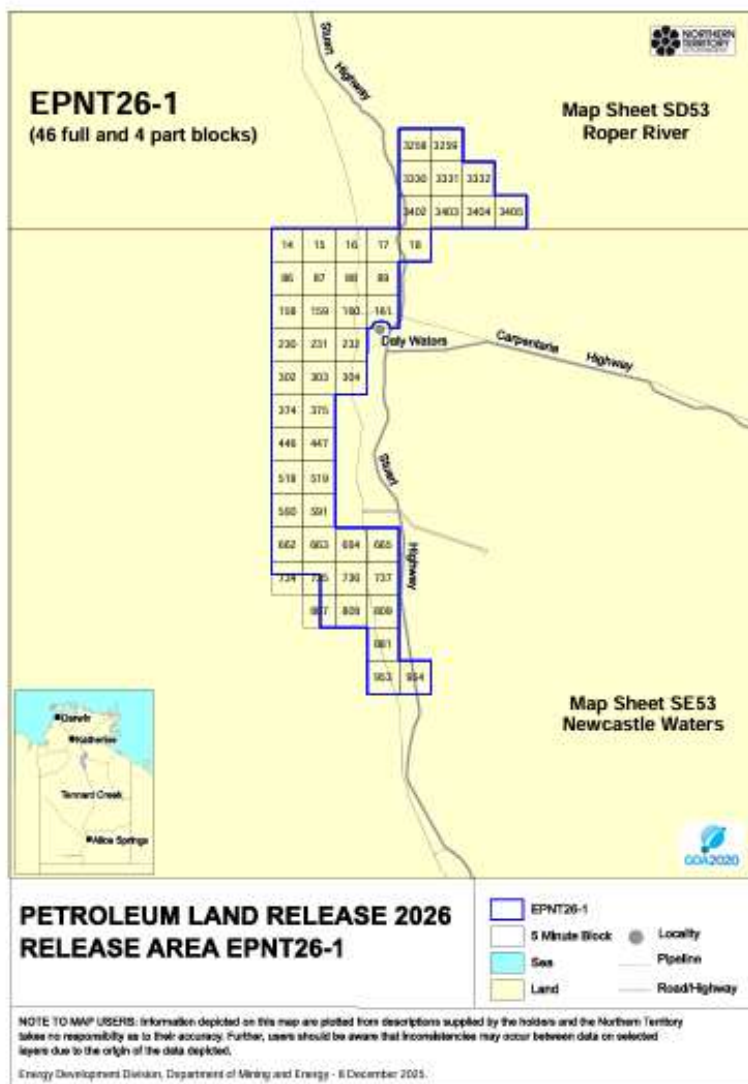
# Environment Centre NT

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“This is not just one project. This is the beginning of a much bigger fracking rush that could see thousands of wells drilled through the ancient groundwater systems that supply around 90 per cent of the Northern Territory’s water.”

“Territorians are being asked to take on the environmental risks while multinational gas companies export the gas and profits overseas.”



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