

Friday 27 February 2026

NT EPA should crack down on mega-polluters over “systemic underestimation” of INPEX air pollution

Environment Centre NT has called on the NT EPA to hold a public inquiry into the operations of INPEX and Santos on Darwin Harbour, saying the public can’t trust the NT EPA’s claim that there is a low risk to human health.

NT EPA [today released details of a review](#) into INPEX’s underreporting of pollutant emissions from its operations and slammed INPEX’s documentation and quality checks for emissions reporting.

The investigation found *“the systematic underestimation of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions, particularly from acid gas removal operations, represents a significant compliance and environmental reporting issue.”*

Executive Director Environment Centre NT Dr Kirsty Howey said:

“This is a major breach of trust by Inpex, and the NT EPA has been asleep at the wheel yet again.”

“Why was this issue not picked up earlier? It’s too little too late from the NT EPA.”

“Workers, community members, and health experts have been warning for years that Santos and INPEX are polluting Darwin’s air with impunity.”

“No one trusts the NT EPA to protect our environment after repeated regulatory failures, including their decision to renew Santos’ Darwin LNG licence following revelations of a 20-year methane leak.

“The Darwin community cannot trust the NT EPA’s assertion that there is a low risk to human health from these pollutants.”

“We call on the NT EPA to establish a public inquiry into air pollution caused by Inpex and Santos.”

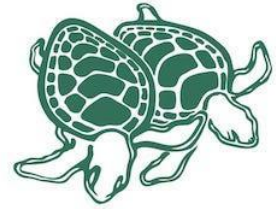
Background:

On 7 January 2026, ECNT wrote to the NT EPA recommending the following steps be taken as part of this review:

- Publication of the Terms of Reference of the review

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- Opportunity for community and stakeholder review of and input into the Review's Terms of Reference, findings and recommendations
- A public forum on license conditions for hydrocarbon facilities in the Darwin airshed.

The final report is expected to be completed by June 2026.

For further information contact:

Jem Wilson 0481 959 745