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Alawa - Jingili - Millner - Moil

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Media Release: Methane leak is a national scandal

Justine Davis MLA:

Today's revelations about Santos' methane leak are a national scandal. For nearly two decades Territorians have been kept in the dark while a known design fault allowed dangerous methane emissions to escape - and neither the company nor regulators acted to stop it.

If a small business had polluted like this, they would have been shut down and prosecuted. Multinational gas companies must not be above the law. Territorians must be able to trust the regulators who are there to protect us.

I stand with the Environment Centre NT and all those acting in the public interest in calling for urgent action:

- Santos must immediately fix the leak before any licence is renewed.
- The NT EPA must defer Darwin LNG's licence until repairs are complete and independently verified.
- Regulators who failed to act must be held accountable.
- The Albanese Government must reform methane reporting laws so leaks cannot be hidden from the public in future.

The cover-up of the leak also raises serious questions about the role of regulators who were aware of the problem but failed to protect the public. It is unacceptable that risks to health, safety and the climate were knowingly downplayed or hidden.

Territorians deserve transparency and accountability, not secrecy and excuses. The leak must be fixed and those responsible must be held to account.

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