



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT

Submission of Support for Middle Arm Development Precinct

Energy Club NT appreciates the opportunity to provide its views to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications to support information on consultations on the Middle Arm Development Precinct in the Northern Territory (**MASDP**).

We believe the MASDP is aligned with our mission to promote sustainable and responsible energy practices and holds significant promise for enhancing the energy landscape in the region.

The MASDP offers a unique opportunity for the Northern Territory (**NT**) to embrace a more sustainable and energy-efficient future. We would like to highlight several key reasons why we support this project:

Sustainable Energy Integration

The MASDP has a significant focus on sustainability and renewable energy. The project extends beyond renewable power supply and includes infrastructure that will enable carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (**CCUS**) capability. It is crucial to acknowledge this fundamental design aspect at the outset. The MASDP has demonstrated a commitment to integrating renewable energy sources and energy-efficient technologies into its infrastructure. This aligns with our goal to foster clean and sustainable energy practices in the Northern Territory.

Infrastructure Advancements

The MASDP has intentionally taken an approach of developing forward-focused infrastructure that will be used by a wide range of proponents, on the projects that will be the cornerstone of the NT economy long into the future. A coordinated design approach maximises cost effectiveness and resource efficiency. The project will require essential infrastructure upgrades, which will enhance energy transmission and distribution capabilities in the region. This improvement in infrastructure will contribute to more reliable and efficient energy supply.



Technological Innovation

The MASDP will provide an opportunity to implement state-of-the-art energy technologies, including smart grid solutions, which can help optimize energy usage, reduce energy wastage, and improve overall energy efficiency.

By 2030, the NT aims to achieve a 50 percent share of renewable energies, equivalent to 450MW, through the implementation of its [Northern Territory Road Map to Renewables](#). This ambitious goal, combined with the utilisation of gas-fired generation, will position the NT as one of the most environmentally friendly regions in terms of emissions. Currently, the NT is harnessing the abundant solar energy resources across vast areas, while also exploring the untapped potential of tidal energy and geothermal sources. Furthermore, the [NT's Gas strategy, outlined in its Five Point Plan](#), envisions the expansion of the Darwin LNG hub, driving growth in the service and supply industries, establishing gas-driven processing and manufacturing facilities, fostering research, innovation, and training capacities, and enhancing Australia's energy security.

Economic Growth

The planning of the MASDP by the Northern Territory Government is crucial for the future economic prosperity of the region. It is expected to create sustainable and well-paid jobs for residents, including improved opportunities for Indigenous communities. Additionally, the MASDP will bring extensive and long-lasting benefits to local, regional, and remote communities.

The MASDP will add significant value to the economy by enabling the processing of abundant domestic resources. This will help reverse the decline of Australia's manufacturing sector and reduce economic vulnerability and market volatility by enhancing economic complexity on a global scale.

Climate, health and environmental impacts

The MASDP's robust regulatory standards and oversight play a crucial role in addressing the urgency of climate change.

By preventing carbon-related and environmental leakages, it becomes instrumental in achieving a global net-zero emissions future. Moreover, the MASDP provides export-oriented, energy-intensive, and value-



adding processing facilities with access to reliable, secure, and affordable low and zero emissions energy. This, combined with technically and commercially viable mitigation solutions like CCUS, eliminates the need for projects to relocate to countries with less stringent climate and environmental approval and oversight regimes.

We find great encouragement in the MASDP's comprehensive environmental assessment processes. These processes are deeply informed and influenced by over 160 detailed studies and reports on environmental and marine deliverables. With the implementation of normal systems engineering solutions and prudent risk management plans, we are confident that all environmental quality issues can and will be effectively addressed.

We appreciate the meticulous planning, community engagement, and environmental responsibility displayed throughout the development of the MASDP.

We believe that this project sets a high standard for sustainable and energy-conscious development that can serve as a model for future projects in the region.

We respectfully request that the Committee thoroughly evaluate the merits of the MASDP. The planning process for the MASDP remains subject to rigorous public scrutiny, technical standards, and approval frameworks, all of which it consistently satisfies.

Energy Club NT encourages the inquiry committee to support and endorse the MASDP project while ensuring that energy-efficient and environmentally responsible practices remain at the forefront of the development process. We believe that this initiative will not only benefit the NT but also contribute to the broader advancement of sustainable energy practices in Australia.

Thank you for considering our submission of support. We look forward to witnessing the positive changes and advancements that the MASDP will bring to our region's energy landscape.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Energy Club NT Board of Directors

Stephanie Berlin
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Club NT