



PETROLEUM OPPORTUNITIES



Northern Territory Acreage Release 2016
Re-release Round
Bids close 4 August 2016
www.minerals.nt.gov.au

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Letter of Invitation

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48-50 Smith Street Mall
DARWIN NT 0800

Postal Address

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DARWIN NT 0801

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E Victoria.jackson@nt.gov.au

File Ref: PT2014/0043

The Northern Territory Department of Mines and Energy announces the annual release of onshore petroleum acreage for 2016. Round 1 is the re-release of EPNT14-3 within the Beetaloo Sub-basin of the McArthur Basin.

Applications for EPNT14-3 should be made in accordance with section 16(3) of the *Petroleum Act* and the *Notice of Invitation for Petroleum Exploration Permit Application* published in the Northern Territory General Gazette on 3 February 2016.

Consideration of an application for the grant of a petroleum exploration permit shall take into account the adequacy of the work programs relative to the whole of the area applied for, the geological rationale on which the application is based, and the applicant's technical and financial ability to undertake the work.

Should you require further information or assistance, please contact the Department of Mines and Energy, Energy Directorate on +61 8 8999 5396.

Yours sincerely



VICTORIA JACKSON
Executive Director, Energy

3 February 2016

Northern Territory Overview

It's an exciting time for the petroleum industry in the Northern Territory with many major projects either underway or about to commence.

Opportunities exist to explore the Northern Territory's onshore basins to identify potential new oil and gas plays that may hold commercial quantities of hydrocarbon liquids and gas.

Much of the Northern Territory's land mass is either granted or under application for oil and gas exploration and production. There has been a growth in interest for exploration of shale gas and associated oil resources.

While exploration is in its early stages, the geology is regarded as world class and the prospective geology is extensive. Major national and international petroleum companies are actively exploring.

Potential onshore resources are estimated at more than 200 trillion cubic feet (Tcf), and with exploration success, there may be extensive opportunities for pipeline construction and investment.

The Northern Territory already has nearly 2500 kilometres of onshore gas pipelines and more than 500 kilometres of offshore gas pipelines connecting Darwin to producing gas fields in the Bonaparte Basin (0.8Tcf), Bayu Undan Field (4Tcf) and in the Central Australian gas fields.

In November 2015, the Chief Minister announced the award of the Northern Gas Pipeline project to Jemena Northern Gas Pipeline Pty Ltd. This will enable Northern Territory gas to be delivered from Tennant Creek to Mt Isa to supply east-Australian markets. The pipeline will bring jobs and investment to the Territory during its construction phase and open up the onshore Basins to accelerated commercial development.

A further 890 kilometres of gas pipeline will soon connect Darwin to the huge reserves in the Browse Basin (30+Tcf, including 12.8Tcf in the Ichthys Gas Field) through the Ichthys LNG Project.

The Northern Territory Government strongly supports the development of its oil and gas resources. An inquiry into hydraulic fracturing in 2014 found that there is no justification for a moratorium on the use of unconventional means. The Northern Territory has no domestic gas reservation policy and the government is actively working towards reductions in the petroleum regulatory burden. In addition the government has partnered with industry through its co-funding of exploration activities in an on-going program referred to as Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration (CORE).

If you would like to know more about investing in the Northern Territory, please visit the Northern Territory Government website www.investnt.com.au/energy

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Petroleum Act

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR PETROLEUM EXPLORATION PERMIT APPLICATION

(RE-RELEASE ROUND)

3 February 2016

Pursuant to section 16(1) of the *Petroleum Act* of the Northern Territory, the Minister for Mines and Energy (through the Minister's delegate) invites applications for the grant of a petroleum exploration permit for the area described below.

This invitation commences on 3 February 2016 and ends on 4 August 2016.

Part IIA of the *Petroleum Act* – Prescribed petroleum acts above high-water mark or for infrastructure facilities – applies to the area the subject of this invitation.

Applications should be prepared in accordance with section 16(3) of the *Petroleum Act* and submitted to the Department of Mines and Energy prior to **4:00 pm ACST on Thursday, 4 August 2016**. Further details of the requirements for applications are set out below.

DESCRIPTION OF AREA

- **Re-Release Area EPNT14-3**
Beetaloo Sub-basin, McArthur Basin, Northern Territory
Map Sheet SE53 (Newcastle Waters)
Block No.s

534	606	678	750	822	894	965	966
1037	1038	1109	1110	1180	1181	1182	1251
1252	1253	1254	1321	1322	1323	1324	1325
1326	1389	1392	1393	1394	1395	1396	1397
1398	1461	1462	1463	1464	1465	1466	1467
1468	1469	1470	1533	1534	1535	1536	1537
1538	1539	1540	1541	1542	1606	1607	1608
1609	1610	1611	1612	1613	1614	1679	1680
1681	1682	1683	1684	1685	1686		

Assessed to contain 70 full blocks

APPLICATIONS

Applications for a petroleum exploration permit in relation to the above release area must be accompanied by:

- (a) Details of:
- I. The applicant's technical assessment of the petroleum potential of the area, including the concepts underlying its proposed exploration program, with sufficient detail to support that program.
 - II. The applicant's minimum guaranteed proposal (including indicative defensible minimum expenditure) for exploration wells to be drilled, 3D and 2D seismic and other surveying activities, data evaluation and other work, for each year of the first two years of the permit term. This proposal, to be known as the minimum guaranteed work program should comprise work expected to involve a substantial exploration component – normally, appraisal work should not be included.
 - III. The applicant's proposal (including indicative minimum defensible expenditure) for exploration wells to be drilled, 3D and 2D seismic and other surveying activities, data evaluation and other work, for each of the three remaining years of the permit term. This proposal, to be known as the secondary work program, should comprise work expected to involve a substantial exploration component – normally, appraisal work should not be included.
- (b) Particulars of:
- I. The technical qualifications of the applicant and of its key employees.
 - II. The technical advice available to the applicant.
 - III. The financial resources available to the applicant, including evidence of the applicant's ability to fund the work program proposed, a statement of other exploration commitments over the next five years, and a copy of the latest annual report and quarterly reports for each applicant company.
 - IV. Where relevant, the viability of the consortium lodging the application, including evidence that a satisfactory settlement has been or can be, reached on the joint Operation Agreement (e.g. a copy of a signed Heads of Agreement Dealing or similar).
 - V. The percentage participation interest of each party to the application.
- (c) Such other information as the applicant wishes to be taken into account in consideration of the application.

FEE

At the time of lodgement each application must include an Australian bank cheque or electronic funds transfer. The fee is prescribed by the *Petroleum Act* and as at 1 July 2015 is **\$5,280.00** which is GST free. This amount should be checked prior to lodging an application.

If paying by cheque please make payable to the '*Receiver of Territory Monies*'. If paying by electronic funds transfers, please make payment to the following account:

Bank Name	NAB
Account Name	NT Government
ABN	84 085 734 992
BSB	085-461
Account Number	931610009
Swift	NATAAU3303M (if overseas account)

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications together with supporting data for re-release area EPNT14-3 must be lodged or received by **4.00 pm (ACST) on Thursday, 4 August 2016** at the following address:

Executive Director, Energy
Energy Directorate
Department of Mines and Energy
4th Floor Paspalis Centrepoint Building
48-50 Smith Street Mall, Darwin

GPO Box 4550
DARWIN NT 0801

Attention: Director Petroleum Tenure

The following special instructions should be observed:

- Two copies of the application and supporting data, together with the applicable fee, should be enclosed in an envelope or package.
- The application should then be sealed and clearly marked as “Application for Re-release Area EPNT14-3 – Commercial-in-Confidence”.

The envelope or package should then be enclosed in a plain covered envelope or package and delivered by hand or posted to the address above.

A Re-release Package is available at www.minerals.nt.gov.au

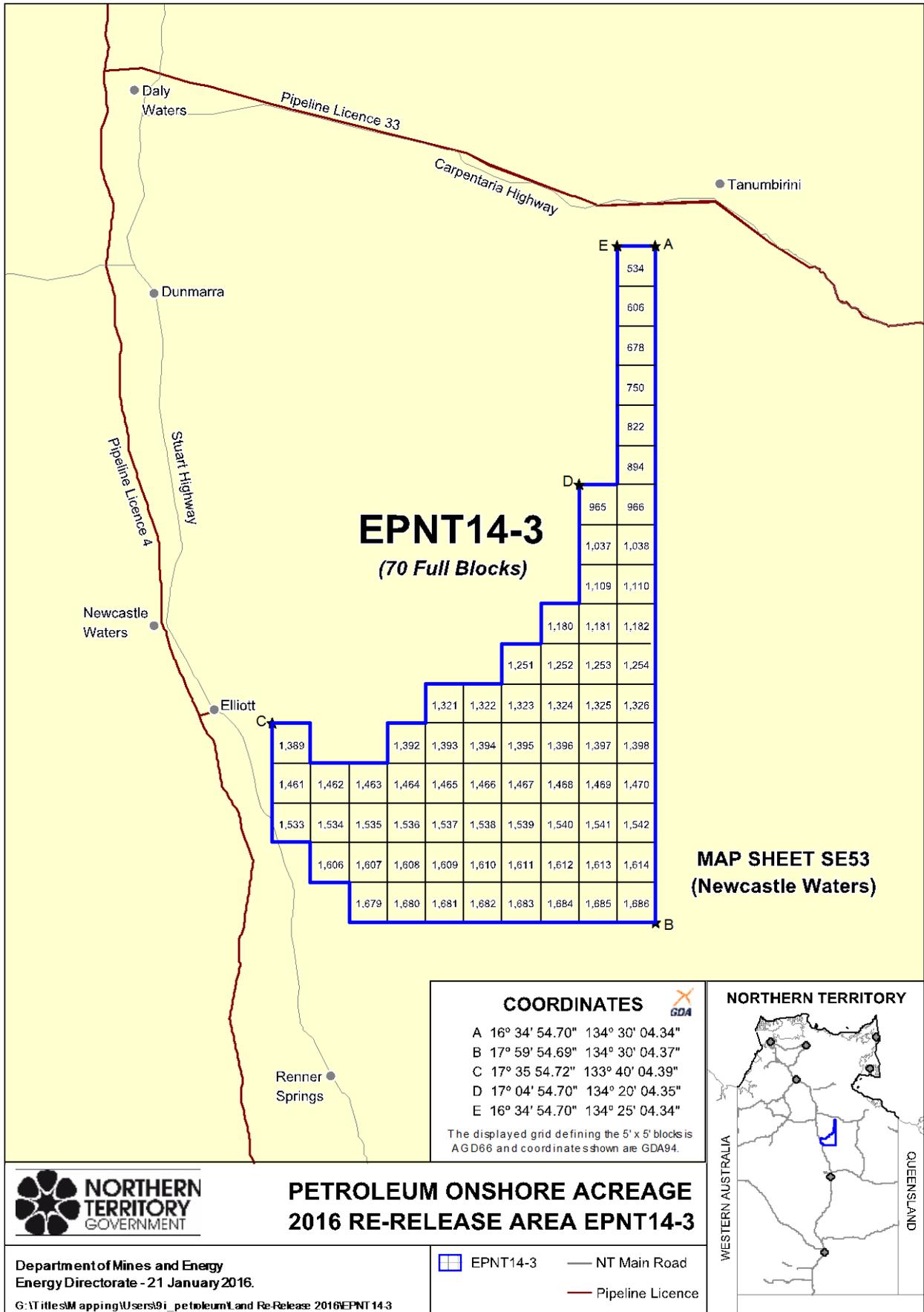
Enquiries may be directed to the Director Petroleum Tenure, Energy Titles, Energy Directorate on telephone + 61 8 8999 5396 or energypermits@nt.gov.au

Dated: 3 February 2016



VICKI LORRAINE JACKSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENERGY
Pursuant to an Instrument of Delegation dated 15 June 2015

Re-release Area Map EPNT14-3



Application Requirements

Applicants need to refer to Section 16(3) of the *Petroleum Act* when making application for a permit.

1. Particulars of the applicant(s)

- Full name of applicant/s - In case of individuals, please state full name of each person. In the case of corporations, state name of each corporation as shown on their latest Certificate of Incorporation
- Australian Company Number (ACN or the ARBN where the applicant is a foreign company) – This is the number described on the Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission
- Principal or residential address - Please state each applicant's principal or residential address. This is the physical address at which documents will be served on each applicant.
- Postal Address - Please state postal address of each applicant
- Interest - Where the application is made by two or more persons the proposed sharing arrangements between the applicants.

2. Particulars of Re-release Area

- Schedule of blocks being described by reference to the name/s of a map sheet/s (e.g. Darwin SD52) of the 1:1,000,000 Series and the number of graticular sections
- A map clearly delineating the application (release) area and boundaries of existing permit or licence areas in the immediate vicinity of the application area.

3. Assessment of Re-release Area

- Applicant's assessment of the petroleum potential of area, including a geological and geophysical review and technical assessment, including concepts underlying the proposed exploration program.

4. Work Program

- Proposed technical works program for exploration of the blocks during each year of the term of the proposed permit; this must demonstrate an accelerated exploration program.

5. Technical and Financial Capacity

- Evidence of the technical and financial capacity of the applicant/s to carry out the proposed technical works program and to comply with the requirements of the *Petroleum Act*.
 - Applicants should list the professional staff proposed to be used in the program, together with a short resume of their past record of proven technical experience.
 - Normally, applicants are expected to have at least sufficient net current assets to complete the first two years' program and to provide reasonable assurance that further funds will be forthcoming. If the applicant is a publicly listed company, the last issued annual company report or the relevant sections thereof and the last issued quarterly report to the Stock Exchange should be included.
 - If the applicant is not a public company, a report should be furnished giving the same information as would be furnished in the annual report of a public company, and in the latest quarterly stock exchange report.

In either case, a statement of financial commitments other than those proposed in the application, and any additional source of finance should be included. This statement should include a list of interests in petroleum tenements in other states of Australia.

6. Operator

- The name of the designated operator and evidence of the technical capacity of the operator to carry out the proposed technical works program and a single address for service of notices in respect of the application.

7. Other Information

- Past performance of the applicant/s.
- Prescribed application fee - non-refundable, payable to Receiver of Territory Monies (RTM).
- Such other information in support of the application as the applicant thinks fit.

Availability of Data

Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) and industry reports and data are supplied by the Minerals and Energy InfoCentre.

Industry geophysical survey reports and support data relevant to permit Re-release Area EPNT14-3 will be supplied on a USB card. Field and processed seismic survey data is held offsite and is supplied at the cost of the media and copying.

Well reports and data, GIS datasets and NTGS pre-competitive regional geological data can be accessed online.

Special Requirements and Additional Information

Successful applicants will be required to consider Aboriginal Sacred Sites, Heritage and Environment matters before commencement of any operation.

- **Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)**

The Re-release area has known sacred sites. AAPA recommends that any successful applicant obtain an Authority Certificate prior to undertaking any exploration activity. www.aapant.org.au

- **Department of Infrastructure**

Successful applicants need to consider all Northern Territory roads and the department's requirement to access bulk earthwork pits, bores and water adjacent to the roads. www.nt.gov.au/infrastructure

- **Department of Land Resource Management**

Successful applicants need to contact the Department of Land Resource Management to make themselves aware of any areas that have the potential to restrict exploration activities. These may include Conservation Reserves, Nature Reserves or areas containing threatened flora and fauna. In all instances applicants will need to consider their obligations under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (Cwth) and the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. www.lrm.nt.gov.au

- **Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment**

All declared heritage places and Aboriginal archaeological sites are afforded protection under the Northern Territory *Heritage Act*; consequently, various heritage requirements, restrictions and statutory obligations will apply to any future exploration activities within the application area. Successful applicants will need to contact the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment for information on sites of heritage and Aboriginal archaeological significance. www.dlp.nt.gov.au

- **Department of Transport**

Successful applicants need to contact the Department of Transport for formal agreements with regards to access through major roads. www.transport.nt.gov.au

- **Native Title Act (Cwlth)**

Successful applicants will be required to progress their applications through the 'right to negotiate' process of the *Native Title Act*. www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2014C00631

- **Petroleum Legislation**

- *Petroleum Act* - www.minerals.nt.gov.au

- **Power and Water Corporation**

Operators need to consider protocols for drilling rigs and other heavy equipment that may traverse the Amadeus Gas Pipeline and McArthur River Mine lateral. Contact the coordinator to discuss access and activity. Operators need to maintain all environmental management standards and seek agreement related to risk mitigation for water quality and quantity.

Successful applicants are required to make themselves aware of the existence of all areas being released, including those noted above that have the potential to restrict exploration activities, and any associated obligations to acquire approvals under other legislation to obtain access to or conduct activities in the proximity of the release area.

Applicants should also consider contacting the following organisations at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss proposed exploration activities.

- o Department of Business - www.dob.nt.gov.au
- o Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority - www.ntepa.nt.gov.au

Closing Date and Lodgement of Applications

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Contact Officers

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Energy Directorate
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- **Jane Bowland**
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Northern Territory Geological Survey
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Disclaimer

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