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Legislative Scrutiny Committee
C/- The Hon Oly Carlson MLA
Chairperson
By email: LSC@nt.gov.au

30 March 2026

To the Chair and members,

Pipelines and Petroleum Legislation Amendment (Industry Development) Bill 2026

This letter responds to the Committee's invitation to the Tiwi Land Council (TLC) to make a submission to its inquiry into the Pipelines and Petroleum Legislation Amendment (Industry Development) Bill 2026.

TLC is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity established in 1978 under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)* (ALRA). The Tiwi Islands are entirely Aboriginal land, to which Tiwi hold inalienable freehold title under ALRA. Reflecting the indivisibility of land and waters for Tiwi people, the TLC is also now working with the Northern Land Council, on the direction of Tiwi traditional owners, to advance Tiwi rights and responsibilities over our surrounding waters through a native title sea claim.

We understand that the purpose of this bill includes supporting and facilitating the transmission of carbon dioxide through pipelines in the Territory, to offshore areas for permanent storage in greenhouse gas storage locations within Commonwealth waters (Carbon Capture and Storage).

The Committee has provided an extraordinarily short timeframe to make comment on this significant and technically complex bill that will regulate a new industry. It has not been feasible within this timeframe for the TLC to properly consider the interaction of the proposed regime with the other relevant legislative schemes and possible interactions with any future native title rights over Tiwi sea country.

The TLC therefore **recommends** that the Committee **extend the timeframe for its inquiry** and **schedule public hearings** to allow adequate consultation and properly examine the bill. Responding to the Committee's terms of reference, it is the TLC's view that:

1. The Assembly should **not** pass this bill in its current form.
2. Consideration should be given to **amending the bill**, once adequate time has been allowed for stakeholders – including land councils – to properly consider the proposed provisions.
3. The bill **does not** have sufficient regard to the rights of Aboriginal traditional owners due to the lack of consultation with land councils as statutory representative bodies.
4. The bill **does not** have sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament, due to the rushed nature of the consultation and time for stakeholders to properly consider the interaction of this bill with relevant NT and Commonwealth legislative schemes.

Yours sincerely



Brendan Ferguson
CEO
Tiwi Land Council