



**GARY HIGGINS**  
**OPPOSITION LEADER**

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*For immediate circulation*

**Moratorium lift welcomed**

Today's announcement that the Labor government has lifted its moratorium on onshore shale gas should now be met with urgent implementation of recommendations to ensure certainty and confidence for Territorians, the Territory economy and industry.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that, while he welcomed the decision to lift the moratorium, the time it has taken for the Labor government to show some leadership on this issue meant missed opportunity for the Territory.

"For the past 21 months, this moratorium has stalled investment and job prospects in the Northern Territory.

"Put simply, the moratorium has duplicated findings from previous reports and reviews, and stalled much needed economic certainty and opportunity.

"The Opposition has faith in the Northern Territory public service to develop, implement and monitor the regulations.

"I also note, that despite the importance of today's announcement, the Chief Minister couldn't help himself but to blame the former CLP government.

"The Gunner government has been in government in the Northern Territory since August 2016, Territorians are sick of the blame game.

"It is now time to unlock the gate and get on with a well-regulated onshore shale gas industry," said Mr Higgins.

**ENDS**

**Media contact:** Georgina Murphy 0432 679 567