



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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Industry facing further delays

This morning's release of the Labor government's 36-page Implementation Plan for the development of the onshore shale gas industry lacks detail on specific deadlines and responsibilities.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that the document is what has become trademark of this go-slow Labor government – a glossy document that lacks important detail.

"Given we are now three months past the lifting of the moratorium, the Opposition would expect a significant body of work would have been completed to build certainty and confidence for this billion-dollar industry.

"Stage one and two (of the plan) are incumbent on government, which will fuel further uncertainty given Labor has been very slow to deliver anything in its near two years in government.

"Stage two requires a significant amount of work, with an ambitious deadline of the end of this year.

In addition, as a recently released Wood Mackenzie report concludes, supply shortages and increasing gas prices over the next few years could put pressure on domestic manufacturers.

"As the recently released Wood Mackenzie report on gas makes clear, time is very much of the essence. The Territory's onshore gas industry has the potential to not only add stability to the domestic gas market, but to fuel knock-on manufacturing and economic opportunity in the Northern Territory."

"A well-regulated onshore shale gas industry is an exciting opportunity for the Northern Territory and Territorians, and developing the onshore gas framework in which this billion-dollar business will operate, should be a top priority for Labor," said Mr Higgins.

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Media contact: Georgina Murphy 0432 679 567