

Submission to Economic Legislative Committee inquiry into the Space Activities Amendment (Launches and Returns) Bill 2018

1 NT Government's interest in the Bill

The NT Government is ready to work with industry, investors and other jurisdictions to realise the vision of Australia securing a greater share of the global space economy. The NT Government is actively working with Equatorial Launch Australia to support the development of the proposed Arnhem Space Centre. If enacted, the *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018* will form the basis upon which the Arnhem Space Centre and other Australian launch facilities will operate.

It is critical that the *Space Activities Amendment (Launches and Returns) Bill 2018* (the Bill) is passed, and the 'rules' associated with the regulations, are developed as soon as possible to provide Australian launch proponents with a clear operating environment upon which to make business decisions.

2 NT Government comments on the Bill

The NT Government generally supports the Bill.

Of particular note is the reduction of insurance requirements to be more in line with international norms. This measure will assist with making launch viable for smaller Australia space companies.

The NT Government recognises that the new rules associated with the regulations have not yet been drafted and that these rules cover areas of critical importance to the feasibility of Australia launch facilities, including licensing fees; insurance and financial requirements and the application process. It is essential that these rules be developed in a timely manner and in consultation with industry.

The NT Government is aware that industry has concerns about the practical implications of the debris mitigation strategy requirements included in the Bill. The current wording indicates that an Australian applicant for a launch permit may need to prepare a debris mitigation strategy for a payload upon which it has no control. It would be appropriate for the Australian Government to restrict the space debris mitigation requirements to those parts of the space object under the control of the Australian applicant, when designing 'the rules'.

3 Contact details for further information

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