



Ref CTS 10696/25

Office of the  
**Director-General**

25 June 2025

Department of  
**Natural Resources and Mines,  
Manufacturing and Regional  
and Rural Development**

Dr Coral Rowston  
Director  
Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland Inc

[Enva.cq@outlook.com](mailto:Enva.cq@outlook.com)

Dear Dr Rowston

Thank you for your letter dated 9 May 2025 to the Honourable Dale Last MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, regarding the application for Petroleum Lease (PL) Number 1034 by Eureka Petroleum Pty Ltd (Eureka), a subsidiary of Blue Energy Ltd. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

PL1034 was submitted in accordance with the specific provisions of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* (P&G Act). The P&G Act sets out clear criteria that must be met for an application to be formally accepted and then assessed by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development (NRMRRD) based on its individual merits.

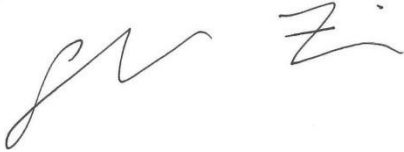
Environmental matters, such as determining whether a project involves a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), is a matter for a proponent and Commonwealth Government. Accordingly, compliance with the EPBC Act is not a consideration under the P&G Act when assessing and making recommendations on the grant of a PL.

I acknowledge your concerns raised regarding PL1034, particularly those related to the financial capacity of Blue Energy Ltd. Under the P&G Act, the grant of a Petroleum Lease is contingent upon the applicant demonstrating compliance with all relevant legislative requirements, including sufficient financial and technical capabilities.

NRMRRD is currently undertaking assessment of the application against the P&G Act. A recommendation to grant PL1034 can only be made if all requirements for the grant of a PL under the P&G Act are satisfied. Should an application meet all statutory requirements for the grant of a PL, a decision must be made.

Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Ms Kate Byrne, Acting Director, Petroleum Assessment Hub, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development on telephone 0427 461 963.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Fraine', written in a cursive style.

**Graham Fraine**  
Director-General