

The Secretary

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

Legislative Assembly of the NT

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Dear Secretary

Re: Planning Amendment Bill 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Planning Amendment Bill 2020. The Legislative Scrutiny Committee should amend the Bill as it does not have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals.

I understand the hierarchy of strategic documents that fall under the Bill but feel that an overarching vision, that sets the scene for these strategies and offers me assurance that my life style will not be compromised by choosing to retire in the NT, is lacking. In its current form the Bill could be written for any state or climate, which begs the question of why not have a national one with NT strategies.

The Bill does not set a vision for planning in the NT. It provides no sense of amenity, community, neighbourhood, or a well planned balance between open space and development. The Bill does not reflect that the NT climate ranges from the wet dry tropics to the semi arid desert and it does not reflect current thinking on climate change or innovation in building design. I go as far as to say it reads as a development rather than planning document.

I hear the argument that the Strategies will cover these issues, however, setting a vision from the onset lets developers, industry and the community know the planning environment in which we are operating.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Benson