

Submission to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee on the Environment Protection Bill 2019

Jayson Burhop

11th June 2019

The Secretary
Social Policy Scrutiny Committee
GPO Box 3721
Darwin NT 0801

Dear Secretary,

I have recently moved to Darwin, in large part, to enjoy the amazing wild ecosystems that still survive in the top end. It would be such a shame if the Northern Territory government did not take the opportunity provided by this reform of environmental laws to do everything it could to protect the beautiful natural environment that attracts so many international and domestic visitors. One of the major long term threats to the wild spaces of the Northern Territory is climate change. This reform process provides an opportunity for the Northern Territory government to show real leadership on this issue and demonstrate to the rest of the country that this government is serious about its responsibility for protecting the natural environment.

In its present form, the Environmental Bill will allow major projects to receive approval to proceed from the Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment without the need to consider their associated climate change impacts. Amendments to this bill are required to ensure this does not occur and that adequate monitoring regimes and rehabilitation standards are incorporated into all projects. I believe that the Bill should only be passed with some important amendments, that include:

1. Making firm plans to reduce the Northern Territory's greenhouse gas emissions and increase action to draw down atmospheric greenhouse gases an Object of the Bill and a mandatory consideration for every decision-maker and authority throughout the Bill, including under section 73.
2. Removing the word 'economy' from the definition of Environment.
3. Providing anyone affected by a decision under the Bill, including anyone who has made a submission about a proposal, with the legal standing to request a merits review and seek judicial review.

Yours sincerely,



Jayson Burhop