



4th September 2019

**Northern Territory Government
Economic Scrutiny Committee**

RE: Response - Water Further Amendment Bill - 2019

Dear Committee Members,

The Northern Territory Farmers Association (NT Farmers) understands the desire of the current government to improve the economic opportunities for aboriginal people. To this point NT Farmers are supportive of the development of Indigenous Strategic Water Reserves. With some reservations listed below.

Northern Territory Farmers Association

NT Farmers is the peak body for all the plant-based Industries in the Northern Territory. We support and represent established and emerging agribusinesses through effective advocacy, driving research, development, extension and marketing to meet opportunities and challenges of our members and stakeholders.

Key Points for Consideration

NT Farmers are supportive of any initiative which contributes to the sustainable development of plant industries in the Northern Territory. Indigenous water reserves do offer a unique advantage for indigenous land holders to create viable plant-based industries.

If the frameworks to access/lease these water reserves are well developed and useable this could underpin and potentially attract investment in on country development which may directly advantage traditional owners by creating a local opportunity for agricultural development.

It is conceivable these amendments could create substantial jobs in land management and farming on indigenous owned land.

NT Farmers does not support the loss of any water from the consumptive pool for agricultural purposes and furthermore NT Farmers would like to note our concerns in relation to potentially having water available within the consumptive pool that is not used. If this water is locked up and not used it benefits no one.

We would be pleased to respond to any further enquiries about these legislative changes. We can be contacted on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Burke', written over a white background.

Paul Burke
Chief Executive Officer