

From: Braedon Earley
To: [SPSC SPSC](#)
Subject: 1 Territory Submission to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee
Date: Wednesday, 19 September 2018 9:32:33 PM

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of 1 Territory Party.

1 Territory is appalled that so little time for scrutiny has been allowed for examination and assessment of the changes to such important legislation as the NT Environment Protection Authority Act and the changes in the proposed Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Amendment Bill 2018 . To dump 16 pages of complex changes on the NTEPA Act and 7 pages of changes to the Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Act 2004 on Territorians with very little advertising of the fact nor very little time to consider appears most deliberate and betrays the trust of Territorians.

It is absolutely unacceptable that it has been reported to your Committee that these amendments have been put forward by the mining and gas industries and that interested persons have had so little time to respond.

Given the time and resources that we have had available to us, we note with concern and make the following comments:

ON THE AMENDMENTS TO THE NT EPA ACT

- that Section 8 (4), which said that the NTEPA "must integrate both long term and short term economic, environmental and social equity considerations in its decision making", will be deleted.
- in other words a social license must be integrated into NTEPA decision making under the old rules; now this only becomes necessary in a report to the Minister.
- that the changes give the Minister powers to appoint members (currently it is the Administrator that makes the appointments);
- that amendments give more weight to economic considerations and strengthening of non disclosure rules for information that is "Commercial in Confidence" (does this mean, for example, that if a company has a spill or blowout and reports it to the NTEPA then the NTEPA cannot disclose this because it might affect a company's bottom line?);
- that Section 31 and 32 Offences have been replaced to make more severe penalties (Section 31 adds 2 years jail) - so is it now harder for whistle blowers?
- there are no doubt many issues that need closer examination in these amendments.

ON THE AMENDMENTS TO THE NUCLEAR WASTE, TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL (PROHIBITION) ACT

- it is unacceptable that radioactive wastes, including NORMS, produced incidentally from the operation or maintenance of a pipeline in the Territory conveying petroleum or other energy-producing hydrocarbons, or produced incidentally from the exploration for, or the recovery or exploitation of, petroleum or other energy-producing hydrocarbons are not recognised as nuclear waste;
- the definition of "nuclear waste" should be amended to include radioactive material derived from exploring, producing or transporting petroleum or other energy-producing hydrocarbons;
- further updating and amending is required to bring the penalties for offences into line

with public expectations - the current 500 penalty units for a body corporate offence equates to just \$77,500; this should be increased considerably (over \$1,000,000?) to act as a genuine deterrent to corporations and their shareholders and management;

- Territorians are entitled to the protection of their safety, health and welfare and the environment in which they live from this type of legislation and these amendments do appear to reduce this protection.

Territorians can rightly feel they have been conned by the NT Labor Government - again.

1 Territory can advise Territorians that these amendments will be repealed when a 1 Territory Government is elected in 2020. In fact it will be through legislation that Fracking will be banned in the Northern Territory - all stakeholders are now advised that this will be done on the election of a 1 Territory Government.

I am available to discuss this matter further before the Committee should you so wish.

Kind Regards
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President

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