

13th September 2018



Environment
Institute of
Australia and
New Zealand

Att:

Secretary, Social Policy Scrutiny Committee
SPSC@nt.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Submission to the *Environment Protection Authority Amendment Bill 2018*

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) Northern Territory Division welcomes the opportunity to submit its comments on the *Environment Protection Authority Amendment Bill 2018*.

The EIANZ represents environmental practitioners across Australia and New Zealand. It advocates environmental knowledge and awareness, advancing ethical and competent environmental practice. Its members work across the environmental industry for government, industry and consultancy.

EIANZ NT division members work on the front line of environmental assessment and approval in the NT as regulators, industry advocates, industry environmental staff or consultants. We see first hand the implications of a dated assessment regime which hinders development, leads to inconsistent outcomes, frustrates all involved and leaves the public with little faith in either the regulations or the regulators; a no-win situation for proponents, government and the general public.

Consequently, we have been and still are enthusiastic about the reform process currently being undertaken and have, in recent years, made submissions to:

- Northern Territory Balanced Environment Strategy Discussion Draft, March 2016
- Comment on the NT EPA's Draft advice - Response to Dr Hawke's review, October 2016
- Comment on Draft Petroleum (Environment) Regulations, April 2016
- Submission on the Environmental Reforms discussion paper in 2017
- Submission on the *Northern Territory Noise Management Framework Guideline* in 2018
- We are currently engaged (August 2018) in the NT Mining Regulation Reforms – Consultation

We have reviewed the *Environment Protection Authority Amendment Bill 2018* and give the following feedback:

- Proposed s 24C the NT EPA must make a copy of the statement available to the public in the way it considers appropriate.

We wonder why, as a minimum, the statement should be on the NT EPAs website? We further note that the NT EPA should maintain a database of stakeholders so that when any new guideline, report or other document is published on the website then these stakeholders are notified by email. This also applies to existing s29(1).

- Proposed s 28A

We applaud this change, particularly, 28A(2) which gives the NT EPA the powers to inquire and report on any aspect of the NT system of environmental management. This type of review



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(sometimes called strategic assessment in other jurisdictions) allows for ongoing review and identifying any parts of the system, particularly post-environmental regulation reform, that have led to perverse or unintended environmental outcomes.

We thank the committee for giving us an opportunity to make a submission on the amendment and would be happy to take any questions regarding our submission.

Yours Sincerely,



Jeff Richardson
President, Northern Territory Division
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