

From: Katherine Marchment
To: [SPSC SPSC](#)
Subject: Submission NTEPA ACT Amendment Bill
Date: Wednesday, 19 September 2018 10:49:44 PM

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I wish to object to this Bill as it is contrary to the interests of Territorians.

I object to the removal of 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"

Removal of this Section removes the necessity for the NTEPA to obtain a Social License when making decisions.

Regardless of whether this Section is removed or not, there is NO SOCIAL LICENCE for shale gas extraction in the NT. In fact there is vehement opposition to Onshore shale gas extraction in the areas they intend to operate.

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.

I object to the changes give the Minister powers to appoint members (currently it is the Administrator that makes the appointments);

I object 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?);

I object 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?

I am also alarmed at the Cumulative impacts on Territorians with the Amendments to three critical Acts by the Gas Industry. I am dismayed at how little notice Territorians have been given to submit and respond to changes in legislation that affect all of us.

It screams of Regulatory Capture weakening legislation that protects Territorians so that foreign interests can cut costs and trash our environment with impunity.

The passing of this proposed legislation into law would make a mockery of our legal system and the law.

Yours Sincerely

Katherine Marchment

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