

Statement of compatibility with human rights

Prepared in accordance with the Thirteenth Assembly Sessional Orders (part 12.3) as adopted on 24 August 2017.

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Amendment Bill 2018

This bill is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011* (Cth).

Overview of the bill

This bill amends the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act*.

The purpose of this bill is to support implementation of Government's environmental regulatory reform commitments by improving the governance of the NT EPA, providing greater flexibility in the membership of the NT EPA, and providing the NT EPA with new responsibilities to undertake systemic reviews of the environmental management system.

The bill introduces a requirement for the NT EPA to prepare a Statement of Intent at least every two years outlining how the NT EPA will perform in its functions and powers for that upcoming period. This provides a public account of NT EPA priorities and focus for an upcoming period of time.

The bill also increases NT EPA membership, allowing for four to seven members. This provides flexibility in responding to emerging industry types or changing workloads.

NT EPA members will be able to take a leave of absence for a period of up to 12 months. The Minister for Environment and Natural Resources can appoint a temporary member who demonstrates similar knowledge, skills and experience to the member that is being temporarily replaced.

The bill introduces a new power for the NT EPA to provide environmental management reports. These reports are designed to give the NT EPA the power to provide holistic advice about the functioning of the Territory's system of environmental management.

Finally, the bill amends the matters that the NT EPA may consider in performing its advisory functions and articulates the principles of ecologically sustainable development as requirements for consideration.

Human rights implications

This bill does not engage any of the applicable rights or freedoms.

Conclusion

This bill is compatible with human rights as it does not raise any human rights issues.