

## Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Amendment Bill 2018 Submission

Dear Social Policy Scrutiny Committee,

Please accept this as my submission to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Amendment Bill 2018.

I welcome the addition of the principles of ecologically sustainable development in Part 3, Division 1, Section 25AA. This brings the NTEPA in line with many other jurisdictions globally and aligns the NT EPA Act with the Commonwealth's EPBC Act. I would like to see this Section further expanded to include the NTEPA needing to demonstrate the application of ESD principles.

I strenuously object to this Bill omitting Section 8(4) from the Act. Section 8(4) states: *"In addition, the NT EPA must integrate both long-term and short-term economic, environmental and social equity considerations in its decision making"*. This is a crucial statement and must be left in the Act.

There are many other comments I would like to have made about this Bill, but the Government releasing 3 separate Bills simultaneously for comment has made it difficult to study, compile and submit indepth responses for all 3 Bills (Nuclear Waste Bill, EPA Bill, and Water Bill). It would pay for the Government to remember that we, the public, have to juggle submission writing in with family, work and life commitments.

I request the committee to reject this Bill for several reasons which I haven't had time to include in this submission, but mostly on the grounds of the omission of Section 8(4).

Yours Sincerely,

Pauline Cass