



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Petition

Registration No.	24
Title	Independent Environment Protection Agency
Presented on	12 October 2009
Presented by	Mr Peter Chandler
Referred to	Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage
Date referred	12 October 2009
Response due	11 February 2010
Response received	3 February 2010
Response presented	16 February 2010

Petition

Environment Protection Agency of the NT to operate independently

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

That the Environment Protection Agency of the Northern Territory be independent and have its functions and authorities expanded so that it reports directly to the Parliament without recourse to the Minister for Natural Resources, the Environment and Heritage.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

We, the undersigned, call on the Minister for Natural Resources, the Environment and Heritage to establish an independent Environment Protection Agency outside of the jurisdiction of Government that reports directly to Parliament.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY

Response

The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is created under specific legislation – the *Environment Protection Authority Act 2007* (the EPA Act).

The EPA has always been, and remains, independent of the Minister in conduct of its functions. This independence is specifically secured through the legislation via section 8(1) of the EPA Act which states “The Authority is not subject to the Minister’s direction.” Section 8(2) of the EPA Act goes on to indicate that ‘in particular, the Authority is not subject to the Minister’s direction in relation to the preparation and contents of any advice or recommendation of the Authority’.

By law, all findings of the EPA must be made public.

Government has introduced amendments to the EPA Act to the Legislative Assembly that will see the EPA have expanded capacities and will require its findings to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.