

Singleton Station Horticulture Project – licence application

My name is [REDACTED] and I have lived, worked, raised a family and now am retired in the Northern Territory for 47 years.

I watch with great interest and concern as the environment, more recently, is being sacrificed for big business, with little consideration of the unique environment, its role in supporting native flora and fauna, and the community resource it provides us all.

I am seriously concerned that the Singleton horticulture proposal poses risk of serious, irreversible environmental harm including to groundwater dependent ecosystems, sacred sites and habitat for threatened species, including the bilby. I urge that you consider protection of important groundwater dependent trees, soaks, springs and swamps. Not to mention concerns regarding the full impact of thousands of tonnes of salt brought to the surface each year during production

Dry land environments in Australia are already undergoing ecosystem collapse from the impacts of agriculture and climate change. The substantial groundwater extraction associated with this Project, as well as the land clearing it requires, will further threaten these at-risk ecosystems that will be essential to the survival of all life in the years to come. In dry areas such as the Barkly region, a major problem is that there is little/no rain to replenish the aquifers, and there have only been 4 occasions where recharge has occurred in the last 100 years.

The terms of reference for the Environmental Impact Assessment must reflect the concerns and interests of Traditional Owners and the public by protecting all groundwater dependent ecosystems. The level of protection should not follow the advice from NT government agencies which does not reflect the critical importance of these areas. Time must be taken to conduct further flora and fauna surveys. Threatened species must be protected.

I ask that you do not adopt the NT Government guideline that allows the 30% destruction of groundwater dependent vegetation.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this submission.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]