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**Submission content:**

Dear Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority, My name is Maddy Matarazzo, and I am a Darwin local. Growing up in Larrakeyah and Darwin City, I developed an appreciation for the unique flora and fauna of the Territory. I am writing to express my concerns about the Sweetwater Agricultural Development Proposal. Based on the information in the referral documents, the environmental impacts of this project appear too significant to ignore. Firstly, the proposed clearing of a minimum of 3,269 hectares of vital bushland could threaten already vulnerable and endangered species such as the Gouldian Finch, short-eared rock wallabies, white quilled rock pigeons, sandstone shrikethrush, and many others. Additionally, building a dam could cut off water supplies to ecologically important coastal floodplains, disrupting and likely destroying habitats for thousands of waterbirds, turtles, fish, and various other species. Furthermore, the plan to extract 160 GL from Lake Arygle could severely disrupt the ecosystem, causing irreversible damage that remains largely unknown, and potentially leading to water shortages and economic hardship for communities across the Northern Territory and Western Australia. What will be the cost of water for this project? Given this volume of water, how can the cotton farming proposal be viable? Previous cotton farming projects are known for their excessive water consumption and soil degradation, which depletes nutrients, reduces organic matter, and increases erosion and salinity. Additionally, the extensive use of pesticides in cotton farming can contaminate soil, groundwater, and surface water. This could render the Sweetwater Station useless, toxic, and uninhabitable... How does AAMIG plan to address these issues, as such impacts seem to be a recurring trend in cotton projects across Australia? If this project goes ahead and these environmental impacts occur, how will the community hold AAMIG accountable? Would they be required to pay a bond to fund future environmental restoration? How does AAMIG plan to minimise environmental harm? It is clear that this area is of conservation significance; however, I am struggling to find comprehensive biodiversity data in the referral. Considering the substantial environmental risks, shouldn't there be thorough ecological data and ongoing monitoring? Thank you for protecting Territorians by enforcing and upholding our environmental laws.

Sincerely, Maddy Matarazzo