



Office of the Mayor

3 April, 2023

NTEPA
Level 1, Arnhemica House
16 Parap Road
PARAP NT 0820

To Whom it May Concern,

Letter of Support

I have reviewed the extensive documentation that was referred to the EPA by Fortune Agribusiness in order to seek environmental approval for the project and I am convinced of both its environmental sustainability and its positive effect on the economy of the Barkly region and central Australia, particularly Alice Springs.

This proposed farm is located in the Barkly region which is extremely disadvantaged economically and is one of only a few prospects for the locals to raise their livelihoods and living standards. The farm will clearly create numerous jobs that will be suited to the local population as well as long term opportunities for existing and new service providers and contractors. The staged development will help these businesses increase their resources progressively, and the longevity of the farm itself will provide ongoing security, both for workers and businesses.

From an environmental perspective, the various studies indicate that no species will be threatened by the project and biodiversity values will be retained. The allocation of 40GL of water at full production is less than half of the water available for allocation under the Water Allocation Plan (WAP) drawn up by local interest groups including representatives of the environmental (Arid Lands Environment Centre) and Traditional Owner groups (Central Land Council). The conditions attached to the water licence have clearly been designed to ensure ongoing protection of cultural and environmental values in the region.

In simple terms, this farm is converting a very small part of Singleton Station from running cattle to growing fresh fruit and vegetables. The hope is that this development can inspire other landholders in that region to leverage from the investment in infrastructure and supply chains initiated by Fortune and create a vibrant agricultural precinct that will benefit the locals, the Northern Territory and the nation.

I am convinced of the significance of this project to my town of Alice Springs and wider central Australia, given the stringent environmental safeguards and the potential for Singleton Farm to be a major economic catalyst in the Western Davenport region and wider.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Paterson
MAYOR

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