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Dr Paul Vogel AM
Chairperson
Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

Via email: paul.vogel@nt.gov.au

Dear ^{Paul} Dr Vogel

I am writing to formally respond to you regarding the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority's (NT EPA) report: 'Review of Seabed Mining in the Northern Territory – Environment Impacts and Management', as required under section 29A of the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012* (the Act).

On 5 February 2021, I announced my decision to declare seabed mining as a prohibited action under section 38 of the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (EP Act). I made my decision following consideration of the NT EPA's Seabed Mining Report and a report prepared by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

The NT EPA's Seabed Mining Report provided comprehensive advice on the potential impacts and management approaches for seabed mining activities, and identified a range of matters that should be addressed and measures that should be implemented, to ensure that seabed mining in the Northern Territory (NT) could proceed in an appropriate manner. The advice contained in the report, and the public comments received during the NT EPA's process, greatly assisted me in making my decision to proceed with the declaration process.

Further assistance was provided to me through my own public consultation process on a draft declaration, which I undertook during May and June 2021.

I have made a final 'Declaration of a prohibited action: Subsea Mining' including a Statement of Reasons for the Declaration in accordance with the legislative requirements under the EP Act. Both of these are available via the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security website.

The Declaration notice was published in the NT Government Gazette on 4 August 2021 – No. S30.

I would again like to thank the NT EPA for its comprehensive advice on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Eva Lawler'.

EVA LAWLER

- 9 AUG 2021