

**From:** [Catherine Kilpatrick](#)  
**To:** [eia\\_consult](#)  
**Subject:** Singleton Horticulture Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, 13 September 2023 10:54:01 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Full name \*: Cat Kilpatrick

Email address \*: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] 0870

Are you making this submission on behalf of an organisation? N

### Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that any request to withhold my submission or part of my submission from publication will be considered by the NT EPA, and that the NT EPA may still decide to publish my submission or part of my submission in accordance with regulation 269 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020.

I understand that my comments will be provided to the NT EPA and government authorities.

I understand that, if my comments relate to the environmental impact assessment of a proposal, my submission will be provided to the proponent and used by the NT EPA to inform its assessment.

I understand that a request not to publish the submission or part of the submission, does not make my submission exempt from disclosure, and that even if NT EPA decides not to publish the submission or part of the submission, my submission and identifying information may still be disclosed if required under the Information Act 2002 or under any other applicable law.

I agree for my submission to be published \*: Y

I request that my submission be published with my identifying information removed \*: N

I request that my submission not be published \*: N

### Submission contents:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Cat Kilpatrick. I currently live, work and play on the lands of the Arrernte people, in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) in the Northern Territory.

It has recently been brought to my attention that a catastrophically large water license has been granted in order to support Fortune Agribusiness to develop an intensive irrigated horticultural project on Singleton Station, 30km west of Ali Currung and 350km north of Mparntwe. In my attempts to learn about the significance of the tragedy this water license will permit, I have been made aware of the following aspects of the project which I found drastic and devastating. In order for Fortune Agribusiness to support this project at full production, up to 40 billion litres of groundwater will be extracted every year for the next 30 years. What this means is that a 50km stretch of groundwater dependent ecosystems will be destroyed, along with up to

40 sacred sites. Not only do these sacred sites carry significant cultural values and connection to country, these sites support a diversity of life, from nesting trees and hollows for birds and owls, to food sources for native bees and other insects, to foraging sites and habitat for reptiles and mammals.

Fortune Agribusiness is required to gain environmental approvals before this project goes ahead. In March 2023, the NT EPA stated that the highest level of scrutiny is required to assess the Singleton development, that is a Tier 3 Environment Impact Statement. As such, the NT EPA must analyse the significant environmental impacts of a development proposal of this scale. Furthermore, the EIS allows for recommendations to be made to the Minister regarding the acceptability of the aforementioned impacts.

Arid lands in Australia already face significant threat of ecosystem collapse from the overwhelming impacts of fire, agriculture and climate change. The unacceptable groundwater extraction associated with this project further threatens these ecosystems and their survival in the years to come.

It is imperative that the NT EPA protect groundwater sites. Groundwater dependent trees, soaks, springs and swamps are the life blood of the arid zone. I urge the NT EPA to consider the voices of Ali Currung Traditional Owners, stakeholders and members of the community, whom are devastated that the idea of permitting a groundwater license this catastrophic has even been entertained.

Yours in hope,

Cat Kilpatrick.