

Alison Hayward

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

### **Submission: Wak Wak Solar Farm EIA Referral**

Thankyou for the opportunity to make a submission regarding this referral.

My name is Alison and I live in Acacia Hills, close to the southern boundary of the proposed solar farm project area. I am writing to you to share my strong belief that this project should not proceed.

I am a born and bred Territorian and have lived with my family in Acacia Hills for the last 5 ½ years. We have just finished building our home on our 32 acre block and regard this place as our own little slice of Top End paradise. Both my husband and I have backgrounds in environment and conservation and we purchased this block because of its significant, intact natural values. Unfortunately, developments such as the proposed solar farm threaten the very things we love about our ‘backyard’ and the very reasons why we choose to live here. While we have lived here we have, on numerous occasions, sighted several species of significance – Typhonium spp; Utricularia.spp, Northern Blue-tongued skink, Northern Brushtail Possum and Partridge Pigeon. We are very concerned about the wholesale clearing of the solar farm site and the destruction and fragmentation of habitat for threatened and vulnerable species. We support renewable energy projects, but do not agree with the clearing of intact virgin woodland to make way for this project. We would prefer to see such a project proceed on land that has already been cleared for another purpose. In their information flyers Total Energies H2 insinuates that the proposed site is already disturbed and has existing ‘environmental pressures’. While this is true for some parts of the site, it is certainly not true for most of the area. A large proportion of the proposed site is still intact natural woodland, and holds important ecological values.

Such land clearing may also present issues of erosion (this is an area with significant ridges and valleys), siltation of surrounding rivers and impact runoff from the site, potentially altering flows of surrounding river systems.

Additionally, we are concerned about the fire risk associated with the solar farm. A significant proportion of this area burns every year – we would like to know how the proponents propose to manage fire in the project area.

We would also like to see rigorous cumulative impact assessments conducted for this project. This area is under significant pressure from development (Lloyd Creek Rural Village, Adelaide River Off stream Water Storage, Wak Wak Solar Farm) and we would like to see the cumulative impacts of all these projects scrutinised.

We would also like to question whether there is a requirement (and enforcement) for a security bond for this project? We would like to see a commitment (that is enforced) to rehabilitate the area to its original status at the end of the project, similar to mining companies.

We are also not convinced of the feasibility of this project. We have seen many solar farms developed in Darwin's rural area, however many of these farms have not been commissioned. Will Wak Wak be another of these??

Similarly, the suitability of this land for solar farm construction is questionable. It has significant ridge lines, creek lines that flood out significantly in Wet seasons like we are currently experiencing, and swampy wet areas.

Large developments like these are destroying our Territory nature and threatening the very reasons that we live here. We live here because we love our environment – we are fighting hard to keep it this way.

I would like to see the minister reject this referral.

Sincerely,

Alison Hayward