

**Our ref:** NTEPA2016/0010  
**Your ref:**

The Hon Gary Higgins MLA  
Minister for the Environment  
GPO Box 3146  
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Minister

**RE: DR ALAN HAWKE'S REVIEW OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY'S  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND APPROVAL PROCESS**

The Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority (NT EPA) greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide you with comment on the Hawke review of environmental assessment and approval processes in the Northern Territory.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to assist in improving the environmental management framework for the NT. The existing processes, particularly those associated with the *Environmental Assessment Act*, and the checks, balances and transparency in implementing environmental assessment report recommendations, have fallen into disrepute and are in urgent need of revision. The Hawke report makes reference to many of the known issues of concern, and requires detailed, informed consideration by the NT EPA.

Our review of the Hawke report is in preparation. It is a considerable undertaking as there are many complex and interwoven issues raised in the report. A draft of the NT EPA's advice will, as required by the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act*, be made available for public consultation over a two week period in early September. The final advice will be submitted to you in late September/early October 2016.

Yours sincerely



Bill Freeland  
Chair

6 May 2016