

Environment Protection Authority
Northern Territory
GPO Box 3675
Darwin NT 0801

9 February 2023

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BEECHWORTH
VIC 3747

To: eia.consult@nt.gov.au

My name is Sue Thomas. Although residing in Victoria, I am compelled to write to you in dismay. Both at the granting of the Singleton Station water extraction licence, and through deep concern regarding the guaranteed negative impacts of the entire Singleton agriculture proposal in the Barkly region.

It is well known that ecosystems and communities all over Australia are being compromised by the type of activity that is being proposed. I am concerned not only about the local effects, but also the cumulative impacts of this proposal when added to other equally environmentally destructive projects being given the "green light" around the country.

The nature, size and scale of the Singleton proposal creates very serious and unacceptable risks.

We do not know what impacts this proposal will have on our groundwater systems, the hydrology, and on the ecosystems that depend on them. I understand the water table may drop around 50 metres, which may well prove catastrophic particularly during times of drought.

Current ongoing La Nina conditions are likely to mask the likely issue of low or no ground water recharge.

Careful consideration needs to be given to the medium to long term impacts on the vegetation that depends on the groundwater, wildlife, future salinity, and the people/communities impacted.

We do know all life ultimately depends upon the health and integrity of our ecosystems, whether they be large or small, and water is a requirement for life.

We do know that many ecosystems in Australia are currently collapsing due to foreseeable and preventable impacts of various business activities.

Perhaps the proposed agricultural activity should not be undertaken at all in an area where it relies on groundwater extraction ?

Is the risk of a predictable rise in salinity over time (causing the enterprise to eventually fail) not worthy of consideration ?

Genuine food security requires reliable, sustainable practices.

Economic imperatives are driving too much environmental damage in this country. The short term economic gains of environmentally destructive projects benefit few.

At the end of the day everything and everyone loses when our ecosystems are degraded and collapsing.

I am asking that this Singleton proposal by Fortune Agribusiness be required to undergo the toughest Environmental Impact Assessment possible. I understand this to be Tier 3.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Thomas