

Submission Form for Comments and Feedback

Draft Guideline for Identification of significant effects on the environment

Submissions close: Monday 15 August 2016, 5pm

Name:	Jack Ellis	Email:	2mediaplus@gmail.com
Organisation (if applicable):		Telephone:	0417 089 528
Address:	Box 11 Wagait Beach NT 0803		
<p>Your comments will be publicly available.</p> <p>Mark the box here <input type="checkbox"/> if you do not want your comments to be made publicly available.</p> <p>Mark the box here <input type="checkbox"/> if you do not want your identity to be made publicly available.</p>			

Section	Comment
3.2	While a range of factors regarding environmental impact are listed, the task is to identify whether those impacts are "significant" and how to judge the level of that significance. To do so requires some form of comparison table to establish levels of impact and where significant impact sits with those levels. While my submission attempts to do this and at the same time keep it understandable to non-professionals, With some expert tweaking, I trust it will be possible to make it a usable and practical tool while retaining an ability to be understood by the masses.

General comments
See attached page 2

Please complete the form and send it via one of the following by no later than Monday 15 August 5pm:

Email: NTEPA.Consult@nt.gov.au

Post: NT EPA, GPO Box 3675, Darwin NT, 0801

Privacy: Your personal information will be used for the purpose of collecting and collating comments received on the Issues Paper. The NT EPA is subject to the *Information Act* and its Regulations. Information will not be disclosed to a third party, unless required by law or otherwise stated.

EPA: significant effect – page 2 attachment

Before attempting to define “significant environmental impact, it would seem obvious that there must be a scale with which to measure any form of impact. Without going into complex formulae or scientific specifics that will mean little to me or most interested bystanders, I believe any such scale should be made very simple and easy to understand.

This could be along the lines of:

No impact:	There are/will be no discernable changes to the environment as a result of the proposed action or project.
Slight impact	There are/will be very minor changes to the environment that can be countered by specific actions or controls.
Noticeable impact	There are/will be discernable changes to, or effects on, the environment. An environmental impact study (EIS) must be carried out and range of controls or actions specified, adopted and monitored if the project is allowed to proceed. Reliable information available that any impact can be reversed or remediated.
Significant impact	There are/will be obvious changes to the environment and a risk of irreversible damage, including to third parties. An EIS must be carried out detailing all possible or potential environmental damage and how these risks can be eliminated or minimised. Such projects, should they proceed, are to be supervised by an independent and suitably qualified body to ensure all requirements are met and with the power to stop operations in the event of non-conformance or unforeseen risks.
Major impact	There are/will be irreversible changes to the environment and/or a strong possibility of damage to third parties. An EIS must be carried out detailing all possible or potential environmental damage and how these risks can be eliminated or minimised. Such projects should only be allowed to proceed where it can be proved it is vital to the national interest. Supervision by an independent and suitably qualified body is essential to ensure all requirements are met and risks minimised at all times. This body to have the power to stop operations in the event of non-conformance or unforeseen risks.