

Andrew Kenyon

Alice Springs,
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To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Terms of Reference for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Singleton Horticultural Project.

I am a resident of Alice Springs and have had a long-term commitment to understanding and appreciating arid-zone ecosystems. Furthermore, I have a long-term commitment to remaining in Alice Springs and an interest in the sustainable management of the environment in which I live, from my own perspective and from the perspective of my family and my community.

I have a background in irrigated agriculture and horticulture, and have post-graduate qualifications in irrigation management. I have supported the monitoring and evaluation of natural resource management projects and I am currently studying for a post-graduate qualification in groundwater hydrology.

As the Singleton Horticultural Project is being established on a site with very little available baseline information, the proponents have had to make a range of assumptions that may or may not stand the test of time. In this context I suggest that:

- 1) The Environmental Impact Statement is drafted in a way that it can contribute to the development and implementation of an Adaptive Management Plan established within a framework of a Sustainable Return on Investment (S-ROI) methodology. This will facilitate an informed debate on the relative costs and benefits of the project, including assessing the real value of the water allocation and the costs to the project of any potential breaches of regulatory requirements.
- 2) The Environmental Impact Statement requires that findings of the 'Information Requirements for Environmental Factors' in the Environmental Impact Statement are explicitly addressed by the Adaptive Management Plan.
- 3) The Environmental Impact Statement requires there be adequate and properly resourced monitoring, evaluation and reporting efforts on agreed environmental outcomes and that these outcomes are publicly reported, including instances where

these outcomes are not achieved.

4) That the implications of projected global warming are considered across all environmental factors, and are included the consideration of residual impacts.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Kenyon

Mparntwe 13/09/2023