

From: [Sophie Collins](#)
To: [eia_consult](#)
Subject: Our groundwater must be protected - Re: Singleton Station
Date: Tuesday, 12 September 2023 9:14:22 PM

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To the NT Environmental Protection Authority,

I am a resident of Mparntwe/Alice Springs, employed in healthcare and deeply concerned about the proposed Singleton irrigation development, which will lower the groundwater table and damage precious groundwater-dependent ecosystems, contributing to irreversible environmental destruction in our already pressured desert landscape.

We live in an arid zone which is already negatively affected by climate change and extractive industry. Across the road from my house, ancient gum trees in the Todd River burn, spurred by the unchecked growth of buffel grass. The Singleton Station proposal, as the largest water extraction licence in the NT, threatens to destroy groundwater-dependent ecosystems including trees, soaks, swamps, and springs, irrevocably changing the landscape of this precious Country. The protection of these ecosystems must be guaranteed by the EPA.

Threatened species including the greater bilby and the grey falcon are at risk, particularly as the flora and fauna surveys of 2019 were conducted during periods of extreme heat that do not accurately represent the true prevalence of unique and cherished animals in the region. Further surveys must be conducted.

The Singleton project will bring up to 40000 tonnes of salt to the surface every year; the full impact of this huge salinity load must be assessed.

Finally, the NT Government's guideline on groundwater-dependent vegetation destruction - which permits the 30% destruction of such vegetation - is industry-led, not evidence-based, and should not be taken into account by scientific bodies such as the EPA.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission. I look forward to an outcome that ensures the full protection of groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sophie Collins
[redacted] Mparntwe/Alice Springs
Arerrnte Country

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Please reply to Sophie Collins at [redacted]

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