

To Whom it May Concern

Email : [eia.consult@nt.gov.au](mailto:eia.consult@nt.gov.au)

8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Re: Singleton Horticulture Project**

Lodgement Contacts and Acknowledgement

XXX  
XXX  
XXX  
XXX  
XXX

I am writing to you on behalf of XXXX to express our strong support of the Singleton Horticulture Project that has been referred to the NT EPA by Fortune Agribusiness for environmental approval.

I acknowledge that any request to withhold my submission or part of my submission from publication will be considered by the NT EPA, and that the NT EPA may still decide to publish my submission or part of my submission in accordance with regulation 269 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020.

I am making this submission on behalf of an organisation and I understand that my comments will be provided to the NT EPA and government authorities.

I understand that, if my comments relate to the environmental impact assessment of a proposal, my submission will be provided to the proponent and used by the NT EPA to inform its assessment.

I understand that a request not to publish the submission or part of the submission, does not make my submission exempt from disclosure, and that even if NT EPA decides not to publish the submission or part of the submission, my submission and identifying information may still be disclosed if required under the Information Act 2002 or under any other applicable law.

I agree for my submission to be published and that I request that my submission be published with my identifying information removed please.

## **Comment on Referral to EPA in relation to the Singleton Horticulture Project**

Our company, XXXX, is an Independently Locally Owned Australian Company headquartered in Alice Springs (NT) and works directly with the horticulture and pastoral industries by providing water well drilling services. We employ in excess of 40 local Northern Territorians, including up to 3 trainees or apprentices. With bases in Two Wells (SA), Perth (WA), Moura, Dalby and Birdsville (QLD) and Port Macquarie (NSW). Our wide geographical spread enables us to service all areas of Australia and XXXX has successfully completed many environmentally sensitive and complexed drilling programs throughout Australia.

XXXX has delivered drilling programs in the Western Davenport Region, NT over many years and is very familiar the significant groundwater resources in the region. From the comprehensive referral submission by Fortune Agribusiness, we understand that the potential environmental risks from the development of the Singleton Horticulture Project will be managed or mitigated so that the sustainable utilization of the groundwater resources in the region will be achieved.

Developing the substantial horticulture resources in the Barkly Region could create thousands of local jobs. This boost in individuals' incomes, as well as the significant royalty payments to Government, will support our regional communities and drive our local economy.

Small businesses like ours depend on major projects. Projects like the Singleton Horticulture Project will give us, along with many other local and Territory businesses, the certainty needed to keep people employed and grow our businesses. Our companies management has been involved in the water well drilling industry for over 40+ years and we began to invest further in and expand our water well drilling fleet and expert crews as the horticulture industry began to grow but as there has been an lack of major projects developed and or new industries created within the Northern Territory it restricts the ability for our business to expand or remain commercially sustainable along with the added problem that we continually face which is that it makes it very difficult to retain skilled employees as they are enticed interstate for job certainty and security

An important element of unlocking the Western Davenport Region is the commitment to work with stakeholders in the Barkly region to identify how increased Horticulture activity in the area can drive economic benefits for Aboriginal people in both the region and wider Northern Territory. With our Local Participation Policy at XXXX we try to utilise Territory based suppliers and hire local employees whenever possible, while also aiming to maintain an Indigenous workforce of around 25%.

Creating jobs for now and jobs for the future and developing to create world-class long-term careers locally has been a key focus for our Company, and it's with the assistance of locals employees with passion for an industry and great vision that help to try deliver those jobs and careers for Territorians

We all at XXXX believe the development of horticulture projects such as the Singleton Horticulture Project has an important role to play as the backup source for a sustainable food bowl along with achieving strong Social and Economic Development for all Territorians and with continued investment and Government support, the Territory could become a leader in the horticulture market, whilst embedding sustainability into every area of Territory business.

We are also pleased to learn the potential social and economic benefits the Singleton Horticulture Project may bring to the Barkly region, which has experienced a declining population, a declining economy, and the sustained highest unemployment in the NT. The Singleton Horticulture Project will create long term sustainable jobs for local population, including indigenous people as well as significant business opportunities for local businesses such as XXXX and numerous other Local and Territory based businesses.

The development of the Singleton Horticulture Project Exploration and its ongoing production could provide great benefits to small businesses like ours, drive the Territory's economy, and be conducted safely and sustainably for years to come.

On behalf of small businesses like ours, I urge you to support the Singleton Horticulture Project and we look forward to the development of the Horticulture Project in near future.

Kind Regards