

Northern Territory Environment
Protection Authority
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I am a resident of Mparntwe working in community development, and I value our natural landscapes and effective and informed consultation processes for community-based environmental projects. I am deeply concerned about the significant environmental impacts the Singleton horticulture proposal poses, and the absence of an environmental impact assessment prior to the Groundwater license being granted.

The proposal poses serious risk of irreversible damage to ecological and cultural values, including sacred sites, groundwater dependent ecosystems and habitat for threatened species. I am concerned that minimal information was made publicly available during the assessment process for the groundwater extraction license, and that there was not reasonable community consultation about the impacts on Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems.

There is significant risks and uncertainty associated with this project, which have not been recognised in the assessment. The scale of this project and the enormity of the water license required, impose significant risks to cultural, ecological and hydrological values.

I am concerned about the Project's significant groundwater drawdown area of over 40km in diameter. This will threaten significant Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems, including ghost gums, bloodwoods, coolabah trees, river red gums and more, which may be affected. The Project has not undertaken acceptable fieldwork to identify threatened flora, Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems, and the impacts to flora and fauna species residing in the impacted area. I am deeply concerned that the loss of these large trees, including ghost gums, is expected to reduce the habitat for threatened species, including the bilby and the grey falcon.

Additionally, this Project threatens up to 40 sacred sites within and around its drawdown area. The Project poses significant risk to cultural heritage and it is critical that it is comprehensively examined through a rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment. Furthermore, this process must employ effective consultation with and led by, Traditional Owners of the area.

Respectfully, given the extremely significant, and unacceptable risks posed by this Project, I urge that a Tier 3 Environmental Impact Assessment be required.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider this letter and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Paige Le Cornu