

Submission Form for Comments and Feedback

Review of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* and *Litter Act*

Submissions close: Monday 27 October 2014, 5pm

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<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
Sect. 2.3.5 14.	<p>In recent years there appears to have been a trend towards deregulation of NT Government discharge requirements and the associated reporting requirements. It would appear the responsibility is being put back on the organization producing the discharge to do the right thing. The discharge example we put forward is a sewage outfall to Milner Bay operated by a large mining company. This site is very remote and very rarely inspected by government officers. Up until 2 years ago the mine held a Waste Discharge license for this outfall with relatively strict requirements for reporting. The mine has now been informed by the EPA that it no longer requires a Waste Discharge License; however they should continue to conduct the same sampling routine.</p> <p>While this arrangement may sound reasonable and cuts the EPA's work load the reality is that most companies or other organizations only do what is actually required to protect the environment under the license and removing the need for a Waste Discharge License puts into doubt what is actually now required and there will be no future improvements to this sampling regime.</p> <p>Many of the discharges that occur in the NT are in remote areas and it is very important that strict controls are maintained to ensure the risk to the environment is minimized and when incidents do occur reasonable penalties can be applied as a deterrent.</p> <p>Currently the discharge from the Milner Bay outfall occurs into a Special Purpose Lease however the outfall material then disperses to the marine environment beyond the lease. It is difficult for organizations such as the Anindilyakwa Land Council to ensure</p>

Please complete the form and send it via one of the following by no later than *Monday 27 October 2014, 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.

NORTHERN TERRITORY ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Section	Comment
	compliance with the Marine Pollution Act or the Water Act under these current arrangements so it is essential that strong legislation and licensing around discharges is maintained by the EPA.
Sect. 5 33.	<p>While Local Government within the larger centre's of the Northern Territory may function in the same way as elsewhere in Australia, the Local Governments in remote areas of the Territory generally struggle with a lack of funding, resourcing and often expertise to achieve their current functions.</p> <p>The idea that additional responsibility should be put on these organizations in relation to waste and pollution control is ill informed; these types of suggestions actually put into question what level of expertise the Government believes is actually required to properly manage the environment. The local Government within our region already lacks the resources to perform some functions including weed management within the communities and suggesting now that they also should take on EPA responsibilities could be quite detrimental to the environment particularly in remote areas.</p>

General comments
Click here and press the TAB key to add extra rows to this table.