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## **Territorians want strong, effective environmental laws now**

Environmental experts have warned the NT Government not to take Territorians for granted as public consultation over new environmental protection laws concludes.

“It is welcoming to see the NT government take positive steps in drafting these new laws, including strengthening the environmental decision making process and implementing the principles of ecologically sustainable development,” said Shar Molloy, Director of the Environment Centre NT.

“But it has been equally worrying to witness the speed at which the NT Government has rolled over to reduce public review rights at the first sign of pressure from industry lobbyists. The public need to trust that this system will deliver, not be undermined by backroom deals.”

“The Northern Territory Government must deliver on its election commitment to implement strong, open and effective environmental laws and regulations to protect the future of Territorian’s way of life,” said Ms Molloy.

“The healthy coasts, rivers, deserts and natural landscapes of the Northern Territory are central to our way of life, our culture and our livelihoods. And we know that strong environmental laws are an important part of ensuring that the Territory is protected,” said Alex Read, Policy Officer, Arid Lands Environment Centre.

“The Government needs to take this opportunity to improve this Bill by removing the broad exemption categories, expanding the scope for proper consultation with Aboriginal and remote communities and spelling out how current assessments will be transitioned into the new system.”

“We know that people in the Northern Territory are demanding an environmental framework that we can trust to properly protect our unique landscapes. The government should heed this warning - do not bow to industry pressure, and ensure that we have a system that protects the environment for every Territorian to enjoy,” said Mr Read.

Public submissions to the NT Government’s Environmental Protection Bill and Environmental Protection Regulations consultation closed today Monday 3 December.

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