



NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION INC.

Advancing and protecting the interests of cattle producers in the Northern Territory

Member – National Farmers' Federation & Cattle Council of Australia

Our Ref: WE:DC:DPID

Your Ref:

Unit 15, 48 Marina Boulevard
Cullen Bay NT 0820

18 September 2023

Legacy Mines Unit
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
GPO Box 4550
Darwin NT 0801

By Email: imu.ditt@nt.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submission – Legacy Mines Remediation Draft Bill (the Bill)

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA) is the peak body for the Northern Territory (NT) cattle industry, providing leadership at the Territory, national and international level on industry, trade, resource management, and economic and social policy.

As the predominant primary industry sector, the cattle industry underpins the economic, social, and environmental foundations of the Territory and Northern Australia. The NTCA has taken a pro-active approach on environmental policy, sustainable development and social responsibility connected to the re-engagement of Indigenous land and people in the modern beef industry.

The NTCA provides policy leadership across the primary industry sector including pastoral land conservation, market development and trade, regional development, Indigenous employment, and international engagement.

The NTCA acknowledges the longstanding need for reform within the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) to address the conflict of interest that existed with respect to a single department being responsible for both the promotion and regulatory oversight of the resource mining industry. The NTCA welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the development of the (the Bill). The NTCA supports the intention of the Bill in general but makes the following points:

- The NTCA agrees that applications for the grant or renewal of mineral lease requires a detailed technical works program rather than a summary of works proposed and welcomes the provisions in the Bill in this regard.
- The provisions ensuring expenditure for carrying out rehabilitation works is adequate is welcomed. However, the NTCA are of the opinion that Ministers should not have a discretion



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to reduce the rehabilitation security. i.e. neither a Minister or Government Official should be able to reduce securities as an incentive to promote mining activities in the Territory.

- The NTCA have concerns regarding the Mineral Lease application process in which a mining operator need only show that they will meet any conditions or requirements under the *Minerals Title Act 2010*. NTCA is of the opinion that all requirements must be in place prior to the granting of a lease.
- All technical works should be made available to all affected landholders, for consideration prior to the granting of a lease and commencement of land access negotiations, thus providing landholders with a better understanding of what works will be undertaken and providing them with full disclosure to facilitate land access negotiations from a position of equal knowledge, which is not the current position.
- The NTCA welcomes the "reserved legacy mine site" concept ensuring rehabilitation can proceed without subsequent interference by new mining activities.

In summary the NTCA welcomes legislation aimed at ensuring mines are appropriately rehabilitated including addressing the decades long impact of poor policy settings leading to unfettered mining and its subsequent negative impacts.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Will Evans or myself.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Capps", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Daniel Capps

Director Policy and Industry Development

On Behalf of

Will Evans

Chief Executive Officer.