Submission on Draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offsets Policy and Technical Guidelines: Northern Territory Offsets Framework

Jacqueline Arnold

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I am a resident of Alice Springs, I was born and raised in the Northern Territory. As a nurse I am acutely aware of how climate change will impact on the health and wellbeing of our environment. Human health cannot be separated from this. I am extremely worried for the immediate future of country and the people who cannot be separated from it.

1. **The offsets policy is based on the current Northern Territory Government target of net zero emissions by 2050. This target is inadequate.**

   The ICPP has made it clear that achieving net zero emissions by 2050 will not keep global warming below 1.5°C.

   The United Nations states that to keep global warming to no more that 1.5°C steep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions must happen in the next 5- 10 years.

   Australia's Climate Council states that to hold global warming well below 2°C Australia must reach:

   - 75% reduction below 2005 levels by 2030
   - Net zero emissions by 2035

2. **The offsets policy is designed to support new and expanding large industrial and land use emitters.**

   NT Emissions have increased by 46.5% on 2005 levels. Emissions from virtually all sectors are increasing. To foster and plan for the expansion of large emitting industries may be considered ecocidal under definitions being considered by judiciaries internationally. It is already damaging our image and relationships internationally.

3. **Key issues with the draft 'offsets policy'**

   3.1. Life cycle greenhouse gas emissions are not included.

   3.2. The policy is not backed by legislation (such as a Climate Act) that would ensure predictable and accountable decision making. The policy as it stands in this draft allows too much discretionary decision making, as such it fails to provide certainty for the community and investors.

   3.3. Indirect offsets are not acceptable.

   3.3.1. They are not recognised elsewhere. Taking them to the carbon market is a high risk proposition and may result in the Northern Territory's exclusion from markets.

3.3.2. The inclusion of research and development into technologies or practices that decision makers have 'reasonable confidence' may reduce emissions in the future, including carbon capture storage, is not appropriate given the urgency of this situation. All evidence clearly states emissions must be reduced immediately and rapidly if the Northern Territory has any hope of remaining liveable.