Jacqueline Arnold
PO Box 9124
Alice Springs
NT 0870

10 December
Pastoral Lands Board
Via 'Development Applications Online'

Dear Pastoral Lands Board,

RE: Legune Station, PPL1062 NTP 798, V.R.D Pastoral District

I am writing to request that you reject the application by Perpetual Corporate Trust Limited to clear 1,009.45 ha of native vegetation at Legune Station.

The application should be rejected, and the project as a whole immediately referred for assessment under the *Environment Protection Act NT* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Cth)* as it clearly meets the threshold of having the potential to have a significant impact on the environment and a number of matters of national environmental significance.

I submit the following:

1. **Water balance changes, the potential for water contamination / pollution could impact on the adjacent surface tidal ecosystems, which are used by migratory species are unacceptable.**

   The application describes clearing of the area mostly for irrigated cropping and construction of channels. It states that an extremely large amount of water will be used for irrigation. Two dams producing 5,800 ML/year and 1,500 ML/year per year.

   The biodiversity report highlights eight species of migratory shorebirds. It states that "in the region, these species only occur in, or immediately proximate to, estuarine and intertidal areas containing very shallow water. Surveys did not identify any such habitat within the proposal area. However, as discussed in Section 8.2, runoff from the proposal area could flow into suitable habitat." Section 8.3 states

   All species on the list of migratory species are matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act. An action will require approval if the action has, will have, **or is likely to have**, a significant impact on a listed migratory species. The action must be referred to the Minister and undergo an environmental assessment and approval process. Note, that some migratory species are also listed as threatened species: https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowmigratory.pl.

   The map on page 76 of the application shows that the subject land is immediately alongside tidal areas. I am very concerned that tilling the land could cause increased erosion to these tidal areas and I'm especially concerned about the use of fertilisers (which is acknowledged) so close to a sensitive environment depended

upon by migratory birds is highly inappropriate. This risk from fertilisers to these adjacent tidal areas is not mentioned in section 8.2 which addresses risks.

I'm also extremely concerned about the pollution risks from the extra cattle that will be run on the station so close to this tidal area both to tidal and nearshore marine ecosystems..

Insufficient existing soil data and information has been made available for the community to accurately assess risk of salinity in this bioregion.

Put plainly this location is a sensitive ecological area it is not suitable for irrigated cropping and associated use of fertilizers.

2. **Section 12.2 - Consultation with Traditional Owners must be completed prior to approval of this application.**

   The application makes reference to a comprehensive desktop survey of sites, places or objects of historical or cultural significance that was conducted as part of the Project Sea Dragon EIS and to enable an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) to be negotiated as part of Project Sea Dragon. However it is not clear whether this is directly relevant to the proposed clearing extent. Similar desktop and consultation with the traditional custodians should have occurred prior to submitting this application.

3. I appreciate the PLB have decided to apply the Large Emitters Policy to land clearing applications submitted before 1 September (as evidenced by the Claravale Land Clearing notice of consent). Given this precedent, and the considerable quantity of greenhouse gas emissions from the project, it is unacceptable that these have not been calculated and their impact not mentioned, nor are any offsets proposed to mitigate these emission. This is appalling at a time when the NT Government needs to be reducing emissions to play its part in addressing climate change.

In summary I am opposed to this application being approved in its current form. The Application should:

(a) be rejected and resubmitted as a standard application; and

(b) be referred for assessment under both the Environment Protection Act NT and EPBC Act.

Yours Sincerely,

Jacqueline Arnold

Additional concerns raised in application

Section 8.5 states:

"NR Maps indicated that there is a 1st order intermittent stream that runs through Billions/Flappers Paddock. However, this stream does not now exist due to the existing

infrastructure including the elevated main road to the Homestead compound and contours on the southern side of the road. This stream has now been diverted to the west where it enters Alligator Creek as per the destination of the original stream."

Did the lease holder obtain a permit to interfere with a waterway before developing this 'infrastructure'? https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/bores-drilling-dams-and-waterways/apply-for-a-permit-to-interfere-with-a-waterway?