

## Executive Summary

The Northern Territory needs a Climate Change Act to guide and regulate our economic recovery in recognition of the unique long-term risks that climate change poses to our region.

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We are Fridays for Future Alice Springs, part of an international climate-change movement. We advocate for a future climate in which we and our children can thrive and flourish. At this critical point in history, choices made by governments in support of economic recovery post-COVID will dramatically influence the future climate. We are, therefore, excited by the opportunity to speak into the decision-making process of the Northern Territory Government.

We call for the Northern Territory Government to introduce a Climate Change Act as part of its economic recovery agenda.

The Northern Territory needs long-term stable economic growth guided by, and kept accountable to, recognised international emission agreements. A framework of policy, legislative, and regulatory measures could ensure this, with a Climate Change Act being a central component.

As long-term community members we have experienced first-hand how short-term policies have create boom-bust economic and social conditions. For example, the Northern Territory National Emergency Response (“The Intervention”) saw significant short-term investment in Alice Springs. Some local families were forced to leave town as the cost of housing rapidly became unaffordable. A Climate Change Act would provide a steadying influence on economic activity in the mid- to long-term.

Those of us who live and work in Alice Springs do so in a physical environment of extremes. Therefore, we are uniquely vulnerable to climate change. In the interests of the Northern Territory population and in solidarity with it, the Northern Territory Government needs to acknowledge our vulnerability and minimise the contribution made by our economic activity to climate change.

We are advocating to safe-guard our environment to ensure that Alice Springs can remain our beloved home – we want families to make long-term social, professional and financial investments in Alice Springs. It is important that the Northern Territory Government contribute to global efforts to reduce the severity of climate change. A Climate Change Act to guide and regulate our economic recovery is essential.