Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Amendment Bill 1987

Date Introduced: 18 March 1987
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. Barry Cohen, M.P., Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To extend the boundaries of the Kakadu National Park and to increase the functions of the Office of the Supervising Scientist of the Alligator Rivers region.

Background
The Office of the Supervising Scientist is responsible for monitoring, controlling and conducting research into the environmental effects of uranium mining in the Alligator Rivers area. The office is funded through a duty on the export of uranium concentrate from the Alligator Rivers area. The estimated cost of OSS in 1986-87 is $4.6 million.

This Bill forms part of a package that also includes the
National Park and Wildlife Conservation Amendment Bill (No.2) 1987
Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Bill 1987 and the
Lands Acquisition Amendment Bill 1987

Also refer to the Digests of those Bills.

Main Provisions
The boundaries of the Alligator Rivers region will be extended to include the Gimbat and Goodparla pastoral leases by clause 4 which will amend the definition of the area contained in section 3 of the Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978 (the Principal Act).

Mining operations will be defined to include exploration for minerals, milling refining or treating minerals, handling, transport and disposal of minerals but will not include the construction or use of towns or camps or the supply of water, electricity or gas to such towns or camps (clause 4 which will amend section 3 of the Principal Act).
A new section 5A will be inserted into the Principal Act to deal with the functions of the OSS regarding general mining. The OSS is to devise and develop research programs and programs for the collection and assessment of information regarding the environmental impact of mining. In addition, the OSS is to develop standards for environment protection and report to the Minister on the impact of mining (clause 6).

The Alligator Rivers Research Institute is also to conduct research into the effects of mining (clause 8 which will insert a new section 24A into the Principal Act).

Reference
1. 1986-87 Budget Paper No. 1, p 166.

For further information, if required, contact the Science, Technology and Environment Group.

4 March 1987

Bills Digest Service
Legislative Research Service

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

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