Students concerned over merger

SIR, We, as students of the Bachelor of Applied Science degree course at the Darwin Institute of Technology, are concerned about the coming merger of the University of College of the Northern Territory and the DIT.

The merger is, as far as we know, viewed by the University College as an absorption of selected parts of the DIT rather than, as the Green Paper proposes, the amalgamation of two small institutions to give one larger, more cost-effective establishment.

The degree offered by the University College, an affiliation of Queensland University, is a pure science degree which is offered by all universities in this country.

We chose not to enrol in this degree course because it is just another pure science degree, and we understand that it has less flexibility than other pure science degrees.

We chose the DIT degree for two main reasons.

First it offers flexibility and a wider choice of options.

This flexibility carries over to the employment field where the structure of the degree allows a minor sequence in a second area of study and the option of an extra year in education.

All these options, we feel, make us eminently employable immediately after graduation.

Second it is vocationally oriented, having been produced not only by the academics of DIT but also by representatives of the major Northern Territory employment groups.

The DIT degree is an applied and vocational one, which we students look to for the greater opportunity of a more satisfying and fulfilling career than we might expect as graduates of a pure science degree.

It is heavily oriented towards the environmental studies (conservation, management, rehabilitation and environmental quality control) which are vital for the improved quality of life for all Australians.

We see the strength of the DIT as being the close relationship between TAFE and Advanced Education with the interchange of ideas, equipment and staff with the opportunity for TAFE students to get advanced standing in the Bachelor of Applied Science.

If the merger proceeds as the working-party document of the University College has indicated, our subject options will decrease and our employment prospects will decline.

We would like a definite assurance that the Darwin Institute of Technology Bachelor of Applied Science degree course will be maintained as it not only fulfils the philosophy of the Green Paper but also offers us the reasonable hope of employment and a productive life.

Students, DIT, Darwin.