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**To:** [LA Committees](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding Territory Coordinator legislation  
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Good afternoon,

I wish to share my opposition to the 'Territory Coordinator Bill'.

I raised a number of issues with the Draft 'Territory Coordinator Bill' in the formal consultation process. On reviewing the 'Territory Coordinator Bill Consultation Report' and the 'Territory Coordinator Bill 2025' - I can't see how any of my concerns have been addressed. This makes me wonder whether the proponents of the 'Territory Coordinator Bill' are acting in the best interests of everyday people, or whether they are actually only listening to big-businesses.

I know that many people share my opposition - including environmentalists, lawyers and traditional owners. People who wish to see the Territory prosper for many generations to come.

Listed below are my issues with the proposed 'Territory Coordinator Bill':

- There has been a lack of transparency in implementing the bill as demonstrated in the 'Consultation Report - Draft Territory Coordinator Bill'. The report doesn't give proper metrics into how many people were favourable/unfavourable towards the Draft bill (apart from reactions to social media posts). My prediction is that a majority of people were unfavourable, but because the data wasn't shared, I can't know for sure. If everyone was 'all for it' - then the report would've reflected it. However, if the majority of people weren't in favour as I suspect, and the bill is still going ahead largely unchanged, then what is the point of having a consultation process?
- Secondly, there is an egregious Conflict of interest in appointing an ex-Gas Company boss (Stuart Knowles) as the interim TC. I don't believe that someone who was the general manager of Inpex can act with impartiality (Clause 21) when granting exemptions and approvals for future large-scale oil and gas projects.
- Furthermore, I personally don't believe any one person would have all the credentials and qualifications to carry out this job in the best interest of Territorians. Hence the need for appropriate levels of review by different bodies who understand the ins-and-outs of their field. As an engineer, I work with multidisciplinary teams who all see things slightly differently based on their experience and training. One can't expect a single 'touch-point' to foresee all the issues with a particular project - that would be unacceptably risky and potentially disastrous.
- I refute the proposal that certain large-scale, significant, complex projects could be exempt from up to 32 of the Territory's laws and protections. If anything, large-scale, significant, complex projects especially ought to demonstrate compliance with those laws and protections. If the proper checks-and-balances are in place from the beginning, then the evidence for progressing with a particular project or development should speak for itself. A project that has been through rigorous

approvals by various bodies (rather than 'fast-tracked') will ultimately be of a better quality and provide a lasting legacy for Territorians.

- If the Government wants to ensure that the NT only attracts top-notch projects which are sustainable in the long term both environmentally and economically, then they should properly invest in the regulatory bodies that facilitate these projects instead of trying to provide a backdoor for businesses to avoid processes. By properly funding the public service, through pay incentives to attract (and retain) high-performing personnel, providing training opportunities and continuous improvement strategies - the governing bodies will be able to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. The NT can attract a diverse and profitable portfolio of projects, if there's a strong, smart workforce to assist.

This is a matter that I will be following closely. As a taxpayer and voter, I don't want 'quick and easy' answers which will just create worse outcomes in the long run. As Benjamin Franklin said: "Take time for all things: great haste makes great waste."

Please consider the long-term impact of what the NT Government is proposing and reflect on whether it is worth it.

Respectfully,

Ellen Ziegelaar

