

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
19 Feb 2025

Secretary,  
Legislative Scrutiny Committee,  
GPO Box 3721, Darwin NT 0801  
[LA.Committees@nt.gov.au](mailto:LA.Committees@nt.gov.au)

Dear

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Territory Coordinator Legislation.

The Legislative Assembly exists for the purpose of making laws that represent the NT population, ie. the constituencies of each member. Many incoming MLAs have stressed their commitment to representing their constituencies in their maiden speeches. The new CLP government has promised to govern with transparency and accountability.

However, the proposal for a territory coordinator is completely antithetical to all of this. *It undercuts the primary function of government.* For example, it empowers the Coordinator to sidestep 32 pieces of legislation which exist to protect the interests of territorians, our lands, and our safety. Each law has involved substantial consultation, knowledge, and expertise, with many benefits and safeguards.

The clear intent of this proposal is to *privatise the commons*. The assets that territorians hold in common are entrusted to the government, not for firesale but for stewardship, which happens through regulation. Regulation exists in *the interests of the economy*. As Andrew Bailey, Governor of the Bank of England said last month, we are at a point of history where public institutions and governance must be reinforced more than ever:

“We now live in a world where public institutions are under much more strenuous challenge to their legitimacy. The challenge now is to reinforce the institutions and their governance in terms of accountability and thus legitimacy. Otherwise, a democratic deficit exists which damages effectiveness.”

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/speech/2025/january/andrew-bailey-remarks-at-bretton-woods-institutions-cambridge>

This is because economic prosperity is untenable when regulatory systems are subverted, which is the most obvious reading of what we see in Donald Trump's USA.

I urge the Scrutiny Committee to recommend that this legislation *not* be passed.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Steven Bird