

Submission to Legislative Scrutiny Committee

Territory Coordinator Bill 2025

On the grounds outlined below:

1. The legislative Assembly should not pass the Territory Coordinator Bill.
2. The Bill has insufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals.
3. The Bill has insufficient regard to the institution of Parliament.

Public entity includes public sector employee. I am a public sector employee and would have a statutory duty to cooperate with the Territory Coordinator (section 22). This feels as though I could lose my right of free speech if I didn't agree with what the Territory Coordinator was doing. **THAT'S NOT FAIR AND DOESN'T SEEM DEMOCRATIC OR AT ALL AUSTRALIAN. IT SEEMS A BIT MORE LIKE COMMUNISM OR A DICTATORSHIP DOESN'T IT?**

Owner includes a native title holder. This means the Territory Co-ordinator can authorise entry onto aboriginal land without traditional owner consent (section 92). That's not very good. And then the Territory Coordinator decides on compensation for damage (section 94). **IMAGINE HOW FAR THE POWER TO DETERMINE COMPENSATION (E.G. FOR DAMAGE TO ABORIGINAL LAND) COULD BE PUSHED.**

An **approved program of works** is submitted by the Territory Coordinator to the Chief Minister for approval. Once it's approved public bodies (including government agencies and government owned corporations) and public entities need to comply with it. **THE DECISION MAKING POWER OF OTHER MINISTERS WILL BE OVERRIDDEN BY THE PROGRAM OF THE TERRITORY COORDINATOR AND CHIEF MINISTER.**

The Territory Coordinator can give a **step-in notice** to exercise statutory decision making rights (division 3). In fact, the Chief Minister can modify or exclude the application of law and can disregard the primary principle and purpose of the law if its not necessary for the effective or efficient regulation of the project (section 80). **THERE WILL BE NOTHING THE TERRITORY COORDINATOR AND THE CHIEF MINISTER CAN'T OVERRIDE OR APPROVE.**

The only way to appeal a decision of the Territory Coordinator or Chief Minister made under the Act is by going to Court. **IT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF DELAYING APPEAL UNTIL ITS TOO LATE.**

Simon Forsterling

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