

**From:** [Joe Horner](#)  
**To:** [LA Committees](#)  
**Subject:** Territory Coordinator submission  
**Date:** Wednesday, 19 February 2025 4:01:52 PM

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To the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the Territory Coordinator.

I am an enrolled voter, resident of the Northern Territory, and a member of the community with the capacity and desire to contribute to good governance and decision making. I am deeply concerned about biodiversity loss, the land rights of First Nations peoples, and big businesses overtaking the rights and interests of Territorians.

I wish to make it clear that I am vehemently opposed to the Territory Coordinator proposal, and I ask the government to listen to what experts are saying. Barrister Greg McIntyre SC has shared concerns that the introduction of the Territory Coordinator could affect Indigenous rights under NT laws on land access, consultation about developments on Indigenous land, and compulsory land acquisition, and Environment Centre NT have made public their concerns that the inclusion of the Nuclear Waste Act under the schedule of laws that the Territory Coordinator and chief minister will have the ability to override could pave the way for the dumping of nuclear waste in the Northern Territory.

I have read the Territory Coordinator Consultation Paper and I attended the Public Consultation held at Rydges Palmerston on the 18th of December 2024, and I believe that the proposed powers of the Territory Coordinator extend far beyond that of any of the examples given in 'Reform context' on page 7 of the consultation paper. That the Chief Minister and an unelected bureaucrat could both exempt projects from adhering to current NT laws and undermine ministerial responsibility is one of the most alarming things I have known an Australian state or territory government to attempt in my lifetime. It is antithetical to the very principles of democracy.

I am particularly alarmed by a proposal that, following warnings from experts at the Cop16 Summit on Biodiversity in Colombia last year, will favour environmentally destructive projects like fracking. Human activity has pushed the world to a crucial tipping point and failure to act on biodiversity loss will not only affect plants and wildlife. Humans - including Territorians - will be affected by occurrences such as disease outbreaks, a loss of insects to pollinate crops, agricultural industries collapsing, increased flooding, ocean acidification, and more bushfires. Further biodiversity loss will also lead to global shortages of food, drinking water, and breathable air. Environmental regulation needs to be undertaken independently, and appointing the former NT general manager at Inpex to this role is completely inappropriate, as is the role itself.

Elevating the economy above other considerations is irresponsible and short-sighted, and the CLP government's legacy will be one of enormous environmental destruction in the face of global alarm bells.

I ask that you urgently reconsider this legislation.

Sincerely,

Joe Horner

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Joe Horner**

he/him

I acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which I live, learn and work, and I pay my respects to Elders past and present. Sovereignty has never been ceded. It always was and always will be Aboriginal land.