

From: [Maria Grujicic](#)
To: [LA Committees](#)
Subject: Submission to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee Regarding the Territory Coordinator Bill 2025
Date: Wednesday, 19 February 2025 11:02:36 AM

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Submission to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee Regarding the Territory Coordinator Bill 2025

Date: February 19, 2025

To:
The Secretary
Legislative Scrutiny Committee
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801
Email: LA.Committees@nt.gov.au

Subject: Opposition to the Territory Coordinator Bill 2025

Dear Members of the Legislative Scrutiny Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed Territory Coordinator Bill 2025. As a lifelong resident of Darwin, Northern Territory, who has traveled extensively and chosen to return home, I am profoundly connected to our unique environment and the well-being of our community. My foremost priority is to ensure a safe, healthy, and thriving environment for my six-year-old child and future generations.

Threat to Democratic Processes

The Bill proposes to grant the Chief Minister and an unelected Territory Coordinator the authority to override 32 existing laws, effectively centralizing decision-making power. This concentration of authority undermines the democratic processes that ensure transparency and accountability in governance. Our community's trust in public institutions is built on inclusive and participatory decision-making, which this Bill jeopardizes.

Environmental Concerns

The Northern Territory's pristine ecosystems are invaluable. The proposed legislation could exempt large-scale projects, such as fracking and extensive cotton farming, from essential environmental assessments and public consultations. Such exemptions pose significant risks to our water resources, biodiversity, and overall environmental health. For instance, large-scale cotton farming has been associated with extensive land clearing and water usage, threatening the integrity of our natural landscapes.

Economic Implications

While economic development is vital, it must not come at the expense of our environment and community well-being. The Bill's emphasis on expediting projects for economic gain overlooks the long-term costs associated with environmental degradation. Sustainable development should balance economic interests with the preservation of our natural heritage, ensuring that benefits are equitably shared among all Territorians.

Community Impact

The unilateral termination of funding agreements with organizations like the Environment Centre NT and the Arid Lands Environment Centre is alarming. These organizations play a crucial role in environmental advocacy and community engagement. Silencing such voices diminishes public discourse and undermines the community's ability to participate meaningfully in decisions that affect our collective future.

Conclusion

In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge the Legislative Scrutiny Committee to reconsider the Territory Coordinator Bill 2025. It is imperative that we uphold democratic principles, protect our environment, and ensure that development projects are pursued responsibly and inclusively. Our policies should reflect the values of transparency, sustainability, and respect for the voices of all Territorians.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Maria Grujicic

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