

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committees](#)
Subject: Territory Coordinator
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May I re-state my concerns about the Territory Coordinator Bill?
I think this is the last day to put in a submission.

The creation of this position, and the powers that it will have, makes me very uneasy. (Jittery, actually.) I get that a government wants to put into place its plans and have as little delay as possible to what it sees as urgent economic projects.

But there's so much opportunity for heavy handed short-sighted decisions that could cause damage. The Territory Coordinator and the Chief Minister, with this proposed legislation, it appears, will get a big stick that no-one can gainsay. (An earlier iteration of the bill indicated that the Coordinator should not be a member of parliament. The Chief Minister having powers of exemptions seems to be at odds with that.)

When the financial pressures are on, and that pesky environmental stuff is getting in the way, the hunt is on to find a fast-track way of getting around it.

Heritage controls, and sacred sites, culturally sensitive sites, key environmental assets : the designation of these were done by people who worked hard to keep precious things from harm, and who put a lot of their life energy into protections that would safeguard valuable NT treasures for the future. 'Valuable' in many cases is 'essential and irreplaceable.' Don't take these lightly and dismiss them as irritants, please. We may look around and realise with a (double) shock how much our place of living has been diminished.

The checks and balances, the safeguarding conditions, may be tedious and annoying at times, but bypassing them with the stroke of a pen, through exemptions or changes being made (by one or two people), in order to advance major projects more quickly, is dangerous. The judgement of the Territory Coordinator and/or the Chief Minister will be the decider on whether the actions to make faster financial gains will be worth the risk/damage. That power to sweep past current regulations has understandable attractions for decision makers and project managers, but I am definitely against it.

Environmental concerns are real. Fear of damage is justified (there are plenty of examples of both intentional and bumbling excruciating damage in recent experience.).

Cultural sensitivities and respect for protocols is a part of NT life. If protocols are holding up projects, perhaps the approach has not been prepared well.

(I don't know. But that isn't the issue here.)

I am an NT resident and have lived in the NT for twenty odd years.

I am not in favour of the Territory Coordinator Bill as it stands being passed into legislation.

[REDACTED]