From:
LA Committee

Subject: The Territory Coordinator proposal is a uniquely destructive piece of legislation

Date: Thursday, 13 February 2025 2:10:15 PM

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· Dear Sir/Madam.

The Territory Coordinator legislation is a threat to democratic processes and institutions in the Northern Territory. The powers vested in the Chief Minister and Territory Controller by this bill represents an enormous overstep, centralising decision-making authority in only a few individuals and circumventing delegated processes. Not only does the proposal concentrate hands in the power of the Chief Minister as an individual, but also in the hands of an unelected bureaucrat. This bill goes beyond what is proposed in other jurisdictions in Australia such as SA and QLD and represents a unique and dangerous attempt to override deliberative process and concentrate power.

• The legislation could put at risk the things that Territorians value, like our water and health. The NT already faces enormous risks and impacts to our environment, from the over-extraction of water to the expansion of the fossil fuel industry and its associated greenhouse gas emissions. This legislation would remove the little existing oversight or scrutiny of these projects, potentially removing the need for public consultation or environmental assessment processes that often represent the only chance communities have to engage with these projects and their potential risks.

The 'primary principle' is ill-defined and represents a threat to Territorians' interests. The elevation of so-called economic prosperity above all other considerations, such as health, safety, and environmental considerations, represents a dangerous provision that could lead to worse outcomes for people and the environment. We know that projects like fracking and big agribusiness don't actually lead to better economic outcomes for the vast majority of Territorians – with our inadequate royalty regime meaning Territorians don't see a fair share of revenue from megaprojects, and the structure of these industries often relying on FIFO labour.

This message represents my objections and is to be added to your other objections.

Yours,