

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Territory Coordinator Bill. The powers that the bill proposes concentrating in the hands of an unelected bureaucrat and the Chief Minister would significantly undermine a host of existing legislation, further disempower the government's own regulators, and further remove experts, Aboriginal groups and the general public from the Territory's decision making processes. It is a brazenly undemocratic proposal, and the appointment of a former oil executive to the interim role before the bill has even been introduced to parliament sends a clear signal of how the bill will be used. Already, legislation intended to safeguard the Territory's natural and cultural heritage is routinely bypassed in return for political donations and jobs for retired politicians. Introducing the Territory Coordinator will only streamline and formalise this open system of corruption.

As a resident of Darwin, I value the nature that continues to live in the city and its surrounds. The government has already indicated that the Territory Coordinator position will be used to push through its gas project at Middle Arm, despite the severe impacts it will have on our health, culture and nature. These kind of sacrifices are not acceptable to me or to everyday people in the Territory. We need to strengthen the laws that protect our livelihoods, not brush them aside.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,
James Richardson

