
From: Katrina Doody [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 16 February 2025 7:29 PM
To: LA Committees
Cc: Electorate Johnston; Electorate Nightcliff
Subject: Submission: NT Territory Coordinator Proposal

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Katrina Doody [REDACTED]

to OTC.consultation, electorate.johnston@nt.gov.au

Dear Legislative Scrutiny Committee of the Northern Territory,

As a long-term resident, homeowner, and full-time employee here in Darwin, one currently pursuing my Bachelor's in Environmental Science; I have invested my future in the Northern Territory and am deeply committed to the success and future sustainability of this region. In light of this commitment, the Territory Coordinator proposal currently due for review by the Legislative Scrutiny Committee is deeply concerning to me. I have also provided my concerns previously on the two occasions feedback has been requested, and believe this convoluted process in its own right has intentionally confused and distracted the general public from this matter, something the Auditor General has in part recently confirmed.

There is a raft of scientific evidence available showing the unique and significant biodiversity and productivity of the environment and ecosystems within the NT, it is also plain to see when you step outside your front door and the very reason many people choose to call this beautiful place home. Our environmental biodiversity is also the very thing that provides us economic benefit, it is therefore imperative that our government ensures the ecological integrity of any significant projects planned for the Northern Territory. The potential for the Territory to be leaders in the world of sustainable development is huge, however this proposal from our government shows us they intend to take us in an opposite direction; instead of improving safeguards for the health and wellbeing of the region; they intend to remove them. Rather than implementing more efficient processes or improving existing laws, incorporating scientifically informed, culturally responsive and inclusive environmental laws and policy; they will simply remove them.

I am deeply concerned regarding the powers which will be given to the Territory Coordinator, and ultimately the Chief Minister, allowing any project, large or small, to receive exemption from established regulation and law is side-stepping the very processes that exist to protect us all. This proposal will omit credible and consultative strategic planning processes, which allow important oversight into the potential risks to our region's unique natural beauty and the delicate ecological balance, something that underpins any future prosperity in the Northern Territory. The claim that bypassing legislative processes will "enhance certainty and de-risk decision-making" is ambiguous and disingenuous, without clearly defined mechanisms for scrutiny, this proposed position and the processes it intends to enable, will erode accountability, public confidence and trust in this government, the obvious dismissal of this government to consult experts as it undemocratically amends our laws is on full view in this proposal.

Genuine steps towards sustainable development require transparency and must be undertaken as a community, currently it appears this legislation will be passed with no genuine consideration for Territorians,

however I hope that through this scrutiny process that will not be the case. I urge this committee to listen to my own and others concerns, which highlight the importance of clarity and the environmental integrity of any decision-making framework that affects our shared future as Territorians.

Thank you for considering my feedback.

Yours Sincerely,

Katrina Doody

