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I am a professional historian and a Territory resident of 48 years. My professional career in the NT is based on research of Northern Territory social history. I have published several books on Territory history, including *Darwin: A Photographic History*. In the course of my research, it is clear that successive Territory Governments have failed to protect or preserve Northern Territory history and heritage. I fear the Territory Coordinator will continue this sorry tradition.

I have read the CLP Government proposal for the establishment of a Territory Coordinator. I cannot see any reason an unelected bureaucrat should be given such sweeping powers. I reject the need for the Territory Coordinator to have any powers to interfere with or ignore the processes or decisions made under the Heritage Act.

Precious little of the Northern Territory's history and heritage has been protected by Territory Governments. I point you to previous CLP Government decisions to destroy the houses at Myilly Point that now make up the Heritage zone. Only public protests saved the precinct from developers.

In the same area it is essential that Heritage decisions made regarding the former site of Darwin's Kalin Compound are honoured. The site has been Heritage listed and plans for a Kahlin Remembrance Project progressed to a stage where work was about to begin with the guarantee of \$3.1m government funding. No site in Darwin has the historical and cultural significance of Kahlin compound has to the thousands of Territory descendants of the Compound inmates.

Similarly, there are hundreds of other declared and potential heritage sites across the Territory that should be preserved for posterity. No development project should ignore the heritage value of the site, and the Territory Coordinator should have no jurisdiction over any such sites. Sadly, as a historian and someone who cherishes our history, Territory history tells us not trust either the Northern Territory Government nor a Territory Coordinator appointed by the Government to put history and heritage over development.

Regards



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