

To the NT Legislative Scrutiny Committee.



I don't like or approve of the Donald Trump form of autocracy. Trump has appointed a corporate raider – Elon Musk - to carry out a purge of the legitimate government system for a democratic country. This why I also don't like or approve of an appointed – not elected - NT Coordinator – an ex-corporate executive who intends to purge the NT of basic rights and rules that allow voters and citizens to take an equal part in deciding their future well-being.

1. I have been in the NT for 53 years and have worked in many jobs. I came here as a RAAF member and believed then, as I do now, that our defence force should be simply defending Australia. I really don't want to repeat a Bombing of Darwin with modern warfare methods. It would be the death of me and everybody else for miles around. I don't believe in spending huge amounts of money on making war with other countries – in America's interests. I find it very immature and degrading that our Federal and NT governments pour money into destructive industries and pay global corporations to rip up and take away our natural resources for peppercorn rents or even for free. What about a sustainable future for our grandkids and their grandkids?
2. I live on a rural block and am a strong environmentalist. I love the Territory environment for what it is – uniquely beautiful and extremely vulnerable. To me, it's astounding that those of us who care deeply for our planet and for our natural environment to have a right to exist in harmony with all other living things. Over the years, I've had to object to many poorly planned 'developments' that completely ignore the rights of Nature as well as the people who care for the health and well-being of the NT as it is. I am considered a reasonable bloke and have friends of all kinds. Why does this CLP government see me as an enemy?
3. The NT doesn't need tinpot soldiers and dictators telling us what they need to do. I've always appreciated the expertise and experience of the NT public service – with all its checks and balances. I've made enough money in my lifetime to keep dignity and self-respect. I don't appreciate people or corporate entities making far more profit out of our precious Country than they need. I don't like unfettered greed – just for the sake of having power and ownership over other people and other living species and their habitats. When will the NT government look after those of us who are getting old here and wanting to protect what we have for the future? I try to empower others not to have power over them. When will these immature kiddies grow up and understand this?
4. The appointed Chief Minister was elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly not as a President. She does not have a mandate to override or overrule regulations that protect our lives and a reasonable livelihood for all Territorians. She does not have a mandate to destroy effective government systems with their effective rules and regulations. She does not have a right to listen to those who are simply here to destroy and exploit. And- she does not have a right to appoint another dictator to make sure that everything principled is destroyed. What red tape needs to be cut, really? Is it a mature or even wise decision to give corporate

raiders open access to our lands, seas, skies and natural resources without any certainty that they will pay for the costs of their invasions?

5. I see that the NT Coordinator can authorise 'developers' to enter and access resources on our private lands without a warrant. Why? I can still remember the debacle of the banana freckle invasions. We were overwhelmingly assured that our banana plants were healthy yet a couple of weeks later the NT Government carried out eradication and removed all of our healthy banana plants without a warrant or landowner permission. A civil war was narrowly avoided because citizen resistance included consultation (after confrontation). There was no fairness or accountability in fighting for the Australian Banana Growers' Council and its commercial expectations against the rights of householders to grow healthy food for their families. What grounds does the CM and her appointed TC have to 'step in' to take away rights of ordinary Territorians trying to live healthy and safe lives without even more official trespass onto their properties – and to get rid of vital rules and regulations that safeguard us from unbalanced and uncertain 'development' expectations? Where is the proof that fewer regulations and more exemptions for already bloated corporate interests are in the public interest?
6. This Bill represents a threat to the NT's democracy, environment, and people. It is ignoring the democratic process that has effective checks and balances to protect our rights as free and informed citizens and voters. It is reactionary and dangerous and not at all in the public interest. Why appoint a Coordinator with powers to appoint 'mates' when there are sufficient well-experienced, impartial and qualified public servants able to carry out these roles? Do we really have to prove that we can go a step further than other reactionary governments in Australia to protect foreign corporate exploitation of our Country?
7. The 'primary principle' misrepresents so-called economic prosperity above all other considerations, such as health, safety, and environmental considerations. Will I become a criminal under these rules simply because I continue to protect the natural environment from inappropriate 'development' that is only in the interests of putting profit before the well-being and future needs of the community?

The Committee's role is to inquire into and report on: (i) whether the Assembly should pass the Bill; (ii) whether the Assembly should amend the Bill; (iii) whether the Bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals; and (iv) whether the Bill has sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament. For these reasons and more, I would like the NT Legislative Scrutiny Committee to recommend that the Assembly reject the Bill. It is a dangerous, reactionary and undemocratic piece of legislation and takes away too many rights and liberties of individual citizens of the NT while disregarding the democratic process of lawmaking in the NT.

Please, also recognise my original submission on this Bill. I spent a lot of time and mental energy getting my facts and feelings together. I do not in any way support the draconian measures of appointing an NT Coordinator of very little expertise in public administration and the law to dictate how, when and where I should be taking care of personal and public interests in the NT. I'm not saying I want the job – even though I probably have far more experience and maturity than the man already chosen. I simply think this is a waste of time job and another pat on the back for corporate entities already taking everything we value and not giving back anything of value.

Sincerely,

Greg Greg Chapman [REDACTED]

Really shows the Trumpian monetarist ethos of the CLP government towards democratic decision-making, government accountability and a fair and balanced economy when the same government installs the ex-boss of INPEX as 'der Fuhrer' to make significant and final decisions on what will make the NT prosper.

INPEX under Stuart Knowles paid no corporate income tax and no PRRT on \$20.4 billion income in 2022-23. Other INPEX entities in Australia paid 0.3% tax. They set a fine example of how the managers of fossil fuel companies are given rights over Australian environment, social/cultural needs and even sustainable economic needs.

This unethical business manager has been promoted by the NT Government as fit to govern in his own right – without parliamentary scrutiny and relevant Ministerial authority.

Although the NT Coordinator Bill has not been presented to the NT Parliament, Stuart Knowles – tax cheat for INPEX – is acting as interim Coordinator.

I've always said that the NT doesn't have enough people to allow it formal and mature self-government and certainly not to become a State. I've been here since 1972, I love the place. I love the weather and the environment. I don't like the way that NT governments since self-government treat OUR money, OUR public facilities and land as their very own, with no social responsibility to protect what was left for us by the Commonwealth government or to save what we have for future generations. Very few of these conservative NT government members have shown respect for traditional, indigenous knowledge-sharing and custodianship of Country. They have not one bit of understanding for indigenous law and its complex rules governing Country.

I can't accept that this Coordinator position will bring me or any other ordinary Territorian 'significant economic reforms' that bring us prosperity, as the current blinkered Chief Minister – bordering on fascist – says it will. It's obvious to me that the Chief Minister is already finding jobs for the boys, giving OUR public money to those who already have far more than they need.

Any promises this Chief Minister has said will be kept are to those ripping up our natural environment purely for their own narrow capital interests. Yes, this mimics the Howard battlers (with Toorak Tractors) and the Hockey low income workers ('they don't drive cars') viewpoint of who is worthy and who is not. BUT, it doesn't deserve to be followed.

I'll repeat what a lot of scientists and very skilled and knowledgeable people have said: there are no jobs on a dead planet. Let's protect this one. It's the only one we've got. '

At the risk of being told that I'm listening to 'southerners' without the experience of being in the NT, I agree with what the Australia Institute researcher, Mark Ogge says: 'The appointment of the former general manager of INPEX to a position where he can exempt gas projects from environmental regulations is a classic example of a revolving door between industry and government that leads to corporate capture of our institutions'.

Having spent the vast majority of my life in the NT protecting the natural environment I love deeply and passionately, I don't like spoiled brats who think that they're 'chosen people' with a god-given right to destroy or ignore laws and rules (written or unwritten) that respect the living earth we're all a vital part of.

When will you ever learn?

Greg Chapman [REDACTED]