

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [LA Committees](#)  
**Cc:** [Justine Davis](#)  
**Subject:** Submission Opposing the Territory Coordinator Legislation  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 February 2025 4:12:41 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To: The Legislation Scrutiny Committee

Email: [LA.Committees@nt.gov.au](mailto:LA.Committees@nt.gov.au)

CC: Justine Davis, Member for Johnston ([justine.davis@nt.gov.au](mailto:justine.davis@nt.gov.au))

Date: 13 February 2025

Subject: Submission Opposing the Territory Coordinator Legislation

Dear Members of the Legislation Scrutiny Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Territory Coordinator legislation and urge the committee to recommend that it not be passed. As a resident of the Northern Territory, I am deeply concerned about the far-reaching powers this legislation would grant to the Territory Coordinator and the potential risks to democratic processes, environmental safeguards, and good governance.

The legislation concentrates significant power in the hands of the Chief

Minister and the Territory Coordinator, enabling them to bypass established procedures and override decisions made by expert government departments. These powers appear broad and subjective, raising concerns about their potential misuse and the long-term implications for Territorians.

## Concerns with Specific Powers

### **1. Step-In Powers:**

This provision allows the Territory Coordinator to take control of decisions from government departments, regardless of the expertise and knowledge held by these departments. Such powers risk undermining informed, evidence-based decision-making and centralising authority without adequate oversight.

### **2. Exemption Powers:**

The ability to exempt projects from statutory requirements under 32 key Acts is deeply troubling. These requirements exist to protect our environment, water resources, heritage, and community well-being. The vague definition of “economic significance” gives the Territory Coordinator excessive discretion to bypass these protections with minimal accountability.

### **3. Land Access Powers:**

The legislation permits entry onto private land without a warrant or the owner’s consent. This represents a significant erosion of property rights, with compensation determined solely by the Territory Coordinator. This lack of recourse for landholders is both unjust and unprecedented.

### **4. Condition Variations:**

The Territory Coordinator would be empowered to alter or remove conditions placed on projects, even if those conditions were originally imposed to protect the environment or community safety. This could, for instance, allow changes to wastewater management rules for fracking operations, with potentially harmful consequences for nearby water sources.

### **5. Breach of Due Process and Democratic Transparency**

This legislation represents a fundamental breach of due process and democratic transparency. The ability to override existing laws and processes, including environmental and planning protections, severely undermines the principles of accountable, transparent governance. The Territory Coordinator's broad discretionary powers come with minimal oversight, creating significant potential for misuse.

Moreover, these laws do not serve the general public or the long-term interests of Territorians. Instead, they overwhelmingly benefit mining, gas, and resource corporations by granting shortcuts around critical regulatory safeguards. Public consultation appears to have been disregarded in the drafting of this legislation, with community concerns ignored despite widespread opposition.

## **6. Lack of Transparency and Community Input**

The concerns outlined above were raised by many community members during initial consultations, yet they appear to have been disregarded in the revised legislation. This lack of responsiveness contradicts commitments made by the government to transparency and community engagement.

Furthermore, the absence of a clear rationale for including each of the 32 Acts listed in the legislation is deeply concerning. Critical laws such as the Water Act, Building Act, and Heritage Act should not be subject to discretionary exemptions without a compelling and publicly articulated justification.

### **Call to Action**

I urge the Scrutiny Committee to recommend that this legislation be rejected in its current form. Any future framework for coordinating major projects should prioritize accountability, environmental protection, and community engagement rather than concentrating power in the hands of a few individuals.

Thank you for considering my submission. I trust the committee will act in the best interests of all Territorians by rejecting this legislation.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.