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To Whom it Concerns in CLP Government,

I am a long-term Darwin resident who is opposed to the introduction of the Territory Coordinator proposal.

This authoritarian, undemocratic proposal puts the Territory way of life at risk. The fast-tracking of projects will not be overseen by independent bodies or go through appropriate channels with the existing NT laws. This will enable land developers to create their own area plans without considering the community's wants and needs. It is a conflict of interest. This links to the destruction of the tropical savanna woodland at Lee Point.

I have concerns that fast-tracking a project will eliminate the environmental investigation process. Destruction of natural tropical savanna, woodlands, rich biodiversity, and functional wildlife corridors for threatened and/or endangered species are likely to be sacrificed for a quick economic gain. I refer you to the Everglades in the United States of America: they over-developed land in the Everglades and are now having to use large amounts of their budget to try and regenerate areas of land that was destroyed by overdevelopment. The Territory is already deeply in debt, so strengthening local business through the many facets of environmental and cultural tourism will empower our economy with the profits remaining here.

Darwin and the Territory are unique due to their natural and cultural heritage. Why make it like every other city, except hotter?

Take your time and strengthen the laws so Territorians will stay and others will want to come and stay because of the real natural beauty of the many environments and culture close to the capital city of Darwin.

Regards

Gayle Laidlaw

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