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To: [LA Committees](#)
Subject: Concerns with drafting of the Territory Coordinator Bill
Date: Tuesday, 18 February 2025 12:37:40 PM

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Dear Legislative Scrutiny Committee,

I write in relation to the proposed Territory Coordinator Bill. I have read it and am concerned about its effect and think that the scope of the Territory Coordinator role is not appropriate.

The bill in its current form should absolutely not be passed for the following reasons:

- it undermines our democratic system by giving the Territory Coordinator unprecedented powers to make unilateral decisions without a fair system of checks and balances. Laws are there to create a process, and if the Territory Coordinator can overrule acts (for example the Environment Protection Act), this really leads to questions about why our legislative system exists in the first place
- it undermines the rights and liberties of individuals by removing a right of review.
- it undermines the institution of parliament - the step-in notice as it is drafted waters down the role of Ministers in a way that is unacceptable to democracy and our parliamentary institution.

For context, I have lived in the NT now for a number of years and have no plans to leave. Before moving to the NT, I worked for an international law firm as a planning lawyer for major infrastructure developers on energy projects across the country (including supporting developers with permit approval and variation processes). I understand the challenges developers experience because of regulatory processes. However, I don't think this means that regulatory processes should be removed. They are there for a reason.

I am extremely concerned about the scope of the Territory Coordinator role, the way it will override ministerial authority, undermine our legal processes and centralise powers, without the system of checks and balances which is fundamental to a fair, democratic system.

I am particularly concerned about:

- Section 68 - 76 Step in Power, which effectively gives the Territory Coordinator the power to step in front of experienced bodies to make decisions on matters which it does not have expertise. For example, I can see that the work of Department of Planning, Lands and Environment or the NT Environmental Protection Authority can be overridden by a role which has no skills in these areas. This is deeply problematic. Regulations are not there to be bypassed.

Clause 95 also removes a right of review of a decision, which undermines the concept of democracy, voice and opportunity for those affected by a government decision to have recourse to the legal system.

The effect of this bill is seriously concerning and shows a clear desire by the CLP to create a mechanism to fast track major infrastructure projects (clearly hydraulic fracturing projects) in a way that is not consistent with democracy, transparent environmental approval processes and a fair future for all those who care about land, legal processes and a

fair democratic system.

This bill should not be passed.

Kind regards,

Margot Eliason