

19/02/2025

## **Submission: Territory Coordinator Bill 2025**

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this submission not as a politician, a business leader, or a lawyer, but as a mother, a lifelong Territorian, and someone who loves this place deeply. I was born in Darwin, and apart from a few years away, I have spent my whole adult life here. I am raising my children in the Northern Territory because I want them to grow up in a place where they can experience the same freedoms, natural beauty, and strong community that I have always cherished. But this Bill threatens all of that.

Reading through the details of the **Territory Coordinator Bill 2025** fills me with an overwhelming sadness. This is not just a piece of legislation—it is the reshaping of our way of life, an unprecedented power grab that will leave lasting scars on the Territory. It hands excessive, centralized control to a single appointed official, overriding environmental protections, community rights, and the democratic processes that should be the foundation of governance.

This Bill is nothing short of **State Capture**, where government structures are manipulated to serve a handful of powerful interests at the expense of the people and the environment. It is a blatant shift toward oligarchy—where unelected individuals hold excessive control over decisions that affect **our land, our water, and our future**. It is infuriating that we, the people who live here, are being sidelined in favour of corporate profit and unchecked development. **This is not governance; it is exploitation.**

### **The Devastating Consequences for the NT**

The **removal of safeguards** for sacred sites, environmental protections, and Indigenous land rights is a betrayal of the trust that Territorians have placed in our government. These are not abstract concepts—these are the very things that make the Northern Territory special.

- **Cultural destruction:** Sacred sites and heritage places, which hold deep spiritual and historical significance, could be bulldozed for "development" without proper consultation. This is not progress—it is erasure.
- **Environmental degradation:** The ability for companies to **bypass key environmental protections** means that fracking, mining, and large-scale industrial projects could irreversibly damage our waterways, landscapes, and wildlife.
- **Loss of land rights:** The **forced access to private, pastoral, and Aboriginal land (Clause 31)** is an attack on the rights of landowners and Traditional Owners who have fought for decades to protect their connection to Country.

These impacts are not theoretical. They will **change the Northern Territory forever**. This Bill does not create a better future for my children—it threatens the very foundation of what makes this place worth living in.

### **A Government Out of Step with Its People**

This government must understand one thing: **excessive and centralized power over people, at the cost of personal gain, will backfire.** You may have the authority to push this Bill through, but the community will not stand by silently. The people of the NT are resilient, passionate, and determined. We have fought for our rights before, and we will do everything in our power to **reclaim our democracy.**

You are making a **very big mistake**, not just for the government, but for all of us. It is one thing to introduce policies that people disagree with—it is another to **undermine democracy itself.** When you remove checks and balances, when you take away people's right to challenge decisions, when you override land rights and environmental protections, you do not just create opposition—you create resistance.

I implore you to **stop and reconsider.** This Bill is not progress. It is a **dangerous overreach of power** that will define your government in the eyes of history. The Northern Territory deserves leadership that listens to its people, that protects its land, and that values its future.

If you pass this Bill, you are not just enacting a piece of legislation. **You are breaking trust with the people you were elected to serve.**

**Do the right thing. Withdraw this Bill before it is too late.**

Sincerely,

Jacqui Taylor

