

From: [ruth canty](#)
To: [LA Committees](#)
Subject: Submission to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the Territory Coordinator legislation
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For the attention of the Scrutiny Committee:

Dear committee members,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the Territory Coordinator legislation and I urge you to recommend to Parliament that it NOT be passed. The legislation concentrates far too much power in the hands of the Chief Minister and Territory Coordinator, allowing them to bypass or override many established procedures, democratic processes and laws. Many of these powers appear broad and subjective in the legislation, and could be used to decrease safeguards for our rights as Territorians, for our water and environment, and for good governance and accountability.

I am particularly concerned about the exemption powers proposed. These powers allow the Territory Coordinator or Chief Minister to exempt works and projects from any statutory requirements in the 32 Acts identified in the Territory Coordinator Act, as long as they deem the relevant statutory requirements are not needed for effective regulation, and the works or project will be of “economic significance” to the Territory, or a region of the Territory. These are incredibly broad and vague powers that will allow the Chief Minister or Territory Coordinator, with little to no accountability, to circumvent any statutory requirements from the list of 32 Acts. Although exemption notices are required to be passed by the Legislative Assembly, because the CLP has a huge majority in Parliament, this is highly unlikely to prevent any exemption notices from passing. This does not mean that this government has a mandate to act however it pleases with no oversight or accountability.

Despite hundreds of community members raising many of the concerns listed above in the initial consultations on the Territory Coordinator - whether via a submission or an in-person consultation - these concerns seem to have been completely ignored in the revised legislation. This government is failing to live up to its own promise to govern with transparency and accountability and to work on behalf of all their constituents.

Thank you for your time,

Kind regards,

Ruth Canty - Electorate of Nightcliff