

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committees](#)
Cc: [Electorate Gwoja](#)
Subject: Submission - Territory Coordinator Bill 2025
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New legislation is currently being tabled in the Northern Territory Parliament which, if passed, from my understanding, will give the NT Government new powers to enter onto Aboriginal land (including Aboriginal Land Trusts which are Freehold titles) without first having to gain the consent from Traditional Owner members beforehand, as is currently the case with existing legislation. It will also allow the NT Government to legally violate highly culturally sensitive protections as is currently safeguarded under the NT Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act.

The Territory Coordinator Bill 2025 (“the bill”) tabled in the NT Parliament has caused me serious concern as a NT Aboriginal Land Trust member and Traditional Owner of land that will be effected by the bill if it passes and becomes law.

I am particularly alarmed by Part 8, Section 92 of the bill, which shockingly states land may be entered without a warrant. It reads as follows:

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Power to enter land

- (1) The Territory Coordinator may, in writing, authorise a person to enter land:
 - (a) within an ICA to carry out work required to develop a proposed ICP; or
 - (b) within a Territory development area to carry out work required for the development of a proposed TDA plan.
- (2) A person who is authorised by the Territory Coordinator to enter land must give the owner or occupier of the land written notice of the person's intention to enter at least 14 days before the proposed entry.
- (3) The notice must specify the following:
 - (a) the land proposed to be entered;
 - (b) the name and address of the person and any other person who will enter the land;
 - (c) details of the work the person is authorised to carry out on the land;
 - (d) any other matters prescribed by regulation.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5), the person must not enter premises under this section without the consent of the owner or occupier of the land.
- (5) The person must not enter residential premises under this section.
- (6) The person must show the written authorisation to enter the land to the owner or

occupier of the land on request.

Of further extreme concern is Part 8, Section 93, particularly as it will allow for the bypassing of critically culturally important provisions in the NT Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act with its “anything” clauses:

Powers on entry

(1) A person who is authorised under section 92(1) to enter land may enter the land without obtaining a warrant and, on entry, do any of the following in relation to the development of the ICP or proposed TDA plan (as the case may be):

(a) inspect the land and anything on the land;

(b) bring vehicles, equipment, machinery and materials onto the land and install and maintain any equipment, machinery or materials;

(c) take photographs and make sketches or other records of the land;

(d) measure anything, or take samples of anything, on the land;

(e) take any other action reasonably required for the development of the plan.

(2) The person must:

(a) ensure any work done has minimal impact on the land; and

(b) once the work is complete:

(i) remove all things brought onto the land; and

(ii) to the extent possible, leave the land in the same condition it was in immediately before the person entered.

If these provisions weren't bad enough, Part 9, Section 95 goes on to state the following:

Limitation on review or appeal

(1) A person is not entitled to apply for a review of, or appeal against, any decision under this Act or any other law of the Territory that is authorised or required by or under this Act, despite anything to the contrary in a law of the Territory.

(2) Subsection (1) does not affect a person's right to seek judicial review of a decision.

As I see it, Aboriginal people in the NT are facing an assault on their hard-won land rights. The provisions as they are will allow the NT Government to wield an excessive level of power over the lives and lands of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory. It threatens to strip them of control over who comes and goes on their land and over the protection of their cultural heritage. History is set to repeat. It must be stopped.

Sincerely,

Bri McKell

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Member of the Pertame, Miriwoong, Eastern/Western Arrernte, and Warramunga First Nations