

From:

Andy Peart



To: LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY - LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Re: SUBMISSION CONCERNING THE TERRITORY COORDINATOR BILL 2025

I submit to Committee members that this bill should be amended such that the legislation include the establishment of a "Territory Coordinator Review Panel" (or another name could be used).

This body could either

- (a) approve any proposed actions by the Territory Coordinator before they could be taken, or
- (b) be an appeal body to review and approve or negate any proposed action by the Territory Coordinator if any party applies for any proposed action to be reviewed (if negated, the action could not be taken).

Legislators could determine which of the above is best and most feasible.

The members of the review panel could represent points of view regarding (for example) business / economic development, environmental science, Indigenous interests, social equity and ensuring Central Australian / regional interests are taken into account.

To ensure community confidence in the panel, members could each need approval by (for example) more than two thirds of the Legislative Assembly. This would ensure they are not perceived as partisan or particularly supportive of the Government's agenda.

Such a panel could address "the need for a balanced approach that aligns economic growth with social and environmental outcomes" and might "strengthen transparency and build public trust in the proposed framework" (Consultation Report, page 3).

The proposed Territory Coordinator responds to legitimate concerns of overly elaborate environmental and other regulatory processes which delay and restrict economic development. However if this measure is to have broad public confidence and the likelihood of being perpetuated by future governments, and if it is to have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals as well as to the institution of Parliament, it needs to incorporate the establishment of such a panel as indicated above, or other similar safeguard / review / appeal mechanism, in my opinion.

I thank the Committee's attention with this.

Regards

Andy Peart