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To: [LA Committees](#)
Subject: Submission: The Territory Coordinator
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Submission: The Territory Coordinator

I am a concerned Territorian, having lived in Darwin, Arnhem Land and the Central Desert for the past 8 years. I am profoundly concerned about the proposed Territory Coordinator legislation and firmly oppose its current draft. This Bill would empower large corporations to disregard the rights and interests of Territorians, putting our water, environment, and livelihoods at serious risk. It introduces excessive changes that would fundamentally reshape how high-risk projects, such as large-scale fracking, are evaluated and approved. This Bill demonstrates that the NTG is representing the interests of big business and not the local community.

In opposition, Lia Finocchiaro committed to upholding all 135 recommendations of the Pepper Inquiry into NT fracking. However, this Bill undermines those recommendations, representing a significant breach of trust and a failure to honor commitments made to the people of the Territory.

Retrospective changes to project conditions (Clauses 70-73): This would permit previously approved conditions for major projects, such as safeguards for fracking wastewater management, to be altered or removed after approval.

Forced access to private or pastoral land (Clause 31): The Bill enables access to freehold or pastoral land without the landowner's consent for the development of a Territory Development Area (TDA) plan. It also allows for fast-tracked compulsory land acquisition (Schedule 1, Land Acquisition Act 1978).

Exemptions from environmental protections (Clauses 64-69): Companies could bypass key environmental requirements, such as submitting Environmental Management Plans for fracking or obtaining Water Extraction Licences.

Removal of community rights to challenge decisions (Clause 62): Communities would lose the ability to challenge fracking projects in the NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, particularly in relation to water and environmental impacts—contradicting the recommendations of the Pepper Inquiry.

Excessive power for the Territory Coordinator (Clauses 56-63): The Territory Coordinator could override critical decisions typically made by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Planning, Lands and Environment or the NT Environmental Protection Authority.

This Bill, in its current form, poses an unacceptable threat to the rights and protections of Territorians and must not be passed without substantial revisions.

We cannot allow our fundamental rights and vital water protections to be sacrificed for the interests of fracking corporations.

Yours sincerely,

Celia Cox