

Scrutiny Committee, Territory Controller Position 18/2/25

The establishment of a Territory Controller position to override decisions is undemocratic. Many mistakes have been made in the past that have left a legacy of polluted land that are very costly for the Government to attempt to repair, but are mostly left unrepaired.

We do not want more such areas of destruction and pollution. If we have one individual able to override regulations with no respect for due process, the Territory will be left in a terrible state as greedy companies pursue things for their end and do not consider the good of all.

Your Committee's role is to inquire into and report on: (i) whether the Assembly should pass the Bill; (ii) whether the Assembly should amend the Bill; (iii) whether the Bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals; and (iv) whether the Bill has sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament.

(iii) whether the Bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals

The controller would be making decisions with no public scrutiny and able to over ride decisions that previously met legislated laws. Individuals need to be able to appeal to Government when their rights and liberties are not being met.

(iv) whether the Bill has sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament.

It is clear that the bill does not meet this point because it gives the controller the right to override carefully designed and researched work done by public servants, who are paid to do a job. Such powers do not respect the institution of Parliament where open government means that points can be debated so everyone can hear. This gives accountability for the public to vote against the Government of the day if they do not agree if they do not like the legislation that is passed. If a Controller is making decisions they are not accountable to the public which is the basis of democracy.

If a controller is established in the Territory, the Federal Government, who predominately fund the Territory, should step in and take control of this failed state! Democratic process is not being respected so we shouldn't be allowed to spend the Federal funds that are poured into NT.

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