From:
To:
LA Committees
Cc: Electorate Mulka

Subject: Territory Coordinator legislation

Date: Friday, 14 February 2025 9:49:59 AM

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Dear Parliamentary Scrutiny Committee,

My Name is Deborah Hudson. I am a registered nurse and I have lived in the Northern Territory for last 25 years. I love it and I am proud to be a Territorian but I am shocked by the current governments actions.

I am writing to strongly oppose the revised Territory Coordinator legislation. The bill grants excessive powers to the Chief Minister and the Territory Coordinator, allowing them to override established procedures, democratic processes, and statutory requirements, which significantly undermines governance and accountability in the Territory. The legislation includes broad and vague powers, such as the ability to exempt projects from key laws, including the Water Act, the Planning Act, and the Heritage Act. This could allow the Territory Coordinator to bypass vital safeguards, putting our environment, communities, and future generations at risk. Furthermore, the lack of checks on the power to override decisions made by specialized departments raises serious concerns about transparency and accountability.

In addition, the bill's provisions, such as the ability to step in and make decisions on behalf of other departments, the unchecked access to private land, and the power to change or remove conditions on projects, only serve to centralize power in the hands of the Territory Coordinator. These powers, coupled with the lack of meaningful community consultation, are a direct threat to the rights and freedoms of Territorians. I urge the Committee to recommend that Parliament reject this legislation and instead work to ensure that any necessary reforms respect democratic processes and protect the interests of the public.

