

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter because I am deeply concerned about the new bill regarding the Territory Coordinator, which raises serious issues about the centralisation of power and the potential erosion of environmental protections and citizens' rights. My key areas of concern are as follows:

- The Chief Minister and Territory Coordinator are granted expanded authority to override decisions made by government departments and ministers, effectively diminishing checks and balances.
- The bill allows the Chief Minister and Territory Coordinator to bypass 32 essential laws (including the Heritage Act, Water Act, and Planning Act) for projects they deem to have "economic significance," thereby sidestepping necessary regulations.
- The Territory Coordinator can override decisions made by government departments, bypassing their expertise and undermining democratic processes.
- The bill grants the Territory Coordinator the power to enter private land without consent or a warrant, bringing in machinery and conducting work deemed necessary for projects, with no recourse for landowners.
- The Territory Coordinator can modify or eliminate conditions placed on projects, potentially weakening environmental safeguards.
- Despite widespread opposition from the public, including numerous submissions and consultations, the revised bill appears to disregard community input.

The first community consultation process was not transparent regarding public concern. The consultation report did not specify how many people considered this bill to be problematic. Although the government claims to have taken public input into account, the revised bill seems even more problematic than the initial one.

Overall, I believe this bill grants excessive and vague powers that could undermine good governance, accountability, and environmental protection. I urge the Scrutiny Committee to recommend rejecting the legislation.

Sincerely,  
Emily Tierney