From: Stella Healey
To: LA Committees
Cc: Electorate Johnston

Subject: Concerns I have for the Territory Coordinator to please raise at the Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 19 February 2025 3:55:18 PM

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Dear Committee Members.

I, along with many people I have engaged with, am incredibly concerned about the wide-reaching powers this bill would provide and the lack of accountability, honesty and integrity that will endure across the Northern Territory if this bill is passed. These are crucial values for the territory and principles that are integral to our territory lifestyle. Protecting our environment and advancing the health, economic prosperity and livelihood of all Territorians must remain central to the ambitions of Parliament.

People love, visit, and make the Territory home because of our beautiful environment - a place that is incredibly unique to Australia. This Bill, which favours gas, mining and agriculture, over the people who live on this land, greatly risks our ability to protect our environment and ensure that First Nations people can continue to protect their land, culture and identity. This concept is vital to the government. We will not see a reduction in housing, education, health and employment inequality between non-Indigenous and Indigenous people if Country is not protected and the voices of the public, particularly First Nations Australians, are not respected.

All voices across the Territory must be heard and considered in decision making to inform laws and regulations that work for the majority of Territorians. The Territory elects people who we believe fit with the values of our Territory. It is undemocratic for an unelected individual to be making such important decisions about our futures. Proper decision making is informed, representative of the community, and evidence-based. Leadership must be distributed to ensure that a wide range of voices are heard across the Territory.

We rely on water. Water resources are considerably at risk by this bill as future developments will not require public consultation or environmental assessment. So many Territorians oppose fracking. These opinions must be truly considered by our government, particularly because there are much better and more prosperous alternatives (renewable energy). We need to debate and listen to a diverse range of perspectives to have a functioning and effective democracy. This Bill does not have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals or sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament, one that must always remain democratic, accountable and independent.

I hope that these views are duly considered at the Scrutiny Committee.

Kind regards, Stella Healey