

From: [Kate B](#)
To: [LA Committees](#)
Subject: Objection to Territory Coordinator
Date: Wednesday, 19 February 2025 4:46:17 PM

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Dear Committee Members

I wish to thank you for considering my submission and wish to express my disappointment and dismay that none of my concerns were responded to in the first consultation process.

The proposed change in how the NT government does its business is huge and I am horrified by what the Government is proposing.

My objections are based on the following:

- the power that will be given to the Chief Minister and an unelected bureaucrat are not in line with good governance or a healthy democracy;
- good decisions and good governance needs to ensure that no harm is done, this is highly unlikely when the specific intent of the bill is to shorten processes;
- setting up a process that will circumvent processes designed to protect the environment will only result in damage to the environment. The very fact that it is proposed as a way of shortcutting existing processes sends alarm bells. Processes are needed to protect the environment; circumventing these will be disastrous for the NT long term;
- the process is incredibly short sighted. It is not in the interest of the NT community and future generations in the territory to fast track proposals, purely on the grounds of economic expediency. Many of these proposals will have long term implications which will result in negative environmental, social and health impacts.
- the appointment of the current Interim Coordinator indicates that the government is not being at all objective in its processes. Appointing someone who has obvious vested interests is like appointing a fox to look after the chickens. There is absolutely no way that a hand picked industry person will provide a balanced perspective for the view of all Territorians.
- the Territory is currently at a crucial place in terms of the way forward. We have a magnificent environment here and amazing waterways - and these need to be protected. Giving carte-blanche to business and industry will put our environment and water in danger. Fracking and gas extraction are not necessary and will create irreparable damage. Short term and damaging practices are not the way to go. With INPEX we saw that the overall and long term gain for Territorians was minimal. We can't keep giving away our resources purely because it provides short term gain for politicians in power at the time and a handful of individuals or private companies.
- the Territory needs a way forward which is strategic, long term and smart, not one which circumvents processes to keep certain businesses happy. We have seen so much government money handed out over the years to ideas which have failed (eg the prawn farm) or have not been in the interest of the wider population (eg the sale of the port to the Chinese). I want to see a government which actually takes stock and thinks things through, not one which just expedites processes for big business.

- Aboriginal people need to be actively included in decisions. There are way too many examples of cases where 'consultations' are disingenuous and the outcomes unfavourable to Traditional Owners and First Nations people. Again, the government needs to take stock and do this better, not ride roughshod over Aboriginal people just to make things easier for big business.

I am extremely concerned about this bill and the damage it will result in and implore the government and those involved in this proposal to rethink and be smarter. I want the Territory to have both a future for generations to come and an environment which is protected. I cannot see this happening with this incredibly short sighted proposal.

Yours sincerely
Kate Brodie