

From: [Emma smith](#)
To: [LA Committees](#)
Subject: Objection to Territory Coordinator Bill
Date: Monday, 17 February 2025 3:59:14 PM

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Dear Committee

I am deeply concerned that the proposed Territory Coordinator Bill threatens the environment that so many Territorians love and live in.

I have lived in the Territory for over 14 years. For the first 12 years I worked as an environmental consultant with EcOz Environmental Services assisting with the Environmental Impact Statements and other environmental works required to gain approvals for large projects to go ahead. I don't believe that delays due to environmental approvals (or other approvals) are ever the main reason that projects fail. The main reasons are to do with the cost of operating in the Territory, the distances, the remoteness and the rise and fall of commodity prices and other market pressures. If a project can't afford or take the time to undertake a proper environmental impact assessment, then they can't afford to operate, and often fall over anyway.

A classic example is the failure of several iron ore mines in 2014 in the Roper Bar region. Western Desert Resources and Sherwin Iron, both of which had gained all their environmental approvals and started operating, only to fail due to the fall in iron ore prices. These projects caused a lot of environmental harm by clearing for the mine footprint and then in the case of Western Desert Resources, also constructed a haul road all the way to Bing Bong, all for nothing. I believe if the Territory Coordinator role goes ahead then there will be many more examples of these failed projects where the environment is damaged, all for no gain.

A further example is Ilmenite Resources, also in the Roper Bar region, which gained all its approvals, and cleared all the mine footprint and operated for a while only to fail.

The Northern Territory already has a swathe of legacy mines, such as Mount Todd and Redbank and others that continue to wreak environmental impacts on our waterways due to extreme acid mine drainage. How are we going to avoid more of these projects if environmental approvals are side-stepped. The NT EPA has the independent expertise to assess projects and provide conditions to help ensure these legacy mine issues are not repeated. The Territory Coordinator and Minister do not.

The reason that most Territorians come to live and stay in the NT is that they love and enjoy the outdoors lifestyle and our beautiful environment. This Bill threatened the very reason people come and stay here. It could threaten the

health of our waterways and the fish and wildlife that depend on them. Without its unique and relatively pristine environment, the Territory doesn't really have much else to attract people to come and live and enjoy living here for the long term.

Please consider scrapping this Bill or at least take out the ability to bypass environmental approvals. For the sake of our Territory lifestyles.

Thank you

Emma Smith

