

# Territory Coordinator Bill 2025 – Submission

By Ian Redmond

*A Bill for an Act to establish the Office of the Territory Coordinator (TC) to facilitate the undertaking of certain projects, to provide for the designation of Territory development areas and for related purposes.*

I do not support the Territory Coordinator Bill (**Bill**) for the following reasons:

## **Lack of independent oversight**

Having responsible economic development for the Territory means having the checks and balances in place by independent bodies. The Bill places too much power with the Territory Coordinator (TC) resulting in a lack of independent oversight. There needs to be a greater separation of powers.

## **Lack of democratic process**

Under the Bill, a project can be implemented by the TC with little or no community consultation. This cannot be described as a democratic process.

## **Primary Principle and long-term public benefit**

The Bill says that the TC or Minister must have regard to “the primary objective of driving economic prosperity for the Territory or a region of the Territory and the potential social and environmental outcomes for the Territory or a region of the Territory”.

The Bill is focussed on the economic prosperity of the Territory. It does not require the TC or the Minister to have regard for long-term public benefit or to have projects that reflect the needs and wishes of Territorians.

## **Bypassing Acts**

Certain Acts such as the NT Planning Act have been developed over many years. There is little point in having Acts (or parliament itself) if they can be simply bypassed by the TC through this Bill (via an Exemption Notice). If there is a problem with an Act, the Act should be amended not ignored.

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