

From: [Diana Rickard](#)
To: [LA Committees](#)
Subject: Fwd: Fwd: No to an NT Coordinator.
Date: Tuesday, 18 February 2025 1:14:00 PM
Attachments: [coordinating the NT.pdf](#)

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I'm still not at all happy with the new draft Bill for a Territory Coordinator. Please consider my original submissions as well as the following points:

1. There are very few parts of the proposed Act that I agree with. The 'primary principle' by prioritising linear economic development against a secondary consideration of 'the potential social and environmental outcomes for the Territory or a region of the Territory'. is a barely disguised laissez-faire, economic rationalist doctrine that went out the window over a hundred years ago. Even the father of western economics, Adam Smith, would be rolling in his grave and groaning. He stated in Wealth of Nations: 'Government comprises a large part of the organised injustice in any society, ancient or modern. Civil government, insofar as it is instituted for the security of property, is in reality instituted for the defense of the rich against the poor, and for the defense of those who have property against those who have none.'
2. The Bill does not have 'sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals'. It is a poor excuse to exempt destructive and illegal acts by greedy 'developers' exploiting social, cultural and environmental rights. Consider what such blatant disregard of rights has done (in the name of corporate economic 'development') to poor and vulnerable landholders and workers in the DRC: <https://theguardian.com/south-africa/m23-rebels-resume-offensive-in-drc-raising-fears-of-wider-conflict/>. 'Violence in the region has compounded an already grave humanitarian crisis in the region, with more than 2,000 bodies recovered in Goma and numerous casualty cases expected. The takeover of Goma marked a new height in the years of conflict that has ravaged this mineral-rich land'. Do we really want to live under similar wrong-headed laws and brutality?
3. The Bill is reactionary, undemocratic and likely to foment violence. (e.g. <https://beattyhughes.com.au/son-of-farmer-found-guilty-of-murdering-a-nsw-environmental-compliance-officer-is-fined-a-further-405000-for-illegal-native-vegetation-clearing/>). The 81 year old farmer/murderer later died in prison. The murdered environmental officer was simply doing his job.
4. Rural landholders and residents - in most cases of appeal against the merits or otherwise of many of the 32 legislations in the NT - have no third party rights as landholders and objectors. We are in the front line of attacks by 'developers' yet remain second-class citizens. I strongly support non-violent action but may be forced to fight for my right to protect what I highly value as a land carer - against aggressive, unwarranted trespass by agents of an un-elected, Business-As-Usual, self-righteous Territory Coordinator. After all, I'm only human and I'm committed to justice for all.
5. The Bill does not have 'sufficient regard to the institution of parliament', especially as it relates to checks and balances between parliamentary, administrative/executive and judicial powers. There are many legal ambiguities and not-so-legal exemptions that will obviously be challenged in court.
6. Fair, open, informed and adequate public consultation is a due process of democratic decision-making. This **very, very short** part of the public consultation process is an

insult to all that is considered democratic in our Western system of governance and government.

7. I unashamedly support a mixed Keynesian economy. Keynes stated: 'The master-economist must possess a rare combination of gifts. S/he must reach a high standard in several different directions and must combine talents not often found together. S/he must be mathematician, historian, statesman, philosopher - in some degree. S/he must understand symbols and speak in words. S/he must contemplate the particular in terms of the general, and touch abstract and concrete in the same flight of thought. S/he must study the present in the light of the past for the purposes of the future" John Maynard Keynes in Royal Economic Society (Great Britain) (1971). "The Collected Writings of John Maynard Keynes: Essays in biography"

The Committee must recommend that parliament not pass the Bill. Failing this, the Committee should amend the Bill to reflect significant concerns of landholders and other interested Territory residents likely negatively impacted by these, unfair, politically-motivated, dictatorial, arbitrary changes.

With the greatest respect,

Diana

Diana Rickard

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:No to an NT Coordinator.

Date:Thu, 2 Jan 2025 19:14:24 +0930

From:Diana Rickard [REDACTED]

To:OTC.Consultation@nt.gov.au

If the NT Government feels the need to impose an unelected dictator on to us, I'd like the middle tier of government in the NT to be removed - that is - the largely immature, greedy, corporate-inspired and self-replenishing NT Legislative Assembly. It's really not needed. We had far more environmental, social and economic integrity and independence and far more genuine and sustainable growth when governed through the Australian parliamentary system. The NT does not have - and never will have - enough non-indigenous profit-driven settlers to warrant three tiers of Western-style government.

I'd like to see Regional Councils of Social Development taking the place of the current NT Legislative Assembly and NT local government system as an interim process. Then, I'd like to see more genuine consultation with ATSI peoples who have cared for Country for thousands of years to support an ATSI governance system in the NT.

With All Due Respect,

Diana

Diana Rickard

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Sent from my Dell PRC computer
through my Telstra pre-paid PRC mobile broadband device

Objections to the NT Coordinator's Bill

Dear Chief Minister and Coordinator-General,

Firstly, why is a legally-trained Chief Minister 'cutting red tape' by discarding or ignoring legislation that, although lacking strength, protects people, a healthy but fair economy and the environment?

According to one analyst, 'when business groups talk about reform they are actually talking about reducing union and worker power, cutting corporate taxes and getting rid of regulation which they don't like'. <https://noelturnbull.com/blog/saving-labor-from-a-likely-defeat/>

Obviously, such a 'need' for (business) reform includes giving almost unfettered power to a former boss of INPEX - a serial corporate tax cheat that has deprived our economy (hospitals and schools) of millions of dollars. Has this businessman been reformed? Or is the intention of this ultraconservative political decision to take away worker rights to further feather the nests of corporate vultures?

Secondly, this Bill is an insult to the intelligence and due diligence of long-term Territorians who have volunteered our professional, highly-skilled services to protect vulnerable social, cultural and environmental survivors from well-moneyed free-loaders. Most of these vultures don't even live here but they flirt, flatter, wine and dine and bribe those happy to hand over public money as if it belongs to them as of right. We are knowledge-sharers and custodians. Those who plunder our resources want to personally and privately own everything.

Thirdly, this Bill is big on Prosperity*. It gives power to those who exploit people, Country and a fair, accountable and open governance system. Is there any evidence that an extra layer of autocracy will bring better living standards, working conditions, environmental health and safety to ordinary, law-abiding Territorians struggling to keep health and dignity intact?

Fourthly, as per Christopher Pyne, you have 'belled the cat' in an attempt to neutralise the climate change issue. You have introduced a (nuclear) waste issue that really isn't a nuclear (waste) issue at all, according to your 'guileless' media responses. As NT Chief Minister and overseeing NT Coordinator* you have out-Duttoned Peter Dutton for an excuse to debunk climate change by speaking of 'low-level radioactive waste' as harmless and non-nuclear. Really, Chief Minister, I've been a Territorian for 51 years. I may not have been born here, but I wasn't born yesterday!

You, Ms Finocchiaro MLA, have been elected as a member of a Westminster system of government that is supposed to epitomise an open, accountable and fair process of democracy - of the people, for the people and by the people. You are answerable to your constituency under this system - not to a corporate, alienated oligopoly. As Chief Minister, you have been selected to lead your fellow parliamentarian

Ministers. You and they are accountable to the Executive Council. An NT Administrator administers this process. This is not over-complicated or uncertain under the current rules.

So, *in conclusion*, why is a highly-uncertain and very dubious NT Coordinator Bill being introduced and why is an interim (corporate) NT Coordinator* already in position when there are Ministers (presumably competent or with competent advisors), 25 parliamentarians, public servants and law officers proficient in all matters administrative, legislative and juridical – to carry out democratic processes for the health, well-being and good governance of the people living and voting here.

Oh, and as an afterthought, two definitions:

- * Coordinator: Someone whose task is to see that work goes harmoniously, [Wikionary]
Someone whose job is to make different groups work together in an organised way to achieve something, [Meriam Webster]
Someone who organises people to do something effectively [Cambridge] or
Someone who keeps the place running smoothly [Collins].

- * Prosperity: The condition of being successful or thriving [Cambridge]
Accordingly, *Prosperity* came from careful and laborious husbandry and was a sign of virtue: poverty was its opposite. [Cambridge English Corpus]

Can we, your voters, be certain that an autocratic job for a slightly slippery corporate raider, will ensure our social and economic success into the future and, will our well-being thrive from careful governance and coordination?

With all Due Respect,

Diana

Diana Rickard

