


Dr Amanda Lilleyman


Secretary, Legislative Scrutiny Committee
GPO Box 3721, Darwin NT 0801
LA.Committees@nt.gov.au

Re: Territory Coordinator Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this Territory Coordinator Bill 2024 (the Bill). My opinion matters as I am a long-term resident of the Northern Territory (NT) and a homeowner. It is important to me as a voter to contribute to informed decision making and good governance in the Northern Territory, and that is why I am writing this submission.

I am a conservation scientist and have over 13 years of research experience in threatened bird ecology in Darwin Harbour through honours, PhD, and as a postdoctoral researcher. **I have grave concerns for the state of the Northern Territory environment and lack of regulation and protection of it.** There are myriad examples of senseless environmental destruction in the NT, the bulldozing at Lee Point by Defence Housing Australia is one such disaster that has not been regulated and has revealed there are no consequences to unlawful actions. The Bill poses further risks to the NT environment and water, and disregards values and opinions of the community, Traditional Owners, and the future generations of people who want to live in a thriving Territory.

- I am concerned that this Bill will create an overreach of power and will put the Territory way of life at risk. It will put the environment and water at risk, and will override what the community wants. The Bill and the position of the Territory Coordinator is a threat to democratic processes.
- The role does not appear to be “independent” as it is closely aligned with gas and other extractive industries.
- The Territory Coordinator is not a subject matter on anything. How can so much power be controlled by one person?
- There was a great deal of opposition at the public information sessions – how will the NT Government respond to this negative feedback? Noting that the information sessions did not remotely align with best practice community consultation and were rushed.
- **I do not support the role of the Territory Coordinator or the Bill. I recommend that the Bill is revoked.**
- If the Bill is not revoked, I recommend making the following amendments to the Bill:
 - Remove the unprecedented level of power held by the Territory Coordinator.
 - Remove the ability of the Territory Coordinator to “step in” to exempt projects from NT laws.
 - Provide a cost-benefit analysis for each project that is suggested or portrayed to “boost the NT economy”.
 - Ensure that any gas-related projects are exempt from being reviewed or involved with business of the Territory Coordinator.
 - Ensure that Free, Prior and Informed Consent is gained from Traditional Owners, Prescribed Body Corporates, and/or Registered Native Title Bodies before enacting any work that falls into the remit of the Territory Coordinator.
 - Provide accountability measures of all activities and expenses of the Territory Coordinator and its office to ensure that trust in the Government is re-built.
 - Ensure that the role of the Territory Coordinator is voted in by NT constituents following a democratic process.

Regards, Dr Amanda Lilleyman