

From: [Tina Bernardihiggins](#)
To: [LA Committees](#); [Justine Davis](#)
Subject: Proposed Territory Coordinator
Date: Monday, 17 February 2025 6:50:31 PM

Dear Scrutiny Committee

My name is Tina Bernardi Higgins and I live in Jingili. I am writing to you because I have serious concerns about the proposed Territory Coordinator and am strongly opposed to the current draft legislation.

It will allow big business to trample the rights and interests of Territorians, and puts our water and livelihoods at risk.

It's a very broad piece of legislation that will fundamentally alter how dangerous projects like large-scale production fracking will be assessed and decided.

In opposition, Lia Finocchiaro promised "absolutely that we will stick to the 135 Pepper Inquiry recommendations" handed down by the NT Fracking Inquiry, but this Bill will enable those recommendations to be largely bypassed. This is a serious breach of commitments.

Specifically I am concerned that the legislation in its current format would:

- Allow conditions placed on major projects to be changed or removed retrospectively (Clauses 70-73). For example, conditions put in place to ensure that fracking wastewater is safely managed and treated could be removed.
- Enabling access to freehold or pastoral land, even if owners oppose it, to carry out work for the development of a Territory Development Area (TDA) plan (Clause 31); and allowing a step in or fast-track of compulsory acquisition (Schedule 1 includes Land Acquisition Act 1978).
- Allow for companies to be 'exempted' from crucial environmental requirements, like key elements of an Environmental Management Plan for fracking or a Water Extraction Licence (Clauses 64-69).
- Remove the rights of communities to challenge fracking projects approved by the Territory Coordinator in the NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal in relation to impacts on water resources and the environment, as was recommended by the Pepper Inquiry (Clause 62)
- Enable the Territory Coordinator to 'step in' and make important decisions instead of relevant bodies such as the Department of Planning, Lands and Environment or the NT Environmental Protection Authority. (Clauses 56-63)

I urge you to urgently reconsider this legislation, especially the most dangerous parts outlined above. It should not be passed in its current form and needs major changes.

Do not allow our most important rights and water protections to be removed at the behest of fracking corporations.

Sincerely

Tina