

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ntepa.epa](#)
Cc: [Das.NTG](#)
Subject: Project Ares submission
Date: Thursday, 13 August 2026 7:21:42 AM

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As a Territory resident, a parent and a business owner, based in Darwin, I am writing to object to the proposed Project Ares data centre and gas power station at Murrnji Station.

This is moving too fast. See what is happening already in America. Do it better!

The project's creeks drain about 80 km to Lake Woods, a nationally important wetland that fills with up to 116,000 waterbirds. The referral admits the connection but has not assessed the downstream effect. The project should not be signed off until the NT EPA requires assessment of the project's impacts on Lake Woods and the creeks that feed it.

Project Ares would run on a gas plant of about 1,000 MW, bigger than the Territory's main power station, yet the referral will not say where the gas comes from. In this region, new gas means fracked Beetaloo shale gas. I oppose this unless the NT EPA requires that the source of the gas be disclosed and its full lifecycle emissions assessed, including the upstream fracking.

The project would take up to 4 billion litres of groundwater a year from the Cambrian Limestone Aquifer, about 30% of the water the regional plan makes available to all industry, while other users draw on the same system. I object unless the NT EPA requires a full, cumulative assessment of whether this level of groundwater extraction is sustainable before any approval.

The project can clear or disturb up to 19,150 hectares, an area roughly 14 km across. The project should not proceed until the NT EPA requires that the assessment be carried out against the full maximum footprint, with any later reduction made a binding condition of approval rather than an assumption.

I do not believe this project should be approved until these matters are fully and independently assessed. I call on the NT EPA to require them in the Terms of Reference before any decision is made. Thank you for considering my submission.

Kim Yates
Darwin

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