

From: no-reply@nt.gov.au
To: [eia consult](#)
Subject: NTEPA Consultation - Project Ares
Date: Tuesday, 18 August 2026 12:02:55 PM

Your details

First and last names: Aia Newport

Post code of where you live: 0870

Email: [REDACTED]

Are you making this submission on behalf of an organisation: No

If yes, please enter the name of the organisation:

Submission contents

Submission details:

I live in the Northern Territory and am concerned about the negative impacts from the proposed Project Ares. Rushing into this project is putting people and water at risk. I strongly believe: 1. Hyperscale datacentres powered using fossil fuels, including gas from the Beetaloo, should never be allowed. 2. A moratorium should be placed on hyperscale data centres until a plan and enforceable regulatory standards for these centres is in place. 3. Notwithstanding 1 and 2 this proposal needs the highest level of environmental impact assessment. 4. People of the NT deserve to know who the end user of these data centres is and what they are enabling. 5. Given Energy North has no track record for delivering data centres, the utmost caution must apply. PEOPLE Without intervention, rapid data centre growth will add more climate pollution, worsening the frequency and ferocity of flooding rains and bushfires. (<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/CC-Report-Data-Centres.pdf>) "It's already quite difficult to get GP appointments in regional areas, so adding additional workforces in the thousands ... is also of concern." - NT Cattlemen's Association chief executive Romy Carey
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2026-07-25/nt-govt-promises-ai-capital-in-the-outback/106952852> Data centres powered by gas will only add to the climate crisis, bringing increasing risk to the people of the NT through more extreme cyclones, heatwaves and drought. Already, the science says that in 40 years time the Northern Territory will be unliveable due to the impacts of climate change and gas-powered data centres will only bring that timeline forward. I want the NT to be liveable beyond the next twenty years! WATER 4 billion litres/year groundwater extraction. There is pressure from animal agriculture, cotton, plant agriculture, fracking and now data centres and the water allocation plan does protect cultural or environmental values. Extraction lowers aquifer levels ultimately risking downstream ecosystems like Flora River as well as aquifer dwelling fauna (stygo fauna) beneath the site. I am concerned about potential contamination of aquifers, waterways and wetlands from the closed loop air condition system, which include refrigerants, concentrated salts, metals, nitrites, biocides and bacteria. See these links for references on contamination: <https://ketos.co/closed-loop-cooling-water-saver-or-chemical-time-bomb> https://www.fwpcoa.org/content.aspx?page_id=5&club_id=859275&item_id=130961 <https://www.eenews.net/articles/data-centers-face-a-new-environmental-concern/> Downstream Lake Woods is a recognised

international bird habitat but risk to birds at Lake Woods are not considered in the application. Birds are already at huge risk due to Bird Flu - they do not need another threat. Reference on recognised international bird habitat: Harrison, L., McGuire, L., Ward, S. Fisher, A., Pavey, C., Fegan, M. and Lynch, B. (2009) An inventory of sites of international and national significance for biodiversity values in the Northern Territory. Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts & Sport, Darwin, NT <https://territorystories.nt.gov.au/10070/622060> SUMMARY The government must pause this application until binding rules around hyper-scale data centres are in place and the proposal to use fracked gas is withdrawn. Then, the government must assign this application the strongest level of environmental impact assessment.

Submission files

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