

From: no-reply@nt.gov.au
To: [eia_consult](#)
Subject: NTEPA Consultation - Project Ares
Date: Thursday, 13 August 2026 9:51:21 PM

Your details

First and last names: Alana Humphris

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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 am writing to object to the proposed Project Ares data centre and gas power station at Murrarji Station. Having visited this area many times I know the country is stunning and the people are the most vulnerable population in the NT. They need their environment protected. Lake Woods lies downstream of this project, in the same catchment, and supports enormous numbers of waterbirds and migratory shorebirds. Nothing in the referral examines what the project's runoff and creek crossings would do to it. This must not be approved until the NT EPA requires assessment of the project's impacts on Lake Woods and the creeks that feed it. A gas power station of around 1,000 MW would be built to run this data centre, larger than the Territory's biggest existing station. Where its gas would come from is left unstated, but in this part of the NT that means fracking the Beetaloo. The project should not proceed until the NT EPA requires that the source of the gas be disclosed and its full lifecycle emissions assessed, including the upstream fracking. The Greater Bilby, a Vulnerable species is confirmed on the site, and the Grey Falcon and Yellow-spotted Monitor are expected here too. Yet the surveys so far are desktop-only and cover only part of the site. I oppose this unless the NT EPA requires field surveys for these threatened species across the whole project footprint before any decision on impacts. 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. The NT EPA should require a full, cumulative assessment of whether this level of groundwater extraction is sustainable before any approval. Assessing the data centre on its own hides its true footprint: it relies on a gas pipeline and is tied to a neighbouring ammonia project, and splitting these apart understates the combined impact. The project should not be signed off until the NT EPA requires the whole project and its connected parts, including the gas pipeline and the ammonia plant, be assessed together rather than piece by piece. Up to 19,150 hectares, a footprint about 14 km across, could be cleared or disturbed under what is proposed. I object unless 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. The project is on land under a determined native title and rich in cultural heritage, yet consultation has barely begun. I oppose this unless the NT EPA requires that cultural heritage assessment be led with Traditional Owners through the

Northern Land Council, properly resourced, and not rushed by a streamlined timeline. 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.

Submission files

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