

From: [REDACTED]
To: [eia.NTEPA](#)
Subject: Project Ares submission - referral and draft Terms of Reference
Date: Wednesday, 19 August 2026 11:12:57 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2026 5:36 PM
To: ntepa epa
Cc: Das NTG
Subject: Project Ares submission - referral and draft Terms of Reference

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As a Territory resident and long term Territory resident, a mother and grandmother, and concerned about the future of our environment, based in Darwin NT, I am writing to object to the proposed Project Ares data centre and gas power station at Murrniji Station.

I have camped at the Barkly and enjoyed watching the birds at dusk. the contrast to tropical environment is stark, but the natural beauty and wildlife is awesome. My children and grandchildren should be able to enjoy this special part of the Territory. I am also very concerned that that there is not a lot known about the long term impact of fracking, and data centre establishment on the precious and finite resource, water.

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. I oppose this unless 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. I object unless the NT EPA requires that the source of the gas be disclosed and its full lifecycle emissions assessed, including the upstream fracking. I was happy to learn that the Commonwealth government plans to only register Data centres using renewable power, with gas only as a back up power source.

Up to 4 billion litres a year would be drawn from the Cambrian Limestone Aquifer for this one project, a large share of the region's allocation, on top of the demands of cotton, petroleum and a co-located ammonia plant on the same water. I oppose this 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.

Gill Abraham
Darwin NT