

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ntepa.epa](#)
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Subject: Project Ares submission - referral and draft Terms of Reference
Date: Saturday, 15 August 2026 5:54:53 PM

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As a Territory resident and a parent, based in Blackmire, I am writing, with real concern, about the proposed Project Ares data centre and gas power station at Murrnji Station.

Future of Australian living standards in regards to quality in water, soil and air etc.

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 am concerned about this, and ask the NT EPA to require assessment of the project's impacts on Lake Woods and the creeks that feed it.

The Greater Bilby, a Vulnerable species and an Australian icon, 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. This worries me, and I ask the NT EPA to require 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. I find this troubling, and ask that the NT EPA require a full, cumulative assessment of whether this level of groundwater extraction is sustainable before any approval.

The studies supporting the referral are largely desktop-based and leave the creek corridors and downstream areas unsurveyed. I am concerned about this, and ask the NT EPA to require field surveys across the full project footprint, in appropriate seasons, before the scope and level of assessment are locked in.

I am worried these matters could be waved through. I ask the NT EPA to require them in the Terms of Reference and to assess them in full before any decision is made. Thank you for considering my submission.

AR Illingworth
Blackmore

Sent from my Galaxy