

From: no-reply@nt.gov.au
To: [eia_consult](#)
Subject: NTEPA Consultation - Project Ares
Date: Friday, 14 August 2026 3:17:26 PM

Your details

First and last names: Greg Flint

Post code of where you live: 0812

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:

As a Territory resident and advocate for democratic decision-making, rather than our existing electoral oligarchy (17 people deciding for the other 267,000 NT residents), based in Darwin, NT, I am making this submission about the proposed Project Ares data centre and gas power station at Murrarji Station. It's not enough that a company proposes "investing" in the NT, and will build a facility. It is possible that a handful of NT residents are employed during the construction phase, but none or almost none during operation of such a facility. It is by no means clear what the benefits for the NT might be. For example, the INPEX development was sold to us as it was supposedly "to underwrite the NT's economy for decades to come", which doesn't seem to have happened. The current "AI boom" looks suspiciously like another bubble with dubious underlying value. The only companies making money from this bubble are NVidia and ARM, who are selling microchips to the principle AI companies (Google, Microsoft, OpenAI, Meta, Anthropic), who are all raising capital, and spending it like crazy, because "just around the corner" ... Yes, there is a need for some data centres, but most of the ones that are currently being thrown up are short-sighted, unnecessary consumption of resources and commodities, as well as land (often green-fields sites, now that residents near data centres are complaining about amenity, noise, water and electricity supply), and they will end up as expensive stranded assets, probably with the owners being bailed out by governments (again). Project Ares would run on a gas plant of about 1,000 MW, bigger than the Darwin/Katherine grid 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 ask the NT EPA to require that the source of the gas be disclosed and its full lifecycle emissions assessed, including the upstream fracking. Threatened wildlife, including the Greater Bilby, has already been recorded here, and other listed species are likely present. The proponent has relied largely on desktop review rather than looking properly on the ground. The NT EPA should require field surveys for these threatened species across the whole project footprint before any decision on impacts. The project can clear or disturb up to 19,150 hectares, an area roughly 14 km across. I ask that the NT EPA require 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 ask the NT EPA to ensure these matters are required in the Terms of Reference and assessed in full before any decision is made. Thank you for considering my

submission. Greg Flint Anula, Darwin, NT

Submission files

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