

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ntepa.epa](#)
Cc: [Das.NTG](#)
Subject: Project Ares submission - referral and draft Terms of Reference
Date: Sunday, 16 August 2026 5:31:00 PM

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As a Territory resident, based in Ludmilla, I am writing to object to the proposed Project Ares data centre and gas power station at Murrniji Station.

I have camped and walked at Lake Woods and it is one of the most amazing wildlife sanctuaries, of which we have less and less. We camped out and woke up in the morning to sea and hear thousands of birds, flying over, communicating, singing, swarming, feeding.... It is one of my most outstanding memories from the NT. It will not be acceptable to sacrifice more and more natural environments, which we need to share with animals but also are important for our own wellbeing and survival.

The project's creeks drain about 80 km to Lake Woods, a nationally important wetland that fills with up to 116,000 waterbirds. The referral admits the connection but has not assessed the downstream effect. 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. I oppose this unless 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 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. I object unless the NT EPA requires field surveys for these threatened species across the whole project footprint before any decision on impacts.

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. The project should not be signed off until the NT EPA requires a full, cumulative assessment of whether this level of groundwater extraction is sustainable before any approval.

Up to 19,150 hectares, a footprint about 14 km across, could be cleared or disturbed under what is proposed. I oppose this 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.

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.

Hiltrud Kivelitz
Ludmilla

Sent from my iPhone
Hiltrud