

From: no-reply@nt.gov.au
To: [eia_consult](#)
Subject: NTEPA Consultation - Project Ares
Date: Thursday, 20 August 2026 11:55:10 PM

Your details

First and last names: Paul Fleming

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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:

As a deeply concerned Territory resident I am writing about the proposed Project Ares Data Centre and gas power station at Murrarji Station. There seems to be a rush to build Data Centres for a perceived need that the industry is generating themselves, ie we don't need such a large data centres urgently, without any safeguards. Once land is cleared and the water table is lowered, there is no going back. 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 worried about this, and ask the NT EPA to require assessment of the project's impacts on Lake Woods and the creeks that feed it. Project Ares would run on a gas plant of about 1,000 MW, bigger than the Territory's main power station, yet the referral will not say where the gas comes from. In this region, new gas means fracked Beetaloo shale gas. The Project is being sold to the public that it is generating it's own power but if the gas is coming from fracking which affects the water table then this needs to be taken in consideration when looking at the impact the project will have on the water table. This is a real concern, and 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. 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 am concerned about this, and ask the NT EPA to require a full, cumulative assessment of whether this level of groundwater extraction is sustainable before any approval. So far I believe the environmental work has been mostly desk research, done without surveying the creek lines or the country downstream in the seasons when it matters. This worries me, and I 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. The project can clear or disturb up to 19,150 hectares, an area roughly 14 km across. I am concerned about this, and ask the NT EPA to 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 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. Paul Fleming Rapid Creek

Submission files

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