

# Territory Coordinator

Consultation paper



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Acronyms	Full form
NT	Northern Territory
TC	Territory Coordinator
TDA	Territory development area
TDAP	Territory development area plan

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## 1. Consultation Process

The Northern Territory Government is seeking stakeholder feedback on establishing the statutory role of 'Territory Coordinator'. The TC will provide a strategic, over-arching mechanism to plan, coordinate, facilitate and drive development and large-scale projects across government, to promote investment and economic and social development in the Territory.

We encourage you to provide feedback on the proposed approach and the functions and powers outlined in this consultation paper.

We are seeking any feedback by 1 November 2024.

Email: [OTC.Consultation@nt.gov.au](mailto:OTC.Consultation@nt.gov.au)

## 2. Introduction

The Government has established 'Rebuilding the Economy' as one of its key priorities and has committed to establish a new Territory Coordinator as a central part of this economic pillar. The Territory Coordinator is intended to act as a strategic intermediary between government agencies and project proponents, providing a single touchpoint across government for complex projects of economic significance for the Territory and geographic areas particularly suited to industry development.

The overriding intention is that the Territory Coordinator will reinvigorate the way important and complex projects and significant private investments are handled in the Territory, by driving economically focused strategic coordination and addressing hurdles to development.

The approach outlined in this paper reflects frameworks that exist or are being developed in other jurisdictions including Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, but also reflects the Territory's unique circumstances. These include the importance of private sector investment as the primary driver of economic growth.

This paper seeks views on the Territory Coordinator proposal as a way to better coordinate and drive activities in support of project and investment proposals, to unlock significant, responsible economic development for the Territory.



### 3. Problem definition

While the Territory offers diverse opportunities for development and investment, particularly in relation to land availability and proximity to markets in Asia, the relatively low number of projects that are realised highlights the need to identify and mitigate barriers in order to unlock and accelerate critical investment and economic development.

The contemporary investment and development context is characterised by increasingly complex, multi-purpose and multi-proponent projects, with significant intersecting regulatory and procedural requirements. This reality requires a new approach to consolidate and coordinate processes, in order to mitigate delays and associated costs.

Under current frameworks, individualised regulatory processes offer limited capacity for strategic and proactive planning and direction-setting across government. This can lead to inefficiencies and lack of consistency in dealing with the processes required to progress projects that offer significant economic benefit.

While in practice the Territory has implemented a 'front door' to government approach for some time through Investment Territory, this has had limited success in cutting through the complexities of regulation and multi-agency processes without the support of an enabling legislative framework .

In addition, there is limited opportunity within the system to focus efforts around processes associated with activity in those geographic areas better-suited to development, taking into account economic, environmental and social impacts and benefits. This means that resources continue to be directed toward processes for high-risk areas that are less appropriate for certain types of industry development.

It has therefore been identified that the Territory must offer a more competitive, streamlined regulatory and operational environment, in order to seize valuable investment opportunities and avoid being at a competitive disadvantage to other jurisdictions.

## 4. Reform context

### 4.1. Australia

The Territory Coordinator model is informed by similar models, existing or proposed, in other jurisdictions across Australia.

The Queensland Coordinator-General model and the proposed Coordinator-General model in South Australia, are underpinned by similar objectives. These include delivering regulatory competitive advantage; improving efficiency and coordination; and enabling proactive, cross-government processes and planning. Achieving these objectives is critical to driving the investment and project development required to deliver economic outcomes.

Materials supporting the South Australian State Development Coordination and Facilitation Bill point to the body of research that highlights improved government assessments and approvals processes as a fundamental lever in delivering a higher volume of complex projects.<sup>1</sup>

Western Australia and New South Wales are also looking at streamlining assessment and approvals processes, including in relation to environmental assessments, and implementing Coordinators-General for housing and infrastructure.

The Northern Territory context differs with an increased focus on private-led projects and the need to support these projects in ways not commonly undertaken by government, including in relation to securing finance, opening up new markets, and collaborating on enabling infrastructure.

1. <https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/public-consultation-state-development-coordination-and-facilitation-bill>

### 4.2. International

Globally, the need for competitiveness and urgency around investment is leading to many nations seeking to shorten timeframes for project assessments and approvals. For example, the European Union has legislated fixed time limits for certain types of projects – particularly those related to the EU decarbonisation agenda – and the United States has proposed regulations to shorten approval timeframes.

A further trend that has informed the development of the Territory model is the concept of 'go-zones' – areas identified as particularly suited to industry development, where expedited assessments and approvals can be offered.

'One-window' models are also being developed in jurisdictions including the United States, Germany and France, to provide a single interface for business to engage with government and regulatory processes.

These reforms can be anticipated to create expectations among investors that similar initiatives and structures will be offered in other jurisdictions. To remain competitive, it is critical that the Northern Territory implement elements of such approaches, in a way that is suited to the Territory's unique context.

## 5. Key features

The proposed TC model has been developed to reflect the opportunities, challenges and risks associated with the unique economic development context in the NT.

The two key aims of the proposed approach are to:

- Provide for strategic facilitation of efficient, streamlined and effective assessment and approvals processes, while avoiding duplicative processes or additional administrative hurdles for proponents; and
- Enable the TC to drive cohesive, strategic forward assessment and planning processes in geographic areas identified as being particularly suited to industry development. These areas may include linear infrastructure corridors, for example.

The Territory Coordinator is being established to act as an intermediary between the Crown, government agencies and project proponents with the goal of getting projects off the ground, growing the population, creating jobs, and rebuilding the Territory economy.

The model proposes three project streams, relating to private and NTG-led projects, for which the TC's or Minister for Territory Coordination's functions and powers can be applied.

### 1. Program of works

This project stream provides for the TC to effectively plan, prepare, coordinate and direct delivery of complex or critical *programs of work* across the Territory that are not necessarily limited to a specific geographic area.

These programs are likely to involve delivery of significant infrastructure by private proponents or government, requiring strategic whole-of-government coordination.

An example of a program of works may be a government-led remote water infrastructure program, involving multiple works across different locations and requiring a degree of cross-government coordination, but not necessarily in one geographic area.

### 2. Project of Territory significance

This project stream is intended to enable the TC to effectively expedite industry and economic development by coordinating and directing processes associated with the efficient facilitation, management, and delivery of projects of significance.

Declaration of a *project of significance* is intended to unlock the cross-government coordination, continuity of service and the potential for regulatory streamlining that is required to enhance investor certainty and confidence.

A project of significance may be a single but complex project in the renewable energy or agriculture sector, for example, with the potential for significant Territory benefit, with associated significant complexity in terms of diverse regulatory processes.

Another example may be an onshore gas development project that may result in increased energy security outcomes and Territory community benefits, which may require coordinated and streamlined approvals to be realised.

Additional information, including criteria for the declaration of projects of significance, is provided in section 6.3.1.

### 3. Territory development area (TDA)

This category is intended to provide for a whole-of-regulatory-system master planning and coordination mechanism to determine and manage development in geographical areas well suited to supporting economic development outcomes.

It is proposed a TDA may be declared by the Minister following consideration of a recommendation from the TC. The anticipated suitability of the area for specific purposes must be demonstrated, which may include supporting economic, industrial or agricultural development of significance to the Territory; or enabling the establishment of essential infrastructure, like an infrastructure corridor.



An associated Territory Development Area Plan (TDAP) may be approved by the Minister on recommendation by the TC, based on studies and other investigative work undertaken by regulatory authorities coordinated by the TC.

A declared TDA with an approved TDAP is intended to facilitate confidence and certainty in relation to investment and development of the relevant area, with the capacity to identify the types of land use and scale of development intended for the area, alongside identifying permitted impacts, including thresholds for impacts, arising from activities within the area.

An example of where a TDA and associated TDAP may be appropriate is in relation to a defined geographic area where multiple onshore gas developments operated by multiple companies are expected to result in increased energy security outcomes and benefits for Territorians. Such a scenario may involve diverse competing interests and development timelines, yet a mutual goal of realising gas production. Critical interdependencies include common user infrastructure, roads, aerodromes, logistics hubs, industrial storage, and future planning for community services.

Additional details relating to TDAs and TDAPs are provided at section 6.3.2 below.

The Territory Coordinator is charged with actively managing the project and investment pipeline to ensure project delivery is accelerated and any regulatory challenges are dealt with expeditiously, and providing advice on how approvals processes can be streamlined.

## 5.1. Independent statutory office

The TC will be established as an independent statutory office.

A Deputy Coordinator can also be appointed, to perform the functions of the TC during periods where the office of TC may be vacant, or where the TC is unable to perform the duties of the office. For example, where a conflict of interest may exist.

Administratively, it is proposed that the TC will be supported by the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet.

The model provides for the responsible Minister to make decisions under the Act on the advice of the TC in the case of more significant decisions, or where a statutory decision would be otherwise be made by the responsible portfolio minister.

## 5.2. Primary principle

The proposed model incorporates a Primary Principle, which is an overriding principle that will guide the TC's or Minister's decision-making, as set out below:

*"The Minister or Territory Coordinator (as the case requires) when performing a function under the Act, or in connection with a prescribed function in relation to a project of significance or Territory development area, is required to have regard to the primary objective of driving economic prosperity for the Territory, including consideration of:*

- *The economic, social and environmental outcomes of the project for the Territory (including the overall balance of positive and negative impacts); and*
- *The implications of any outcomes at a Territory level as well as in the locality of the project."*

The Primary Principle will provide grounds for the TC or Minister to make a different decision to that which may have been made by the original decision maker, where this is deemed necessary and in the interests of responsible development.

## 6. Proposed functions and powers

### 6.1. Functions

It is proposed that the TC will have the following functions.

1. To investigate, plan, coordinate and implement programs of work in the Territory.
2. To identify, investigate, consult and make recommendations to the Minister for the declaration of projects of significance and TDAs.
3. To expedite industry and economic development, and private sector investment, by coordinating processes associated with the efficient facilitation, advocacy, management, and delivery of declared projects of significance and TDAs.
4. To provide a single point of contact, coordination and support for proponents of declared projects of significance in their engagement with government, through case management, including assistance in coordinating requirements for regulatory approvals.
5. To facilitate consultation, collaboration and coordination between stakeholders including government, proponents, local communities, land councils and native title holders, including in relation to declared projects of significance, and establishment of TDAs, with particular consideration of:
  - a. Planning and land use matters; and
  - b. Impacts of, and community benefit considerations relating to, projects and developments of significance and TDAs.

6. Provide strategic advice and advocacy in relation to factors that impact the effective delivery of the Territory Coordinator's functions generally, and particularly the success of projects of significance, and therefore economic development in the Territory, including in relation to regulatory processes.
7. Undertake such other functions as are imposed by legislation, or as directed by the Minister.

These are intended to encapsulate the activities required for the effective and strategic overarching coordination of projects and associated activities, relating to the facilitation of significant economic development in the Territory, and be sufficiently flexible to accommodate changes in prioritisation and the investment landscape over time.

### 6.2. General powers

The model proposes a number of overarching powers to support the effective delivery of the TC's functions in line with the Primary Principle. These include:

- a. Requesting information from a relevant entity (which may be a government agency or other relevant body) in relation to an approved program of works, projects of significance or Territory development area.
- b. Directing a relevant entity to coordinate actions or share information in relation to an approved program of works, projects of significance or Territory development area.
- c. Undertake public consultation regarding an approved program of works, project of significance or Territory development area.
- d. The ability to require certain information or material from project proponents, and to recover certain reasonable costs.



### 6.3. Powers of the TC in relation to projects of significance and TDAs

It is proposed that the TC, or Minister where relevant, will have specific powers in relation to *projects of significance* and *TDAs*. These specific powers are targeted to enable the TC to deliver the function of expediting industry and economic development, and private sector investment, by coordinating processes associated with the efficient facilitation, advocacy, management, and delivery of significant projects.

- a. **Prioritisation:** the TC will have the power to direct a person with the authority to make a decision under NT legislation to prioritise processes associated with a project of significance or TDA. For example, this might be a direction to prioritise the regulatory assessment of a project, or to prioritise land and water investigations to inform regulatory assessment requirements.
- b. **Progression:** the TC will have the power to direct a person with the authority to make a decision under NT legislation to undertake the required decision-making process within a defined timeframe, taking into account any existing statutory timeframes. This direction is not intended to override the defined statutory process. It could be used to ensure regulatory assessment and decision making processes across multiple legislation are undertaken concurrently, or where a process has already taken significant time.
- c. **Decision:** Direct a person with the authority to make a decision under NT legislation to make a decision within a defined timeframe. This direction would need to take into account any required statutory processes or timeframes. For example, if an Act required 20 business days of public consultation before a decision is made, the TC could not direct a decision be made in 15 business days.
- d. **Step in:** the TC or Minister will have the power to undertake the assessment and decision-making process as if the TC or Minister were the entity responsible for conducting the process or making the decision under the relevant legislation. The original entity remains responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the TC or Minister's decision or process.

When exercising step in powers, the TC or Minister must take into consideration the same factors as the original decision-maker, and must also consider the Primary Principle.

While it is anticipated these powers will be infrequently used, they offer the opportunity to support decision-making in certain circumstances to responsibly expedite economic development, where it is advantageous for a decision to be made in consideration of the broader elements of the Primary Principle to enable economic prosperity.

The TC or Minister could also utilise step in powers where processes and decisions may be expedited by dealing with multiple similar processes for the same project through a single process (for example, to conduct a single, comprehensive public consultation process instead of several separate processes under separate legislation).

- e. **Exemption notices:** the Minister will have powers to issue 'Exemption notices'. Through this type of notice, the Minister will have the ability to modify the application of an Act in relation to a specific project of significance or TDA, on a one-off basis. This is the most significant escalatory power that will be available under the proposed model, and further detail is provided below.

Certain checks and balances will apply to the use of these powers, given the potential significance of influencing regulatory processes. These include requirements to consult with entities including regulators and proponents before making a direction; to take into account existing statutory requirements including timeframes; and to publish direction notices and make them available to the public.

### 6.3.1. Exemption Notices

An exemption notice is the most significant of the escalatory powers proposed under this legislation.

An exemption notice may only be used in certain circumstances, such as where compliance with statutory processes would be duplicative of another statutory process that has been, or must be, completed in regards to the proposal, or, where strict compliance with the statutory process is unnecessary or problematic taking into account the Primary Principle (or other relevant matters that may be considered on a case-by-case basis).

In addition to these criteria that provide 'guard rails' around the use of exemption notices, additional measures have been included to ensure transparency and confidence in their application. These include the TC being required to consult with the responsible authority and other entities the TC or Minister considers may be affected by a proposed exemption notice.

Given this provision reflects the highest level of interventional powers under the Act, providing for modification of legislative provisions, it is proposed that parliamentary scrutiny will also be required. The model requires the Minister to table an exemption notice in the Legislative Assembly, providing the opportunity for the Legislative Assembly to disallow the exemption. To maintain confidence in decision-making timeframes, the notice must be tabled within 3 sittings days, with the Legislative Assembly then allowed 3 sitting days for disallowance.

These provisions may be valuable, for example, in circumstances where new technology is proposed that is not provided for or allowed under existing legislation. Exemption powers could be applied to allow for that technology to be legally used for a specific project, ahead of provisions being updated through legislative reform. A hypothetical case may be pipeline transportation of CO<sub>2</sub>, where a legislative reform process is underway, but which NT legislation does not currently authorise.



## 7. Projects of significance and TDAs

### 7.1. Projects of significance

*Projects of significance* may be designated where the proposed project:

- a. Will be of significance to the Northern Territory, including facilitating private sector investment, job creation, or population growth; or
- b. Is important when considered in conjunction with one or more other projects being undertaken, or proposed to be undertaken; or
- c. Is complex in nature and of regional significance in terms of scale and impact, or of significance in terms of advancing or catalysing industry development; or
- d. Meets the requirements, if any, prescribed by regulation.

In addition to the general powers outlined at 6.2 and 6.3 above, the Minister has specific powers in relation to declared *projects of significance*, enabling the development of an infrastructure coordination plan, where appropriate and necessary.

An infrastructure coordination plan may:

- a. Define the infrastructure services needed for the designated project and the scope of works required;
- b. Identify the relevant authorities that have responsibility to deliver the works;
- c. Outline the required timeframes for completion of the works, and stages thereof;
- d. Identify cost recovery or cost contribution agreements negotiated between a proponent and relevant authorities.

### 7.2. Territory Development Areas

Specific provisions in relation to declared *TDAs* are proposed to establish the ability of the TC to coordinate, direct and manage the processes required for the strategic management of areas of the Territory identified as having significant potential to support or enable economic development.

#### 7.2.1. Declaration of TDA

The draft Bill includes provisions that will give the Minister, on recommendation from the TC, powers to declare a *TDA* identifying a specific geographic area identified as meeting, or having the potential to meet, one (or more) of the following criteria:

- a. The area has been identified as having the potential to be valuable for supporting economic, industrial or agricultural development of significance to the Territory; or
- b. The area is critical to enable the establishment of essential infrastructure, like an infrastructure corridor, a public hospital or essential infrastructure for a significant residential growth area; or
- c. There exist competing demands for land use that may compromise the potential for beneficial development scenarios; or
- d. Other criteria as may be specified from time to time in regulations.

Declaration of a *TDA* enlivens provisions including the ability for regulators to not accept or assess applications that relate to further development, land or water use, or industry development in the area defined under a *TDA*; and for the TC to coordinate investigations or studies to inform the development of a proposed *Territory development area plan (TDAP)*.

## 7.2.2. TDA and TDAP

The TC must provide a proposed TDAP to the Minister for approval, in relation to a TDA.

Following public consultation, the Minister may consider a proposed TDAP and recommendation from the TC, and approve the Plan if reasonably satisfied that criteria including the following have been met:

- a. The TDAP identifies, where competing interests for land use may exist, the most appropriate use of land to deliver economic benefit in the public interest, at the time of consideration.
- b. The balance of potential economic, environmental, and social impacts, both positive and negative, have been adequately considered and addressed; and
- c. Activities and programs of works identified as part of the proposed TDAP are feasible and will facilitate significant economic development; and
- d. Implementation of the proposed TDAP is in the public interest.

A TDAP is intended to support de-risking and investment facilitation in relation to specific geographic areas that have been identified as valuable to enable the development of certain industries.

Through identifying the types of land use and scale of development intended for the area; and identifying permitted impacts, including thresholds for impacts, arising from activities within the area, TDAPs are intended to support simplified facilitation of development of particular industries and relevant projects under defined areas and criteria.

TDAPs further support clarity and certainty in relation to planned development of essential infrastructure and required land use and tenure changes, in support of identified industry development scenarios. This includes powers in relation to land acquisition.

Under the proposed model, the Minister will be able to attach conditions to an approved TDAP for purposes including:

- a. Promoting the Primary Principle;
- b. Facilitating Territory benefit, including regional and local considerations;
- c. Ensuring appropriate management or rehabilitation of land, air or water will be undertaken;
- d. Recovering reasonable costs from proponents in relation to the process of assessing and granting the TDAP approval.

The Minister will also be able to put in place governance arrangements, such as a management authority, to manage implementation of the requirements of a TDAP.

Together, these provisions will support the efficient operations of the TC, ensuring efforts and resources can be focused on those projects most likely to deliver significant economic benefit for the Territory.



## 8. Miscellaneous provisions

### 8.1. Limitation of review

It is proposed that only judicial review will be available in relation to decisions or actions by the TC or Minister, including in relation to the exercise of step in powers.

The intent of limiting the review of decisions is to provide certainty in relation to decisions made by the TC or Minister, thereby supporting confidence in the investment and business environment in the Territory.

### 8.2. Transparency and accountability

It is intended that the position of the TC is one of relative independence, held to a high standard of accountability in delivering on the core strategic intent of achieving significant economic outcomes for the Territory. Accordingly, provisions will be included in the draft Bill to support and uphold transparency and accountability in the operations of the TC.

It is also recognised that the TC, and office of the TC, will be subject to scrutiny in relation to ethical conduct in the delivery of its objectives, and subject to provisions under the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2017*.

#### 8.2.1. Conflict of interest

Provisions are included in the draft Bill to protect the TC from claims of perceived conflict of interest in relation to certain types of activities and interests. Where an actual or perceived conflict exists, the draft Bill provides that the TC must not exercise certain powers, and may not delegate or direct in relation to certain associated matters.

The draft Bill also requires the TC to maintain a register of interests of the TC and staff, which will be made publicly available on application.

#### 8.2.2. Reporting

The draft Bill includes reporting requirements in relation to exercising certain powers, including in relation to progression and step in powers, and the issuing of exemption notices. These provisions are intended to support transparency and public confidence in relation to decision-making.

The TC will also be required to provide an annual report each year, to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The annual report will be required to detail the performance of the TC's functions and achievement of the objectives of the Act.

## 9. Other issues

### 9.1. Application of powers to Northern Territory legislation dealing with Aboriginal rights and interests

The Territory Coordinator role does not dilute or undermine existing Territory or Commonwealth legislation relating to Aboriginal rights and interests in the NT. Rather, it is intended that the Territory Coordinator will work collaboratively with Traditional Owners and Land Councils to support and unlock their economic aspirations.

Aboriginal land under the Commonwealth *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (ALRA)* makes up approximately 48% of the Territory's land mass and 80% of its coastline. It is private land that requires permit or agreements for entry; it cannot be sold, only leased or licensed; it can only be compulsorily acquired by the Commonwealth Government; and Traditional Owners can veto or prevent any mining or exploration on the land.

A law of the Territory only applies on Aboriginal land if it is consistent with the ALRA. In the event of any inconsistency, the ALRA takes legal precedence over any Territory law.

The vast majority of the remaining land is or will be subject to native title under the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993 (NTA)*. Future acts that affect native title rights include a legislated notification and/or agreement making process to allow the acts to occur and to deal with any compensation.

The TC proposal will not interfere with the application of these laws, and any projects of significance or Territory development areas that involve Aboriginal land or land subject to native title will continue to require the agreement of the Traditional Owners/native title claimants/holders and involvement of the relevant Land Councils, and/or other compliance with the NTA.

Furthermore, it is proposed that the TC's powers will not apply to the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989 (NTSSA)*, and the *Heritage Act 2011*, being Northern Territory legislation that seeks to protect Aboriginal rights and interests.

### 9.2. NT legislation

Given the potential reach of the proposed model, consequential amendments to NT legislation will be developed as part of a subsequent Territory Coordinator Consequential Amendment Bill (Consequential Bill). This approach will ensure the appropriate level of consideration and rigour can be applied to support the effective operation of this Bill in the context of the broader Territory legislative context.

It is likely that a broader range of complementary legislative and regulatory amendments will be identified, including through the work of the related Approvals Fast-Track Taskforce.

### 9.3. Commonwealth legislation

As Commonwealth legislation has primacy over Territory legislation, the proposed model has been developed to mitigate any potential encroachment on processes that fall under Commonwealth administration.

As outlined above, applications that will be explicitly excluded include processes under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)*, and processes in relation to the assessment bilateral agreement between the NT and Commonwealth Government for the purposes of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*.



# Case studies



## 10. Case studies

This section provides examples of hypothetical applications of the proposed model.

These examples are **not indicative** of government intention to apply the model to these cases.

### 10.1. Individual projects, with the potential for significant Territory benefit, with associated regulatory complexity

To enable timely progression of key projects that have the potential to provide Territory benefit and galvanise industry development, certain developments will require enhanced certainty in relation to timeframes; strategic direction in relation to regulatory processes; and coordination across government.

Examples of such projects may include large-scale renewables projects, or significant agriculture or horticulture projects, with associated complexity in terms of regulatory processes and potential duplicative requirements.

An onshore gas development may also be considered as an example, where diverse regulatory requirements require coordination and streamlining to support delivery of a project that will provide Territory community and economic benefit, alongside important energy security outcomes.

The provisions included in the proposed TC Bill offer some solutions to support the progression of these projects, that would otherwise not be available. These include powers to: direct prioritisation of certain projects and coordinate timeframes for regulatory decisions; step into decision making where necessary and exempt the application of certain legislative requirements; and develop infrastructure coordination plans where appropriate, to enhance certainty and de-risk decision-making.

### 10.2. Large-scale, complex developments involving competing interests and significant interdependencies across government areas and industry activities

In cases where significant industry development activity is anticipated in a certain area, involving multiple operating companies with competing interests and development timelines, the capacity to declare a TDA is intended to offer a unique capacity for whole-of-regulatory system master planning and coordination.

Examples of such cases may include onshore gas development scenarios in the Beetaloo Sub-Basin, or identified zones for specified industry development such as the Ti Tree horticultural zone.

Provisions enabled through declaring a TDA with an associated approved TDAP, support the proactive, cross-government planning, prioritisation and coordination required to reduce risk, complexity and timeframes for investment and development. This includes the capacity to establish development thresholds and thereby de-risk associated project approvals; identify required critical infrastructure; undertake activities in relation to land use and acquisition; and delineate areas for development / no development.

These provisions also introduce the benefit of coordinating and prioritising diverse studies, including environmental and cultural, to inform planning and decision-making.

The capacity to apply consolidated consultation processes to replace the various independent processes that might apply, alongside the ability to exempt the application of certain legislative requirements and processes where necessary and appropriate, is intended to further enhance confidence in the Territory's investment environment.

### 10.3. Critical infrastructure corridors

The TDA provisions in the proposed Bill are designed to be applicable to linear areas as appropriate, to facilitate timely activities that will de-risk the infrastructure corridors required to unlock industry development.

This application may be particularly relevant to developing the transmission corridors required for transitioning to net zero, or for pipeline corridors required for developing the onshore gas industry in the Territory. These provisions will also enable timely development of road corridors where necessary.

Provisions that may be particularly relevant in these cases include powers related to land access and acquisition; the ability to direct prioritisation of processes and decision-making across government; and the ability to establish accepted overarching thresholds for development activity through a TDAP.



