1. **Tracey Hayes**  
*Chief executive, NT Cattlemen’s Association*

Tracey Hayes is going places. She’s often spoken about as a future Senator for the NT, though she’s shown a willingness to work with good people on both sides of politics in her role as Chief Executive of the NT Cattlemen’s Association. That she was the first woman to front the prominent cattleman’s body has earned her a recognition on lists of Australia’s most influential women, and she is among a very exclusive group of people who can open doors with governments of all colours, in both the Northern Territory and in Canberra. She’s leading the charge on a class action after the Gillard Government’s live export ban. Above all, Hayes is almost universally liked. That’s a huge asset that earns her a place as the Territory’s most powerful person.

2. **Michael Gunner**  
*NT Chief Minister*

No chief minister has ever ranked at number one on our Most Powerful list and new Chief Michael Gunner goes very close. He’s got time on his side, and few election commitments holding the new government back. Gunner’s also popular and voters think he’s a good bloke — the antithesis of Adam Giles — and that means he can use that popularity to actually achieve things. If Gunner makes his mark, then he’s a sho-in for the top spot next time around. If he panders to the unions, like he did with the recent public holiday decision, and loses control of an unruly backbench, then he’ll have squandered a considerable opportunity.

3. **Gina Rinehart**  
*Billionaire NT Ambassador*

Nothing like having a billionaire who happens to also be Australia’s richest woman promoting the place you live. This is exactly what we have with Mrs Rinehart. The previous government appointed her as NT Business Ambassador and she has backed the title up by buying large tracts of land. And her bid for the S Kidman & Co cattle empire is successful, she will become the NT’s largest private landholder. Mrs Rinehart is buying at a time when the cattle business is booming and her other passion, the resources sector, is in a lull. It bodies well she is prepared to invest in the NT in the current climate. Over time her presence and influence will increase and the Territory will benefit as a result.

4. **Mick Burns**  
*Croc Farmer*

Mick does love sport and owns “too many horses”, in his words, government. DON’T be fooled by the title of croc farmer. He also just happens to be the largest and most significant croc farmer in the world. All the world’s greatest fashion houses are his clients. When he speaks to them in France — they listen.

5. **Reece Kershaw**  
*Police Commissioner*

THE last time we did the Most Powerful list, Reece Kershaw was the least prominent of three senior police officers rotating through the Deputy Commissioner’s job. A couple of months later, all hell broke loose. Xana Kamitsis was arrested. John McRoberts was sacked. Kershaw was left to pick up the pieces of a police service in crisis. He became Commissioner on a permanent basis soon after and has been impressive in the way he has steered the force to politically neutral ground. Kershaw’s success as Commissioner, and his high place on this list, testamon to how he managed to de-politicise the police. Kershaw has made clear that policing decisions should not be made in the Cabinet room, and pushed back against political demands made by the last Government. That approach was a breath of fresh air.

6. **Greg Cavanagh**  
*Coroner*

NO-ONE has more to say on the impacts of domestic violence than this man. No-one has been more able to deliver a coherent road map of actions which need to be adopted to address these problems than this man. And no-one has been as fearless in his role as Coroner of the Northern Territory than this man. At Coroner, he isn’t responsible to anyone but his own conscience and he has demonstrated over time he will take those who require it to task. That is the kind of person you want in a position like this. What makes him so good is that he has lived here for so long, and seen so much, so his position is backed by knowledge through experience.

7. **Dylan Voller**  
*Don Dale resident*

THE images and story of this young man’s experience of spit hoods and restraint chairs while incarcerated at Don Dale had a profound impact on how Territorians and Australians looked at themselves. The images went worldwide and Australians asked themselves: is this what they believed juvenile justice in this country should be? The Royal Commissioners, Mick Gooda and Margaret White, could very well have been on the list however we are yet to see if their final report will be meaningful or a dust collector.