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MAYLANDS

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The Editor

NT News

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Dear Sir

The Bagot Community sits on valuable land. Unlike the nearby 301ha Kulaluk lease, the old Aboriginal Reserve has little environmental conservation value, although the land is steeped in historical significance from past failed policies of confinement and assimilation of Aboriginal people as Wards of the State.

Today the regimentation of yesteryear contrasts with Bagot's bright murals, painted houses and multitude of community projects. However, the fenced and walled compound with vast open areas has no future as a ghetto. Bagot must get proactive and come up with some viable plans, while maintaining the secure community atmosphere the residents value so much. A commercial development with hectares of bituminised car parks is not the answer.

Give the Bagot Council true self-management so they can work in partnership with trusted developers in pulling down the walls that divide and creating an imaginative subdivision that will make the community viable, with a small-scale shopping village open to all, built around a Ludmilla community centre and recreation field.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bill Day

Consulting Anthropologist

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