

Bagot Aboriginal Community, incorporating a well-designed community centre, shops and sports fields, while preserving half the lease for upgraded Aboriginal housing. The new community, administered by a body corporate of all residents and integrated with Ludmilla, could become a model of inter-racial living. The profits from the sale of the blocks or investments in rental housing could go into a Trust to be used for the benefit of the community.

Text of a letter to the editor of the NT News, published 31 October 2011

The Editor

NT News

GPO Box 1300

Darwin NT 0801

Dear Sir

If the Kulaluk lease, granted to Aborigines in 1979, can be rezoned for light industry in a deal between the leaseholders and the developers, why not allow the Bagot community to develop their lease in a similar joint venture? A modern housing estate could be developed on the unused section of the Bagot lease, incorporating a well-designed community centre, shops and sports fields, while preserving half the lease for upgraded Aboriginal housing. The new community, administered by a body corporate of all residents and integrated with Ludmilla, could become a model of inter-racial living. The profits from the sale of the blocks or investments in rental housing could go into a Trust to be used for the benefit of the community. What is the alternative? Bagot as a black ghetto has proved to be a tragic and dysfunctional failure, land rich and asset poor. Although I strongly disagree with the sell-off of Aboriginal land on the Kulaluk lease, in the case of Bagot, the model of development that Lands and Planning Minister Gerry McCarthy has approved for the Kulaluk leaseholders could be the way to go.

Bill Day

PO Box 425

Maylands

WA 6931

Mobile 0408946942