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13.12.2014

The Hon. Peter Chandler.  
Minister for lands, Planning and Environment,  
Parliament House,  
Darwin, NT 2014

Dear Minister,

This signed letter of complaint will be sent simultaneously to you, John Coleman, the Chief Executive officer of the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment, and to Denis Burke, the Chairman of the Development Consent Authority(DCA).

It most immediately concerns lack of due process in the recent handling of the subdivision application on what is described in the Notice of Consent as 'Lot 5182(213) Dick Ward Drive Town of Darwin.

Particularly matters are that:

1. Consent has been given to an application which appears identical to one rejected in March 2014.
2. The Masterplan, a key part of the subdivision application has been divorced from it, and endorsed at a secret unrecorded and closed meeting of the DCA. Major issues in it specifically relate to the amenity of the residents adjoining areas. These residents in the previous hearing on the subdivision made it very clear that their amenity would be destroyed by the development.

It is simply incorrect to say as the NOTICE OF CONSENT does that the subdivision if approved 'preserves the amenity of the amenity of the adjoining residential areas'.

3. The DCA hearing for the current subdivision application which should have included the Masterplan issues, was totally unsatisfactory to the submitters who attended.

The Chairman did not appear to understand his role.

His assumptions appeared based on the premise that if the planners and departmental reports were for the application, the community should go along with it.

The record will show that the Chairman tried to discredit verbal submission by wrongly alleging that the community is against all development.

That there only ??? nineteen submitters on this application seemed denigrated by the DCA. It clearly ignored submissions made for and at an earlier hearing.

The Chairman was very uninformed when he tried to put words into our mouths that we were really against any use of the lot. The group strongly denied this.

We have been told by others at different hearings since, that this Chairman has behaved similarly, and will not listen.

It is clear that there is a lack of transparency, balance and due process in the development assessment process that has become intolerable to the community. The situation needs your attention.

This particular consent requires proper and open review.

Yours sincerely,

M A CLINCH  
Convener PLa  
And on behalf of the signatories below