11 September 2019

To Hon. Eva Lawler MLA

It is not too late to avoid the destruction of hundreds of well-established trees in the Kulaluk Conservation zone. These are unlikely to recover from a hot gamba grass fire, which would lay waste to vast areas of habitat for countless animals and birds.

Another consideration is that the area concerned is directly under the threshold of Darwin International Airport’s main runway.

Danger to aircraft and disruption of traffic in the event of a fire could be a problem if serious fire abatement on Kulaluk lease is not implemented.

I have also spoken with Sharon Jones, Director of the Crown Lease Estate. She seems powerless to ensure the leaseholders obligations are met. Maybe it is time for the leaseholder to honour the terms of its lease?

Yours sincerely

Graham Kirby

26 September 2019

To Mr Kirby

The Weed Management Branch within DENR conducts a targeted gamba grass compliance program across the Darwin area each season. One aspect of this program focuses on properties that fail to successfully meet obligations in previous years. Since 2017, GDA has been informed that their obligation is to control gamba grass within 15 metres of boundaries, infrastructure and internal roads and tracks. GDA has failed to meet those obligations on Lot 5182 Town of Darwin (213 Dick Ward Dr Ludmilla) in that time. On 14 June 2019, Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (PFES) Fire Safety Command division contacted GDA to discuss firebreaks. GDA gave assertions that the firebreaks would be maintained. The Weed Management Branch inspected the property on 13 September 2019, and found it to be not compliant.

The Fire Safety Command will now issue GDA with an instruction to maintain the breaks within a given timeframe (14 days). If GDA does not comply, an infringement will be issued.

Yours sincerely

Hon. Eva Lawler MLA

Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

Minister for Environment and Natural Resources

Minister for Climate Change