

The potential of the Kulaluk lease that borders both sides of Dick Ward Drive in Darwin NT

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The Editor
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Dear Sir

The greening of streets and parks planned by the NT Government and the Darwin City Council is a welcome development. Advertised plans include 'city entry statements' along Daly Street, Tiger Brennan Drive and McMinn Street. Sadly the vision has not included the greening of the grand sweep of Dickward Drive that continues from Coconut Grove into iconic vistas over Fannie Bay. The potential of this gateway is something that town planners in other capitals would die for. No amount of beautification can make the Stuart Highway compare to a drive through the tropical lushness of Mindil Beach and the Botanical Gardens to the CBD, passing the soon to be beautified Old Hospital site. The neglected arc of Dickward Drive is an integral part of this unique green corridor devoid of car yards and advertising hoardings. Without decisive government action or public protest the opportunity afforded by the potential of the Kulaluk lease that borders both sides of Dickward Drive will be lost forever. Instead, sections of the lease were recently rezoned for 'light industry' and foundations are being prepared for unsightly sheds and yards that will adjoin the long suffering residents of Minmarama Village who have been complaining for years about the dangers of the neighbouring earth dump. The village itself lies in a cyclone surge zone and should never have been built. Where is the public outcry we heard when the Kulaluk leaseholders made a deal with the Arafura Harbour developers? In the 1970s the Kulaluk founders gifted to the city an urban wilderness that is being destroyed for the short term gain of the restricted membership of the Gwalwa Daraniki Association, the leaseholders of the Kulaluk Crown Lease in Perpetuity.

Yours sincerely

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