

Hi all,

The NT Heritage Council, and therefore the NT Heritage Dept, has accepted our nomination (only a nomination at this stage) of the entire Kulaluk Lease area (yahoo!). I lodged it on behalf of LNAC about 3 weeks ago, just before the council met. I found out about 10 days ago, but had to sit on it for 2 weeks while Helen/Dragon Lady Ltd (Ernie Chin) and the Nt Enviro. Minister were informed....none of them are happy about it!!!

It has a number of references provided by Dr. Bill Day (most actually), as well as oral information provided by some of you/your family, so a hearty pat on the back for all of us. Thanks heaps to David, Laurene and Eliza from the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO NT) for getting the information into an excellent format for the application and putting in so much extra time/energy. Finally a big thank you also to Bill for being so generous with his time and archival materials.

So what does it all mean. As you will be aware, we have tried many different ways to protect the lease area, as we were not sure which application/method could work best for us, and we wanted to try everything. When David and Laurene from EDO said the NT Heritage Council members were meeting, and that we were encouraged (by some anonymous friends!) to lodge an application, so we (LNAC/EDO NT) went hard to get it in.

We lodged it in a hurry, to ensure we got in before the Heritage Council, as they only meet a few times each year. So yes the the council has accepted the nomination, but this does not mean the whole lease is now listed as a heritage site. It means the council accepts it has potentially high cultural and natural significance and can be now temporarily protected, whilst they provide the resources to do surveys, interviews, etc.

So apologies in advance if anyone else wanted to sign onto it, or be a part of that bit, but time was extremely short. As I understand it, David and Laurene did contact a number of you, and the application was supported by the LNAC. There will be time now for others to be more involved in the the investigation of the site/s, if you wish, now that the Dept is putting a temporary protection order in place for the whole lease area, and they will provide all the resources, etc to do the surveys, etc. I have asked them if us/our managers could be involved where appropriate. Please let me or David, or someone (BoD member) know if you want to be involved or share information to help us get this site protected for good.

Anyways that pretty much guarantees that the current development application for the 'burial block' will be deferred and from around September the whole Kulaluk lease will enjoy automatic temporary protection whilst the NTG investigate the site/s for all the reasons/values we described in the application. So for now at least we can all have a small breather. If/when they do find the site/s are significant (ie more burials, artifacts, etc) then hopefully some or all of the land can be listed on the NT Heritage list. We should discuss soon, what this may mean in terms of access etc, too.

Whatever happens, re the heritage nomination/investigation process, the developers and Helen have been informed that the best way to survey the burial block would be a number of test trenches /pits, and I think they have to pay for that bit (as they claim to 'own' the land) so we will need to ensure that is done in a culturally appropriate manner. The DCA hearing for the latest development application on the 'burial block' will be on Friday, 11th July, but that should only be a formality as the whole lease is up for heritage listing.

Anyways great news for the weekend and happy to share it.....and have a short rest from this 'campaign', it has been full on, but not as full on as it was for our elders (incl. Helen's grandmother) and ancestors who fought to keep it the land in the first place.....and I/we will of course always respect and acknowledge that. Thanks again to all the supporters and for your patience with my very long emails! LOL! DJ

Donna Jackson

Ph: 0427 847186

Member Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation

c/o 76 Dickward Drive COCONUT GROVE, NT 0810