

**Rezoning bid from Jape clan.** One of Darwin's best-known developer families is behind a proposal to develop Aboriginal land on the Kulaluk lease near the city.

**Rezoning bid from Jape clan.** By BEN LANGFORD

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One of Darwin's best-known developer families is behind a proposal to develop bush land near the city.

The proposal would see many hectares of bush and scrub land developed for a commercial and industrial estate, and 250 dwelling housing development.

It concerns 23ha of land between Ludmilla and Coconut Grove, between Bagot Rd and Dick Ward Drive.

The Jape family is involved through their company Citiland. They are in partnership with the Gwalwa Daraniki Association - which holds the perpetual lease over the Kulaluk land.

No one from Jape Nominees would comment yesterday. Neither the Gwalwa Daraniki Association nor their lawyer Michael Chin returned calls.

Adam Smith from Planit Consulting, who lodged the plan, said he was "very confident" rezoning would be approved.

Moves to develop the land are not new and parts of the proposal date from 2006.

Another rezoning proposal was lodged last year for land on Namarluk Drive. Planning Minister Gerry McCarthy said he had to wait for new storm surge reports before he could make a decision on that application.

But he would not say whether that information was needed for him to decide on the new application.

"I know that there is a process that we need to go through," he said.

Large parts of the new proposal are also in the storm surge zone. Yellow signs are up around the site and the rezoning is out for public comment.

The application was put in under the name of Vysrose Pty Ltd, which changed its name to Citiland in 2007.

Alderman Heather Sjoberg said Alan Jape met with council members last week. She said council needed to wait and see what the community had to say.

"It's really for the community to put their views forward," she said.

Rezoning would allow economic opportunities for Gwalwa Daraniki.