

Rezoning for light industry of a large section of the land on the Kulaluk lease between Bagot Road, Dick Ward Drive, Fitzer Drive and Totem Road

Dear Friends,

As you probably know by now, the Minister for Lands and Planning, Gerry McCarthy, has approved the rezoning for light industry of a large section of the land on the Kulaluk lease between Bagot Road, Dick Ward Drive, Fitzer Drive and Totem Road. The land has remained as bushland until now because: (a) the land is in the flight path of the international airport; (b) the land was inside Bagot Aboriginal Reserve between 1938 and 1965; (c) In 1979 the land was granted to Larrakia people and associated Aborigines as compensation for the loss of the Bagot Reserve land on the understanding it would be held for community and conservation use. This is well documented on my website [www.drbilldayanthropologist.com](http://www.drbilldayanthropologist.com)

In addition, the rezoning has been approved despite there being a 'Pukamani burial site' recorded by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) behind the old Retta Dixon Homes. Planit Consulting are quoted as saying the Pukamani site 'has not been officially recognised, nor is it able to be visually identified' ('Developers Target 51ha of Prime Suburban Land', *NT News* May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010, p.4). In that case research is needed.

The leaseholders are the Gwalwa Daraniki Association (GDA) who have amended their constitution to restrict membership to 'a minimum of 5' providing 'at least half shall be Aboriginal people', all of whom must have lived on the lease for 'at least 12 months' and be 'members of the Danggalaba Clan' *or* their non-Aboriginal spouses. The GDA support the rezoning 'in a joint venture capacity' with the Jape family company, **Citiland** (previously Vysrose Pty Ltd).

Much of the 301 hectare Kulaluk lease granted in 1979 is under a caveat with Gwelo Investments who hope to destroy the mangroves to build a marina and canal housing development. The *NT News* reported that the GDA received payment for signing the caveat ('Landowners already cashing in on marina', *NT News*, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009). The GDA lawyer, Michael Chin, told the newspaper: 'A developer doesn't go on and prepare detailed plans unless they can get some commitment from the landowners.'

Previously, opposition from the Darwin public and Aboriginal stakeholders have prevented the rezoning of the Kulaluk lease. It is now time to rally once more to stop the alienation of this bushland granted to Larrakia people and the community in general. Please show that you care by signing the enclosed postcard to the Minister at GPO Box 3146, Darwin 0801, or write to your local member, including your name and address.

Yours sincerely,

*Bill Day*