

education is outstanding, not only for Humpty Doo Primary School, but in a supportive manner to other special educators and coordinators in Palmerston and the rural regions. She is seen as one of the leading lights in special education.

The educators and sport staff in the special education centre at Humpty Doo are evidence of Vanessa's ability to build and maintain teams. All staff are provided with professional development opportunities, intensive training and demonstration lessons from Vanessa in order to implement – I am not sure what these are - EAPs, IBMPs and ACPs – I am sure the teaching world would know what they mean!

Vanessa is a dedicated teacher, mentor, manager and a leader who always has the dignity of the child foremost in her pastoral care of students with special educational needs. She is a team player, who is a committed and loyal staff member, and an exceptional teacher who has achieved many times over what every every teacher aspires to and dreams of doing in making a difference with students. I pay tribute to this family. They have suffered greatly with the loss of their brother, son, and grandchild. I say to Vanessa Lowe, to the mother Heidi, to the brothers and to the sisters in the family, he may have gone but he will not be forgotten.

The last part of the booklet says, 'Sadly missed along life's way, lovingly remembered every day. No longer in our life to share but in our hearts you will always be there.' I am sure Taylor Thomas Luck, or Tayls as he was lovingly called, will always be in their hearts.

**Mr VOWLES (Johnston):** Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the member for Goyder for that touching speech on a very sad story and sad ending for a very talented young man. I have also heard of the very good work Vanessa does with Special Ed, especially people I know in the rural area.

I would like to speak tonight on a matter of importance to many people in and surrounding my electorate, and Darwin more generally, especially amongst the Larrakia community. I know many Territorians more generally are also concerned about this matter because it goes to the way the CLP government does business, a return to the bad old days. I am referring to decisions made by the Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment, the member for Brennan, in relation to land opposite the corner of Totem Road and Dick Ward Drive, Darwin.

Darwin residents awoke on the morning of 4 May this year to read an *NT News* report of the clearing of this land and Larrakia action to protect that work. This is the clearing of land that has long been regarded as land set aside for

conservation. Clearing of the land was denied by the then minister, my colleague the member for Barkly, in 2010 because of the status of the land as a conservation zone and also the storm surge constraints on land development, the clearing of land that is known to include the burial of Larrakia and other Aboriginal people, potentially hundreds of burials on this site.

Is this another case of the developer jumping the gun and getting ahead of the land development approval process? Is this another example of a naive and passive minister opening up these opportunities? The history of this site is well-known to old time Darwin families and worth recounting. The land in question is held by the Gwalwa Daraniki Association, a local Aboriginal association representing the residents of Kulaluk and Minmarama Park.

It is important that people remember this land grant, by a lease in perpetuity, was intended as a land grant to the Larrakia in recognition of the longstanding traditional ownership and occupation of land and seas in the Darwin region. The grant of land was, in effect, a response to a grassroots land claim by the Larrakia around the same time of the government response to the Woodward Land Rights Commission. It was agreed by government that the Larrakia claim for land should be recognised, but the Land Rights Act being considered at the time did not envisage the grant of land under that act in areas like Darwin.

A government decision was made in 1979 to make arrangement for a land grant via a lease in perpetuity for special community development.

After self-government, that arrangement was formalised under Crown Lease in perpetuity with the Gwalwa Daraniki Association on behalf of the Larrakia as a whole for purposes consistent with the zoning of the land. Much later the constitution of the Gwalwa Daraniki Association was changed so it now just represents the residents of that area not the wider Larrakia.

Moving forward in time, members might recall a recent application for subdivision of the larger part of the Gwalwa Daraniki lease for that land lying between Bagot Road and Dick Ward Drive for subdivision and sequential consequential commercial development. On 7 March this year, that application was rejected by the Development Consent Authority on the basis that a required master plan for the whole site had not been completed or endorsed by the Consent Authority.

Curiously, on the same day, the Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment, the member for Brennan, signed off on a separate application to amend the *Planning Act* to change the status of the land now being cleared for

conservation zone to specific use zone LI, light industry.

The change enables the use of this land for development of a light industrial park like others in nearby Coconut Grove. The questions I have, and ask on behalf of concerned Territorians, particularly the Larrakia people are: will the minister release the advice he was given by his department relating to the planning and heritage constraints on the use of that land for commercial development? Did his department recommend that further work should occur to properly consider the heritage values of the site? For example, the use of ground penetrating radar to identify burial sites outside part of that land already known to be a burial place. Why was the wider Larrakia community not able to make their views known on their attachment to that site before your change in land use and clearing commenced?

Why did the minister write to Dr Bill Day on 1 May saying any future use will be subject to a period of public exhibition where the public will be invited to make a submission in respect of that proposal? Is this the way the CLP does business, allowing land clearing prior to a period of public exhibition and public comment on development proposals? The actions of the minister have caused great distress to many Larrakia people. It has led to an application to the Federal Court for an injunction to stop work and mediation recommended by the court. Why did it come to this? Why cannot the minister take the time to understand the history of this place, of that land, and ensure proper consideration of the heritage values of this land to the Larrakia people, land that is special to all Territorians and very special to Larrakia people?

Motion agreed to; the Assembly adjourned.