EXTRACT FROM A POWERFUL STATEMENT BY DONNA JACKSON OF LARRAKIA NATION OBJECTING TO REZONING OF LARRAKIA LAND (June 2013): 'Objection to an application to amend the NT planning scheme via rezoning of conservation zoned land within the Kulaluk area, referred to as “Perpetual Lease 671”.

As a Sovereign Gulumirrgin (Larrakia) descendant, on behalf of the Board and members of the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (LNAC) I write, under duress, to formally object to the rezoning of part of Lots 5182 Town of Darwin and 8630 Town of Nightcliff, from a conservation zone (CN) to light industry (LI).

LNAC members are aware that this new application for rezoning has been submitted by Planit Consulting, on behalf of Gwalwa Daraniki Association (GDA). We draw your attention to previous objections lodged by the LNAC for earlier rezoning applications on lands contained in “Perpetual Lease 671” also lodged on behalf of GDA...

It is well known to all “Larrakia” people, especially members of the GDA, that there is a contemporary burial site very close to the area in question. Furthermore it is likely, but unknown, that historical burials may be located in areas outside the boundary of the current cemetery, perhaps even on the block being discussed. Even the falsely presented AAPA clearance certificate (which is for the block across the road [behind Karu Park]), states the concerns [Larrakia Nation] have raised in the past about the potential historical burials here.

The burial grounds are a place of high cultural significance for all “Larrakia”, we hoped it would remain protected, via the “Lease”, but as recent events have demonstrated, this significant site is once again under threat, by the very “leaseholders” themselves. We hereby request that government and AAPA begin the process of registering this area as a Sacred Site.

With these facts in mind, and the history of the struggle to protect this land, it is impossible for us to comprehend the level of disrespect for our ancestors, demonstrated by Planit Consulting in this application, and prepared on behalf of, and presumably with the full knowledge of GDA, given that members of their own immediate family are in fact buried very close to the land that they are now applying to rezone.

Words cannot describe the shame, dismay, sorrow and pain we feel in knowing that some members of the GDA, would ever seek to disturb the resting place of our collective ancestors, in order to gain valueless money. The Planit Consulting company, who prepared this submission on behalf of GDA, claim to be ethical, yet this and other related applications prepared by them, demonstrate unethical behaviour and actions.'

Donna Jackson, Senior Ranger and Member,

Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation

20 June 2013.