

Aboriginal corp wants industry on their land

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DEVELOPMENT: The lot on Dick Ward Drive, opposite Totem Road

Quote:

AN ABORIGINAL corporation wants a large portion of conservation land rezoned for industrial development.

Plans have been lodged for the land, part of the Kulaluk lease that runs from Nightcliff through Coconut Grove to East Point.

The plans forecast development which may be in the form of a light industry "park" similar to nearby areas of Coconut Grove.

The Gwalwa Daraniki Association, which has a perpetual lease over the land, has lodged the application to have the land rezoned from conservation to light industrial.

The block in question is on Dick Ward Drive, opposite Totem Rd.

The proposal originally included another portion of land, also on Dick Ward Drive adjacent to the Minmarama community.

This land, which has been used for depositing a large pile of soil dug out of inner-city developments, has been removed from the rezoning plans.

The application, from Sydney-based consultants Planit, says it will not damage a sacred tree in the area. Notional plans show the development running adjacent to the tree.

The plan to rezone the area will be controversial.

The Kulaluk lease was awarded to Aboriginal people after a long battle for land in the 1970s. The Gwalwa Daraniki Association is now keen to develop some of it to provide income and commercial opportunities.

Conservation zoning exists to protect flora and fauna but the application says this relates to the waterside bush corridor to the west "and not directly to any standalone natural or conservation significance".

The Northern Territory News understands the land is not part of the area under caveat from the failed Arafura Harbour development.

The application says the rezoning should be considered in the context of inter-generational equity - providing services and facilities for future generations.

The application says consultation has been carried out with planning officers and traffic consultants.

And it says the profits will be managed on trust.

"The Gwalwa Daraniki Association ... will co-ordinate an independent committee which will manage all proceeds in the form of a trust," it says.

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