

Landowners already cashing in on marina

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By **BEN LANGFORD**

THE Aboriginal association on whose property Darwin's proposed new marina suburb would be built has already begun receiving money for the use of their land.

The Gwalwa Daraniki Association owns about 261ha of land between East Point and Coconut Grove, of which 76ha is included in the development plans.

Designer Hans Vos and developer Even Lynne are behind the plan for a 1000-dwelling marina suburb to be called Arafura Harbour. The GDA's lawyer Michael Chin advised on the deal but would not say how much money had changed hands.

A lease has not been completed between the developers and the GDA as some parts of it need approval from the NT Govern-

ment. But Mr Chin said the payments started this year.

"A developer doesn't go on and prepare detailed plans unless they can get some commitment from the landowners," he said.

"It is to make part of its land available so that it can use the funding from that to do its core activities."

Mr Chin said the money would be used to provide and maintain housing and take care of the land, in-

cluding waste collection and power to the houses, as well as funding jobs with the association.

The *Northern Territory News* understands that if the development plan falls through the royalty payments will stop.

Mr Chin said the Federal Government had told the association its funding would be cut because it had land assets which it should use to generate income.

"Landowners already cashing in on marina" (NT News, April 4, 2009) . "The Aboriginal association on whose property Darwin's proposed new marina suburb would be built had already begun receiving money for the use of their land ... The GDA's lawyer Michael Chin advised on the deal but would not say how much money had changed hands ... Mr Chin said that the payments started this year [2009]. 'A developer doesn't go on and prepare detailed plans unless they can get some commitment from the landowners,' he said. 'It is to make part of its land available so that [the GDA] can use the funding from that to do its core activities.'"

(Note: Obviously "core activities" does not include land care or smoke alarms in homes).