DEVELOPER IN AIR WAR OVER THEME PARK

NT NEWS, 12 December 1993

By Cherie Beach

The company developing Aboriginal land under the Darwin flight-path is paying aviation consultants in any attempt to defeat official opposition to the project.

[Vysrose Pty Ltd director] David Smith wants to build a multi-million tourism and leisure park on vacant Aboriginal land he has secured a 99-year lease for, bounded by Bagot Road, Fitzer Drive, Totem Road and Dick Ward Drive…

In a letter to Mr Hatton, [Gwalwa Daraniki Association] president Helen Secretary said: “…it is rather evident that the uses of the land under the proposed rezoning will be far more suited to the site than the current uses permitted for development.”

The approval of MacDonalds should set a precedent for the development of the Kululuk land, she said. Flats, a hostel, motel, a restaurant, shops, promotional signs, a research centre and veterinary clinic could be built under the current zoning with planning authority consent.

The same consent would be necessary under the proposed rezoning to build a light industrial area, a licensed club, service industry areas, showroom sales areas and a warehouse.

Big Theme Park Planned

NT News 22 August 1993

By John Loizou

A huge commercial, tourism and leisure park is planned for Darwin. The site earmarked is at Kulaluk, vacant Aboriginal land bounded by Bagot Road and Dick Ward Drive…

The proposal would include a motel-restaurant, holiday apartments, a nine-hole par-three golf course – including a driving range – a go-kart track and a water-theme recreation park. In addition venues for activities such as indoor cricket, volleyball, badminton, basketball and netball would be provided. The Bagot Road frontage would be developed for a range of service and commercial uses.

The proposed development has the support of the Gwalwa Daraniki Association, Mr Smith said.

The agreement makes provision for Aboriginal employment.

“In addition, revenue generated from the lease agreements will have a significant, positive influence towards the Kulaluk community’s aspirations for self-determination,” he said.

Title to Kulaluk was won during the early days of the Aboriginal land rights campaign…

The site is in the constituency of Millner MLA Ken Parish who welcomed the proposal yesterday.

“Mr Smith briefed me about it but I’ve known of his effort for 18 months and I’m very pleased to see it coming to fruition. The development will mean employment and training opportunities for both Aborigines and non-Aborigines.”