

**From THE NT NEWS  
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**A LARGE area of Aboriginal land near Darwin city may be rezoned to build an industrial estate and several blocks of units.**

An application has been lodged with planning authorities for rezoning more than 51ha of land to allow the development. The plan would change the face of the suburb, much of which is native bush and scrub. The land in question is between Ludmilla and Coconut Grove. It covers much of the area bordered by Dick Ward Drive and Bagot Rd, and Fitzer Drive and Totem Rd.

Under the plans, this area would be a commercial and light industrial park. It also includes vacant land between Fitzer Drive and Nadpur St, and one block south of Nadpur St. These areas would be residential development. Much of the land is in the storm surge zone.

The application is likely to spark a battle, as the Kulaluk lease was granted to Aboriginal people after a long land rights battle more than three decades ago. Residents say more than 40 objections were received for a plan to rezone another part of the Kulaluk lease for industrial development.

The lease is held by the Gwalwa Daraniki Association, which offered its land for the Arafura Harbour proposal. The rezoning application, lodged by Planit Consulting, says there is an Aboriginal burial ground there that cannot be located.

**"... the site incorporates a lesser Aboriginal burial ground (Pukamani ground) which has not been officially recognised, nor is able to be visually identified," it says. "It is noted nonetheless that the Gwalwa Daraniki Association have granted their consent to the lodgement of this proposal in a joint venture capacity."**

The documents say the area is fire-prone and development would make it safer.

"The development of the site for the purposes identified would address both the risk (relative to adjoining properties) and to a lesser extent, unsightly nature of the property," it says.

Some of the land is zoned Restricted Development because it is near the airport and under the flight path. RD zoning is intended to limit the amount of people living and working in the area and "retain the non-urban character of the land".

The application is open for public comment through the government's NT Lands Group