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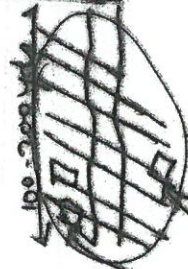
KULALUK

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naa.gov.au

Niguel

COLOMBIA



Boys
R.D.H.

to Totem Rd

Area of cemetery

1-1 1/2 miles

BAGOT RD

HIGHWAY

STUART

copy of sketch
map drawn
by the children

Map by Con Melentis



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM
PERTH

19th February, 1962

Department of Native Affairs,
DARWIN. N.T.

Dear Sir,

It was reported to me today that a native burial ground at Darwin was being damaged. My source of information was Mr. Con Melentis who visited the graveyard with Mr. Pat Peckover, 219 Cumberoi Crescent, Nightcliff. I understand from Mr. Melentis that there are 5 or 6 graves as yet undamaged, and that some of these have grave posts.

I would be very grateful if you would inspect this area and if necessary take some steps to preserve it. If the posts are badly damaged and likely to disintegrate, they should be moved inside preferably to some proper storage place.

I look forward to hearing your opinion on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

I. M. Crawford

I. M. CRAWFORD
Curator of Anthropology &
Archaeology.

1. Ag. Director
2. Ag. Asst. Director

From the preemptory tone of this, I am inclined to ignore the letter. However I suppose that's not done. The facts are that the grave posts are traditionally left in situ by the natives until they succumb to the elements. Those near Bayot are in no worse condition than many on Melville Island. The graves are off the Reserve & could only be protected by having the area added to the Reserve. This I feel is not justified. If you feel it is warranted

CWO
Please inspect the area and report please we can then ask the CWO.

Notes

Have an inspection made & a report with a drawing submitted.

3

62/510
ECE/AJ.

13th March, 1962.

Mr. I.M. Crawford,
Curator of Anthropology & Archaeology,
Western Australian Museum,
PERTH. W.A.

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter dated 19th February, concerning the alleged damage to the native grave posts in an area north of the Bagot Reserve.

At present the area is heavily grassed and difficult to penetrate, but on examination by an officer of this Branch it is revealed that little if anything remains of the grave posts which were placed there many years ago.

This however, is not because of neglect necessarily by Europeans but follows a traditional tribal pattern of the Tiwi people, who after the performance of the mourning ceremonies have no interest in the grave posts as such and allow them to disappear under the ravages of the elements. This is borne out by the situation on Melville Island, where over the past several years, many grave posts erected on traditional burial grounds have been allowed to fall into disrepair and in time will also disappear.

It is felt that there is little point in restoring the old burial grounds at Darwin as it is no longer any consequence to the native population. Furthermore, there are ample examples of the burial posts in Museums throughout Australia to perpetuate this unique totem pole for posterity.

Yours sincerely,



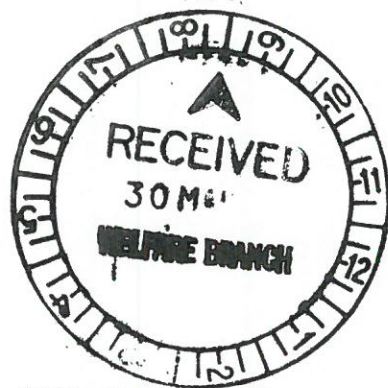
[Signature]
(E. H. MILLIKEN, 1/3/62)
A/Director of Welfare.



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM
PERTH

28th March, 1962

Assistant Director,
Welfare Branch,
Northern Territory Administration,
DARWIN, N.T.



Dear Mr. Milliken,

Thank you for your letter of the 13th March. I am very grateful to you for having the old burial ground near the Bagot Reserve examined. Since it is no longer of any importance and almost gone, you are no doubt correct in taking no steps to restore it. I had thought that the burial grounds retained significance for the aborigines, and that the posts were rare. However, I was apparently incorrect.

Actually, when you say that "there are ample examples of the burial posts in Museums", this is not quite correct since this Museum has not got any. I would like to rectify this as soon as possible and wondered whether you could help us get some. Dr. Ron Berndt told me that the best ones come from Snake Bay. Any assistance which you can give us in this matter will be most welcome. We will, of course, pay any expenses incurred should you decide to help us.

Thank you once again for looking into this matter of the burial ground.

Yours sincerely,

I. M. Crawford

I. M. CRAWFORD
Curator of Anthropology &
Archaeology.

62/510

ECE:MJC

Mr. I. M. Crawford,
Curator of Anthropology and Archaeology,
Western Australian Museum,
P E R T H, W.A.

Dear Mr. Crawford,

I refer to your letter dated 28th March, 1962,
concerning the supply of burial posts to the Perth Museum.

2. As I indicated in my earlier letter there will be no difficulty in obtaining examples for your Museum, but I would appreciate your advice as to the numbers you require. As you are probably aware, the posts are cut from round tree trunks and can measure anything up to 9 ft. high and a foot in diameter. That being so, you will appreciate that they are quite heavy and awkward to handle. If you can indicate the number you require, then I can arrange for the posts to be specially made to the proportions which will facilitate their transport to Perth.

3. When examples of these burial posts have been made for Museums in the past, the artist responsible for the carving, painting, etc. has been compensated to the value of £10.0.0. per post. The packing and dispatch from Darwin can be effected by this Branch with the Museum, of course, meeting the transport cost.

Yours faithfully,

E. P. MILLIKEN.
~~Acting~~ Director of Welfare.



(WELFARE DIVISION)

PW2

January 10, 1972.

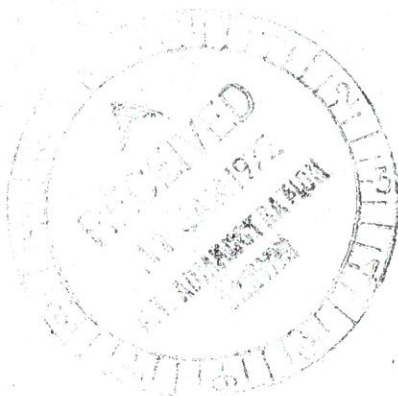
Senior Project OfficerBURIAL GROUND - DELISSAVILLE

Mr. Gray reported by 'phone that while a swimming pool was being excavated at Mandorah on the week end, a human skeleton was discovered, and Delissaville Aborigines have made vague claims up to date that the whole of the area from Mandorah to Delissaville Creek close to the beach front is an old Aboriginal Burial Ground.

2. If there is a claim for a declaration of a Protected Area over there, there may need to be an investigation of the authenticity and extent of this Burial Ground.
3. At this stage, this is merely passed on for your information and comments which you may wish to make.


(P. C. LOVEGROVE)
Assistant Director - Welfare Services.

(Copy - Assistant Administrator, Welfare)



70/2081

PW3 20/2

10.

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

PW 3
Mr. Evans

Re: Sub-Division of Area Behind Mrs. Hockly's Residence
"Tropicus Nursery"

Mr. Steemson of Animal Industry and Agriculture and Mr. Hans Vos of Town Planning were contacted regarding this matter. Mr. Vos provided a plan of the area and advised that there was an Aboriginal grave behind this area.

Subsequent investigation from Mr. Vic Williams at Bagot would lead to believe that there are over 200 graves in this area.

Mr. Williams will show me the area concerned in the near future. What are we to do about this? It would seem a somewhat impossible task to exhume some 200 graves. Wherein lies the responsibility? Is it Local Government - Council, or ours?

I would like direction on this, please.

J.K. Doolan
J.K. DOOLAN
A/District Welfare Officer.

Registry

pls create new file "Aboriginal Graves in Coconut Grove area, Darwin" + R/S.



P.W. 3/9

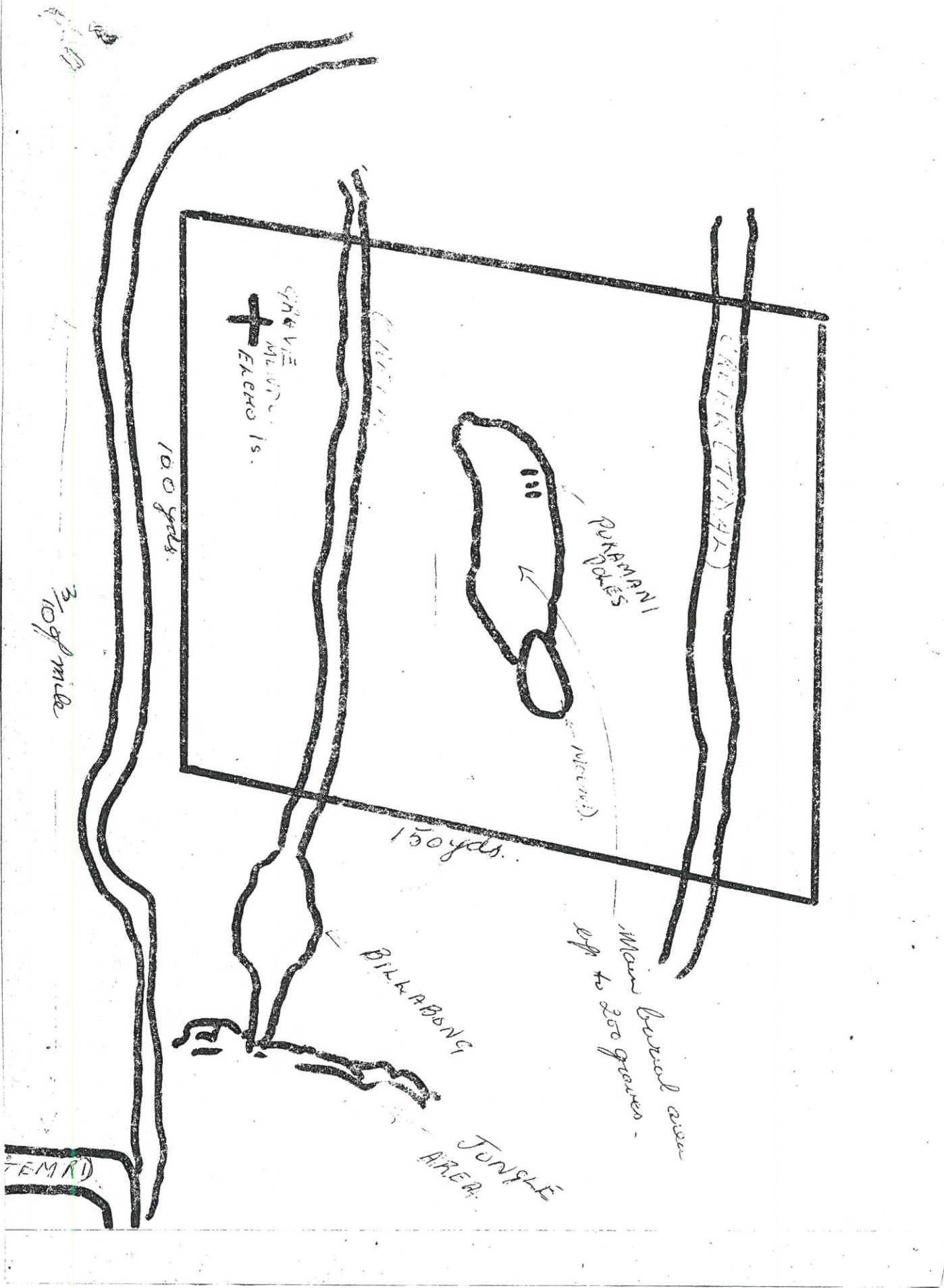
Mr. Doolan

Could I have the report by Mr Doolan where the most recent action re fencing etc is reported pls.

P.W. 3/10

H04

A02 area is now roughly fenced with a single strand barbedwire run between trees & pickets. H04 11.



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DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS
NORTHERN TERRITORY DIVISION

73/6578

DIRECTOR

PW 2

PW 3

8 October 1975

RE: ABORIGINAL GRAVES - OFF TOTEM ROAD

During his recent visit to Darwin, Mr Gareth Evans requested that I provide him with a rough map of the area near Bagot Settlement which was at one time used as an Aboriginal cemetery. *44/70*

2. The area is reached by turning left off Totem Road for a distance of about 3/10 of a mile. A sign has been erected here which indicates that the area is a cemetery, and a grave marked "KUNDU, Elcho Island" is clearly visible from the road.

3. Mr Victor Williams accompanied me and pointed out the area which has been drawn on the attached map. Mr Williams believes that there could be as many as two hundred people buried there. He also advised that there may be as many as ten or a dozen other graves between the area shown on the map and Bagot Reserve.

4. On 3 October, in company with Mr John Hewitt of Transport Planning Branch and officers of the Department of Works, the area was again visited. From plans supplied by the Department of Works, it would appear that the route of the Palmerston Freeway which comes in on the Drive-In side of Tropicus Nursery will give the cemetery a fairly clear berth, as it passes from the entry point towards the beach and runs along the sand dunes for some distance.

5. Works have agreed to transpose the rough sketch on to a map of the area and provide us with a copy.

6. Although the Palmerston Freeway will not cross the cemetery, it would be quite likely that earth-moving equipment or trucks used in building the road may disturb some part of it. It was suggested that we enclose it with a fence and this suggestion was endorsed by the people from Works who feel that this would at least give some indication to people employed on the road making project. Nothing elaborate is envisaged, and Mr Williams believes that a rough barbed-wire fence could be run around the area in half a day, as at the present time the hygiene squad is overstaffed and he would supervise operations. There is sufficient barbed wire and pickets available at Bagot to perform this work.

7. One other matter on which Mr Evans requested information concerns the people whose names are written on the side of one of the houses at Kalaluk and who are claimed to be Larrakia by the group. The following information has been gathered concerning the parentage of these people:-

.../2

1. Bobby Secretary
2. Prince NIPPUL (Prince of Wales)
3. TOPSY KURRANANUK
4. DOLLY GURINYI
5. TOPSY SECRETARY
6. HARRIET ABABA
7. GABRIEL SECRETARY
8. ~~DRABUL~~ (TOMMY LYONS)
9. BARRAL (NORMAN HARRIS)
10. OLGA LYONS
11. LENA
12. SELINA (THELMA)
13. PARAT
14. JOHNNY TEJO
15. CLANCY CAHILL
16. KATHY SECRETARY
17. CAPTAIN BISHOP
18. VICTOR WILLIAMS

M. Larrakia	F. Larrakia
M. Larrakia	F. Larrakia
M. Larrakia	F. Larrakia
M. Larrakia	F. Larrakia
M. Larrakia	F. Larrakia
M. Larrakia	F. Larrakia
M. Larrakia	F. Larrakia
M. Gangaraga	F. Larrakia
M. Malak-Malak	F. Larrakia
M. Wagait	F. $\frac{1}{2}$ Gangaraga $\frac{1}{2}$ Larrakia
M. Woolner	F. Tiwi
M. Woolner	F. Tiwi
M. Brinkin	F. Murin-Jabin
M. Larrakia	F. Wagait
M. $\frac{1}{2}$ Wagait	F. Woolner
$\frac{1}{2}$ European	
M. Larrakia	F. Tiwi
M. Woolner	F. Larrakia
M. $\frac{1}{2}$ Malay	F. European
$\frac{1}{2}$ Larrakia	

8. This would give a total of 7 people who are full Larrakia, 3 who could claim to be Larrakia through the maternal line, and 4 who could claim to be Larrakia through the paternal line. I am not clear as to whether or not the Larrakia would claim land ownership through matrilineal or patrilineal descendency, as there appears to be some doubt on this subject in modern anthropological thinking, and I believe that the people concerned would give an answer to the question which would best suit their claims. Four of the people named have no claims either paternally or maternally.

9. Arrangements have been made to fence off the cemetery area next week.

J. E. Doolan
(J. E. DOOLAN)
A/District Adviser.

NORTHERN TERRITORY DIVISION

73/6578



The Secretary,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

ABORIGINAL GRAVES - OFF TOTEM ROAD DARWIN N.T.

Attached for your information is a copy of a report on
the location of Aboriginal graves prepared by an Officer
of this Department and is supplied for your convenience.


for
Director

The Secretary,
Department of N.T.

The Director of Works,
Department of Works



114

REPORT: ABORIGINAL GRAVES - LOT 1070 ROAD DARRIN N.T.

Attached is a photocopy of a rough map of the area near Bagot which at one time was used as an Aboriginal cemetery.

2. The area is reached by turning left off Totem Road for a distance of about 3/10 of a mile. A sign has been erected here which indicates that the area is a cemetery, and a grave marked "MUNDU", Elcho Island" is clearly visible from the road.
 3. Mr Victor Williams of Department of Aboriginal Affairs at Bagot pointed out the area which has been drawn on the attached map. Mr Williams believes that there could be as many as two hundred people buried there. He also advised that there may be as many as ten or a dozen other graves between the area shown on the map and Bagot Reserve.
 4. On 3 October 1973 an officer of the Department, Mr J. Doonan in company with Mr John Hewitt of Transport Planning Branch and officers of the Department of Works, the area was again visited. From plans supplied by the Department of Works, it would appear that the route of the Palmerston Freeway which comes in on the Drive-In side of Tropicus Nursery will give the cemetery a fairly clear berth as it passes from the entry point towards the beach and runs along the sand dunes for some distance.
 5. Works have agreed to transcribe the rough sketch on to a map of the area and provide us with a copy.
 6. Although the Palmerston Freeway will not cross the cemetery, it would be quite likely that earth-moving equipment or trucks used in building the road may disturb some part of it. Arrangements were made for the cemetery area to be fenced to give some indication to people employed on the road making project the whereabouts of the cemetery.
-

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DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

N.T. DIVISION

9th November 1973

70/2081

agru
12/11
DIRECTOR

ABORIGINAL GRAVES - OFF TOTEM ROAD DARWIN

I refer to the various reports hereunder concerning the area near Totem Road which was formally used as a burial ground for Aboriginal residents at Bagot.

The Director, Transport Planning, Department of the Northern Territory has asked that this Department give official advice as to the need for protection and the nature of such protection that should be given this area.

In my view the area should be surveyed and reserved under the Crown Lands Ordinance either for cemetery purposes or historical purposes and that ~~Aboriginal trustees know that~~ selected Aboriginals at present resident at Bagot be appointed as trustees to protect the area. This, of course, will involve more soundly constructed fencing than the temporary measure at present taken.

If you agree with this approach I will prepare a memorandum to the Secretary, Department of the Northern Territory.



E.C. Evans

Principal Project Officer



70/2081

8th January, 1974

The Secretary,
Department of the Northern Territory,
DARWIN

ABORIGINAL GRAVES - OFF TOTEM ROAD, DARWIN

On the 16th October, 1973 a copy of a report on the Aboriginal graves off Totem Road was forwarded to you for information.

In that report it was indicated that although the Palmerston Freeway will not cross the old cemetery, it would be quite likely that earth moving equipment or trucks used in building the road may disturb some part of it. As a protection against this eventuality, a temporary fence has been erected around the area as an indication to contractors and employees on the roadmaking project the whereabouts of the cemetery.

It is now considered that more permanent protection should be given this area. On reliable information it is believed that there could be as many as 200 Aboriginals buried in the area which up until about 1954 was used as a cemetery for Aboriginals who died and who were former residents of Bagot and Darwin generally.

However, no accurate figures are available, nor is the location of individual graves or the names of those occupying them available.

Although the site could not be described as having any religious significance to living Aboriginals, it nevertheless has a valid sentimental attachment to Aboriginals at present living in Bagot and Darwin and for this reason, it is considered the area should be given some official status and protection.

It is accordingly suggested that the area should be surveyed and reserved under the Crown Lands Ordinance, either for cemetery purposes or historical purposes and that when this action has been taken, selected Aboriginals at present resident at ~~the~~ Bagot be appointed as Trustees to protect the area.

It is envisaged that when these appointments have been made, the Trustees would apply to an appropriate fund for money to enable them to construct an adequate fence around the area to give it the kind of protection that the area warrants.

I would be pleased to receive your reaction to this proposal.


(T.C. LOVEGROVE)
For Director

70/2081



The Secretary,
Department of the Northern Territory,
Mitchell Street,
DARWIN, Northern Territory, 5790

ABORIGINAL GRAVES - OFF TOTEM ROAD, DARWIN.

I refer to my letter dated 8 January 1974, reference 70/2081.

I should be pleased to receive your ^{u-}action to the proposal outlined
in that letter.


T. C. Lovegrove
Director

WJG/RMR

20th February, 1974.

GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA

L.2931

SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORYP.O. BOX 231.
DARWIN, N.T. 5794.

15 FEB 1974

Director,
Northern Territory Division,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
P.O. Box 5025,
DARWIN. N.T. 5794.

ABORIGINAL GRAVES - TOTEM ROAD

I refer to your memorandum 70/2081 of 9 January, 1974 concerning the reservation of an area at Totem Road for a cemetery or historic purposes to be entrusted to a group at Bagot Reserve.

... 2. The attached plan shows the position of the fenced area roughly and the process of reservation will include -


- (i) survey
- (ii) road closure
- (iii) change of zoning
- (iv) reservation action
- (v) checking implications of Cemeteries Ordinance
- (vi) appointment of Trustees

3. As you are aware, the Gwalwa Daraniki land rights claim is being considered by Justice Woodward and Mr. Gareth Evan suggests the extent of this claim in his report which includes this area. This Department is at present in the process of negotiations with Sabrina Holdings to secure the deferment of the use of some of their land and it is felt that any public exhibition of the cemetery proposal as is necessary for the road closure and zoning change actions mentioned above may well cause friction with the Larrakia group in respect of their land claim yet to be resolved.

4. It is felt that you wish the fenced area only to be surveyed and protected. The reservation of itself would provide little more protection physically than the fencing provides and if processed at this stage may tend to exacerbate a situation which is already delicate enough at this stage of negotiation of some of the issues.


5. For this reason, I am loathe to proceed with these series of actions at this stage, but would be willing to further examine this process when the Gwalwa Daraniki land claim and the Kulaluk issue are resolved.

6. In the interim, if you will confirm that you wish the fenced area only surveyed, I will examine what preliminary survey work can be carried out.


(T.A. O'Brien),
SECRETARY.

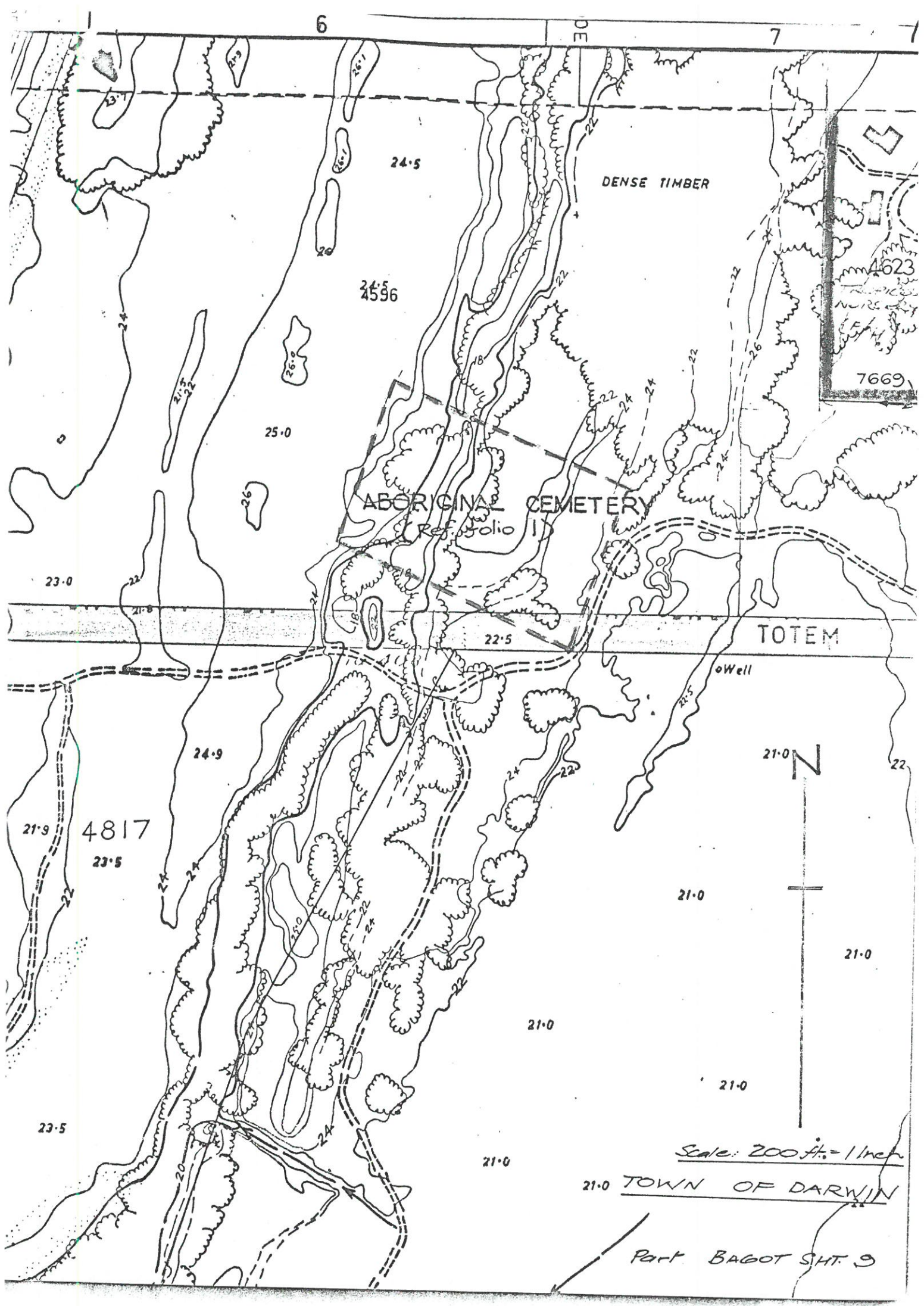
Mr Evans
(Asst)

I am inclined to agree that any action of a permanent nature will have to await the outcome of the Woodward report. If the survey is to be done prior to the release of the Woodward recommendations, I think we would be bound to at least advise the Gwalwa Daraniki of our intention lest we be accused of 'interfering' with their land claim. I believe that all action should be held until such time as the land claim issue has been dealt with by Justice Woodward.


J. G. 9/4.
Adm.

Director

The burial area is a fact and without doubt, whoever ends up with the land, they will not be able to nor care to alter the fact — digging up the remains of 200 or so human beings would cause the quietest developer to hesitate. Therefore I see no reason why survey (which takes such a long time) should not proceed — with the concurrence of the Gwalwa Daraniki, bearing in mind that everyone will eventually want to know where the perimeter is. All Adm 15774



ABAUS AA85262
ABAUS AA62471
TLX AA 1591 8.32 1/4/74 MI

FOR EVANS
FROM LONG

PALMERSTON FREEWAY

MINISTER HAS RECEIVED REPRESENTATIONS FROM CONVENOR OF "PEOPLE AGAINST THE PALMERSTON FREEWAY". POLICY STATEMENT INCLUDES THESE COMMENTS ON ABORIGINAL ASPECTS:

THE ROUTE INTERFERES WITH SITES OF ABORIGINAL SIGNIFICANCE. THE PLANNED FREEWAY TRAVERSES AN ABORIGINAL LAND CLAIM. THIS CLAIM IS UNDER NEGOTIATION WITH THE LAND RIGHTS COMMISSION IN MELBOURNE WITH THE AIM OF REINSTATING BAGOT RESERVE TO ITS ORIGINAL AREA OF 727 ACRES, NAMELY FROM BAGOT ROAD WESTWARD TO LUDMILLA CREEK AND THE COASTLINE.

THE ROUTE ALSO CUTS ACROSS THE KULALUK LAND CLAIM WHICH CONTAINS CEREMONIAL BURIAL GROUNDS AND IS OF CONSIDERABLE CONSEQUENCE TO ABORIGINES OF THE LARRAKIA TRIBE.

PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENTS FOR PREPARATION OF MINISTER'S REPLY.

ENDS TKS

8.40^{PM}

ABAUS AA85262

M

GA
62471
ABAUS AA62471
ABAUS AA85262

NO 643 4.10PM 5.4.74 KG

TO ABAUS CANBERRA
FROM ABAUS DARWIN

FOR LONG
FROM DARWIN

FILE NO: 70/2081

REFERENCE YOUR TELEX OF 1.4.74 RE PALMERSTON FREEWAY.

THE ROUTE OF THE ~~R-EEE~~ FREEWAY DOES NOT ~~INTERFER~~ ~~EEE~~ INTERFERE WITH THE ABORIGINAL BURIAL GROUND WHICH AS YOU KNOW WAS IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF THE FORMER BAGOT RESERVE AT THE WESTERN END OF TOTEM ROAD. THERE IS NO OTHER KNOWN ABORIGINAL BURIAL GROUND AFFECTED BY THE PALMERSTON ROUTE, NOR ANY SITES OF OTHER SIGNIFICANCE TO ABORIGINES. THE ~~W-EEE~~ GWALWA DARANIKI HAVE OVER THE PAST 3/4 YEARS MADE CLAIMS FOR LAND IN THE AREA WHICH HAS VARIED FROM A SMALL AREA AROUND KULUKU WATER-HOLE TO THE TOTAL AREA FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY BAGOT RESERVE EXTENDING TO KULULUK. THEY HAVE IGNORED THE NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL IN ITS EFFORTS TO MAKE A SUBMISSION TO MR. JUSTICE WOODWARD AND YOU WILL NOTE FROM THE REPORT OF THE NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL THAT THE REFERENCE TO URBAN IN DARWIN ARE ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS AND THAT NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE LARAKIA CLAIMS. HOWEVER, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THEY HAVE MADE REPRESENTATION TO THE WOODWARD COMMISSION DESPITE THEIR PUBLISHED STATEMENTS OF SOME MONTHS AGO THAT THEY INTENDED TO IGNORE MR. WOODWARD. I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THEIR ² DATED THE 13 TH JANUARY ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY SEEKING A GRANT FOR THE SALARY OF THEIR SECRETARY AND IN WHICH THEY STATED THAT ONE OF THE SECRETARY'S DUTIES WAS TO PREPARE A SUBMISSION TO JUSTICE WOODWARD. IN VIEW OF THIS IT IS DIFFICULT TO BE CATEGORICAL IN STATING WHETHER ~~NOE~~ OR NOT A FREEWAY IMPINGES UPON THE CLAIMS OF THE LARAKIA PEOPLE AND THIS I FEEL WILL ONLY BE KNOWN WHEN THE FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF JUSTICE WOODWARD ARE ~~KNOW~~ ~~EEE~~ KNOWN.

ENDS

NORTHERN TERRITORY
ANGURUGU
DARWIN
NUMBU
OENPELLI
ROPER RIVER
UMBAKUMBA

ABORIGINES COMMITTEE

70/2081 PN 3 20/2
7.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT: THE MOST REVEREND
THE ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

ANGURUGU FREE BAG
VIA DARWIN N.T. 5791
TELEGRAMS ANGURUGU O.P.R.
DARWIN

14th April, 1972.

The Director of Lands Board,
Northern Territory Administration,
DARWIN. N.T. 5790.

Dear Sir,

At our recent Station Council meeting the matter of leases over Aboriginal cemeteries was discussed. The Council recommended that we seek advice as to whose responsibility it would be to ask for such a lease, and be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery.

I would be pleased if you could advise us on this matter.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

James A. Taylor

Reverend James A. Taylor,
Superintendent.

