

Pukamani Site on Kulaluk Lease, Totem Road Darwin

Reply From

TIWI LAND COUNCIL

P.O. Box 38545

Winnellie

NT 0821

Dr. William Day,
P.O. Box 425.
MAYLANDS W.A. 6931.

Dear Dr. Day,

Thank you for the detail you have provided to Mr. Jack Phillips supporting allegations of destruction of “sacred sites and the alienation of aboriginal land” and your urging of the Tiwi Land Council to seek legal remedies and investigation of sacred sites on land vested in the legal ownership of Kalaluk and the Larrakia peoples.

These matters were tabled at our meeting 309 of 7th September last. The Land Council has been aware of these allegations in the past and is itself unable to assert any “sacredness” of these purported sites; certainly not to the standard of proof required. Nor does the existence of these sites occupy the living memory of any of our current members other than slight recollections of decorative poles established in this area during the Rita Dixon Home era.

The Land Council has also referred the matter to Larrakia organisations and has today had further discussions with principals of these organisations. Your concerns are respected, however, the Tiwi Land Council cannot assert any property interest on land it does not have title to; and is unable to demonstrate any cultural, heritage, educational or environmental loss at these locations inspite of Dr. Ritchie`s assertions. Dr. Ritchie also suggests the Gwala Daraniki Association as owners and custodians are the appropriate authority to consider decisions in this matter. That is also the view of the Tiwi Land Council.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Tipungwuti.
Chairman.

12th September 2011.

c.c. Bill Risk,

Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation. P.O. Box 1098. Nightcliff. NT. 0814.