

mismanagement of the ecologically diverse urban bushland on both sides of Dick Ward Drive.

The Editor
NT News
GPO Box 1300
Darwin NT 0801
Dear Sir

Residents of Ludmilla are concerned by the mismanagement of the ecologically diverse urban bushland on both sides of Dick Ward Drive. Last year part of the land was rezoned for light industry and Gwelo Investments have a caveat over the seaward side. As aptly stated by the NT News, "Don't ruin our unique city" (Editorial, October 31). Ludmilla residents want to know how it is that land set aside in 1979 for community use can be held by an incorporated association whose constitution requires a membership of "no less than five ... of which half must be Aboriginal"? As Bill Day writes (Letters 31 October), there are few safeguards in regulations more suited to for a darts club, rather than a body holding 301ha of community land.

Originally the land was to be held in trust by the Northern Land Council under the Land Rights Act, but after that act excluded land in towns, a defunct association was revived to be the holder of the Special Purpose Lease. The constitution of that association has been amended several times since, further defining qualifications for membership to exclude most Larrakia and other interested people. Surely it is time to set up a fully representative Trust to hold the land as a wilderness, heritage, education and culture park in the interests of the environment, the Larrakia people and all of Darwin.

Yours sincerely

Concerned Ludmilla Residents

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