

Darwin Harbour Alliance.

Environment Centre NT- PLAN: the Planning Action Network-Amateur Fishermen's Association NT-Larrakia Nation- Lord Mayor of Darwin-Litchfield Shire President.

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Maps show Mangroves, Fish, Culture and Lifestyle doomed in Government plans for Darwin Harbour.

A broad alliance of community groups today demanded that the Chief Minister scrap extreme plans to destroy mangroves and dam harbour rivers and called for a conservation/cultural/recreational reserve for Darwin and Bynoe Harbours. The groups revealed recent government maps showing plans for wide-scale mangrove destruction including damming of most harbour rivers, massive clearing for development around the harbour edge and complete destruction of the Woods Inlet environment by a mega-marina development.

“This has the potential to completely ruin the number one recreational fishing area in the entire Northern Territory. We want these plans scrapped and we want the Chief Minister to take on community views about harbour protection.” said John Harrison Executive Officer of the Amateur Fishermen's Association

“I want to hear what Denis Burke has to say for himself on this. The fact that they are still secretly promoting these plans shows that the government has been deliberately misleading people when they say they will protect the harbour. No wonder they won't let the community have a say in the Planning Act.” said Darwin Lord Mayor George Brown

“We've been calling for harbour protection for 15 years and the NT Government keep telling us not to worry. These maps show however that the Government seems to want to ruin the harbour and mangrove environments. The Government has a lot to learn about ecologically sustainable development” said Mark Wakeham Coordinator of the NT Environment Centre.

“Larrakia have major concerns that we haven't been consulted over the future of the harbour. We don't want to lose any more of our cultural heritage and are opposed to the damming of any of the Harbour's watercourses. Numerous registered sacred sites exist in the area and are threatened by this proposal. If the Government continues to develop and destroy all our natural environments, the Larrakia and everyone will suffer” said Bill Risk of the Larrakia Nation.

“After seeing these plans I feel the community has been treated with contempt for a very long time over Darwin Harbour by the government. These plans are exploitative and highly destructive to the Darwin Harbour environment which makes our lifestyle so different and special. It's a totally unbalanced vision and has been handled in a secretive, deceitful manner said Margaret Clinch of PLAN.

“The government only seems to care about property developers and big business and its really getting out of control. These maps prove that beyond a doubt. There’s no reason at all why Darwin can’t develop away from the harbour edge without the massive destruction involved in this plan. We don’t need these dams, we don’t need mega-marina developments and we don’t need 1960’s planning.” said Gerry Wood Litchfield Shire President.

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