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Sent: Tuesday, 2 November 2021 6:15 PM

To: ntepa epa <ntepa.epa@nt.gov.au>

Subject: Submission regarding Little Mindil

My name is Brenda Ford. I have lived at my home in Kellaway St Fannie Bay for forty five years, and I have raised my now adult children here. We spent many hours walking, admiring sea shells, and picnicking at Little Mindil. Sometimes we swam there, and my children paddled there in the Dry .

I am now a grandmother, and I have the pleasure of taking my grandchild to the beach at Little Mindil. We are less likely to swim there now that there are stories of salt water crocodiles being sited close by, but we still enjoy walking to the area. eating sandwiches on the beach and watching the sun set. Little Mindil Beach and its imm41

is a valuable and irreplaceable asset to our community. It should be part of our children's live, and our grandchildren should be able to enjoy the beach just as their grandparents and parents have enjoyed it. It certainly should not be taken away from them without a careful and rigorous process of consultation with the community which stands to lose an irreplaceable asset and the opportunities to enjoy it. I also notice that there is no provision for public parking to facilitate public access to the seashore. This is a direct contradiction of the previous government's promise of public accessibility to shared areas – including provision for public parking. There parking provided for the hotel's anticipated guests seems to be less than adequate.

I am saddened at the lack of community consultation involved in the process of attempted re-allocation of this area to private developers. There has been little time available for the community to become fully aware of the proposal and its implications for the future of our beach, and to make a fully informed response. I have only recently learned the area was rezoned. There was no notification to the community that this rezoning was to be put into place and consultation with the community before this done. Apparently, the area is now available for development – whether the community wants this or not.

The proposed hotel is to be built in the storm surge zone – which seems remarkably irresponsible. In the event of a storm surge there may be greater than anticipated forces which put people and property at risk. I cannot but wonder if the building would be insurable? Is there a possibility that Darwin would be left with a damaged building not worth the cost of repairs? I also note that the green belt would be destroyed in this area should the proposed building go ahead. This does not seem to sit well with the policy of greening (and cooling) our city. It also seems at odds with the advertised appeal of Darin – it is publicised as a relaxed

and naturally beautiful place where tourists can enjoy closer contact with nature and their unspoiled surroundings.

A further point to be considered is – do we want or need another high-rise hotel for tourists? The ones we have now are not exactly filled. Despite an encouraging number of tourists from elsewhere in Australia, the Crown Hotel and others have ample vacancies even during the height of the tourist season. The proposed building will be highly visible, and it will permanently alter the view from the heritage area and other locations. Not for the better -it will lead to what many may see as a sort of visual pollution.

There are many other considerations that weigh against the proposal for this hotel. I hope that it will not be allowed to proceed. The potential damage to the escarpment, the loss of a major and very much loved area – plus what has every appearance of being a disregard for adequate community consultation – make this a project which may well do more harm than good to our city.

Brenda Ford

Psychologist MAPS