

Submission to the EPA re Proposal to build on Little Mindil site

I am writing this submission as a Territorian in his late 70s who has lived, worked and raised a family in Darwin for over 50 years and now helping to raise grandchildren.

During this period, I have had the pleasure of watching Darwin grow into the vibrant City that it is whilst having time to enjoy its laid-back relaxed lifestyle. My family and friends have all participated and enjoyed what the NT offers residents and visitors alike having played sports, fished, camped and enjoyed the beach and waterways. We all over the years have used the Little Mindil beach at will for fishing, swimming and relaxing and trust that this city beach is still available for future generations. This is why I am against the building of this huge resort which does not belong in this precious space and is not in keeping with the Darwin environment. It would appear to be more suited to Vietnam or maybe the Gold Coast, but even the Gold Coast would not now allow building of such height to build right on our foreshore, especially given our tropical weather and now recognised global warming effects.

Specifically, my concerns are

The proponent has failed to provide the community consultation required by NTEPA. Note EP Act Section 43 There is inadequate time in the NTEPA process for the community to respond with any understanding of the project.

There was a rezone that the public knew nothing about after the NTG was consulted by the applicant.

There was a covenant in place over the open space which was removed last year with no notification or consultation to the community. The extinguishment was made by a public servant without any external consultation.

Ten years ago, it was declared not possible to put a road from the Gilruth Avenue hill into Little Mindil, but this proposal depends on such a road.

The ground is heavily polluted with seawater and many years of dumped materials in the ground.

Noise levels will increase significantly, but the submission does not address noise mitigation adequately and the creek is not depicted on any drawings near the proposed roadworks. At the same time the escarpment may well be affected by road construction and the undergrounding of the power lines at the escarpment base.

The development seeks reduced setbacks at the escarpment and Gilruth Avenue and there is no public parking to facilitate the guaranteed public access to the foreshore. There is also inadequate parking for the number of units proposed.

The drawings supplied are not to scale and some drawings contain two scales. A1 sized drawings should be available to all interested parties.

The buildings are three storeys above the height of the escarpment blocking views from the Heritage Precinct as well as residents of Burnett Place, Myilly Point and Houston St. There has never been any plans which go beyond the height of the escarpment

The Green belt which the Gunner Government has introduced from the Esplanade to the Trailer East Point via Mindil Beach will be destroyed as this development will significantly interrupt it, and the buildings do not contribute in any way to the amenity of the whole area.

I hope that the NT EPA will take this submission into account and question the utility of this proposal and in the end protect our environment by not allowing the proposal to proceed

Frank May here
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Parap NT