

As a Darwin resident I wish to express my objection to the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct proposal. I believe that:

- there is no evidence that this precinct will be 'sustainable' as the title (Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct) misleadingly implies.
- not enough safeguards have been included in this proposal to ensure that it will be a useful contribution to the NT for the proposed 50 year timeframe.
- the proponents talk up the benefits of the previous INPEX development; however I have never seen any report that actually outlines what those benefits are. Apart from short term financial gain for FIFO workers, I do not believe there have been long term gains for the residents of the NT.
- research has, however, found that to 'grow' the territory we need to focus on families and jobs for women. There is absolutely no evidence that this proposal will do that.
- there are, however, likely to be serious and substantial negative social and environmental consequences from this proposal which is so close to the residential area of Palmerston and Darwin.
- a petrochemical plant and other industries should not be located close to residential areas, nor in areas which are environmentally sensitive and important.
- Middle Arm is within an important marine area and adjoins many hectares of wetlands and other lands. These will all be at risk once petrochemical and other industrial plants are introduced. The NT Government states that the nearby Charles Darwin Nature Reserve 'protects part of the Port Darwin wetland, one of Australia's most significant wetlands'. It is absurd to put all this significant marine, wetland and natural environment at risk.
- the idea that the 'Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct' once approved will then be able to allow industries to develop with little or no environmental assessments is dangerous and downright absurd. The lack of transparency in this process and the lack of real protocols and processes going forward is not acceptable.
- there is absolutely no indication that traditional owners and local Indigenous groups have been consulted in any meaningful way.
- nor is there any indication of 'futureproofing' this area for our children and their children's children. The fact that the existing INPEX gas will run out soon is a good example of how short term and destructive these types of development are.

I would support something which helps the NT, providing jobs and a future for our children, but this is not going to do that. In fact it will do quite the opposite. Please do not allow something as short term and dangerous as this to go ahead. Protect the environment, don't destroy it.

I request that my submission be published with my identifying information removed