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Government Doesn’t Support Arafura Proposal

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said today the Northern Territory Government had indicated it would not support the Arafura Harbour proposal at East Point.

Mr Henderson said he had told the proponents that the Government had major concerns about a number of aspects of the proposal.

“I’ve explained to the proponents after careful consideration, we can’t support the proposal,” Mr Henderson said.

The Government had the following concerns:

- the proposal is contingent on the Government being prepared to release Crown land in the area and it is not prepared to do so;
- East Point is an iconic area in Darwin and the proposal would require rezoning of significant amounts of land classified as conservation and open space, which the Government doesn’t support;
- the proposal would require the Government to move the Ludmilla Sewerage Treatment Plant and this is not its intended course of action during the next 10 years;
- the scope and scale of the project raises environmental, ecological and heritage issues of the area; and
- the proposal has attracted overwhelming community opposition, with particularly strong opposition coming from residents in the areas immediately surrounding the proposed site.

Media contact: Geoff Fraser 0407 360 256