David Tollner
Minister for Lands and Planning

Gwalwa Daraniki Association secures economic future at Kulaluk

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The Minister for Lands and Planning David Tollner has removed the last impediment to the Gwalwa Daraniki Association (GDA) securing their economic future by declining to declare the Kulaluk lease area as a heritage place.

Last year, the Northern Territory Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gwalwa Daraniki Association (GDA) to unlock the economic potential of its land between Ludmilla and Coconut Grove.

"The Kulaluk lease was granted on terms that contemplated future development, and not on the basis that the land would be kept in its state as at the time of the grant," Mr Tollner said.

"The most effective way we can honour the importance of this lease is by allowing the GDA to determine how their lands will be developed.

"A heritage listing would prevent future development and would not protect any historical association with the Aboriginal land rights movement.

"It would have the opposite effect by restricting GDA’s ability to use and benefit from the land by using it for the lease purpose that it was originally granted."

It has been claimed that the Kulaluk lease area symbolises the first land grant made to the ‘Larrakia people’, however this is not correct.

The grant was made to the GDA as an incorporated association representing certain members of the Larrakia people not the ‘Larrakia people’ in general.

“Efforts to zone areas for development at Kulaluk must comply with conserving and protecting the flora, fauna and character of natural areas,” Mr Tollner said.

“All Aboriginal grave sites and all sacred sites remain protected under the terms of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act.”

Most of the Kulaluk lease will stay as conservation land, but plans have already been approved to develop a retail precinct and medical centre on land between Dick Ward Drive and Bagot Road.
“For too long governments have been reluctant to hand Indigenous people full control of their own lands,” Mr Tollner said.

“The Country Liberals Government believes it’s time we allowed Territorians to take responsibility for their own futures.

“The GDA will now have the chance to break the cycle of welfare dependency and provide more income and jobs for the community of Kulaluk and Minmarama.”

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