HARBOUR PLANNING PUTSCH

News that the Martin Government has excised Middle Arm from the planning control of the Development Consent Authority augurs badly for future development in Darwin Harbour.

Yesterday the Chief Minister announced future heavy industry would be located in Darwin Harbour, today we learn that will happen without scrutiny from the DCA.

“Now, at the stroke of a Government Minister’s pen, any sort of heavy industry deemed acceptable by that very same Government will get the green light with no further scrutiny and no public input,” says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.

“Locating heavy industry in the middle of the Harbour belongs to the 19th century, not the 21st.

“Now the Martin Government has chosen planning processes reminiscent of the age of Queen Victoria.

“This arrogant disregard of proper planning procedure is in direct contradiction of what the Chief Minister had to say about development in the Harbour when she was Leader of the Opposition.

“In 2001 in response to proposals for a LNG plant at Middle Arm, Clare Martin called for community talks on the proposed development.

“Now not even the DCA figures in Clare Martin’s decision making process.

“The CLP actively supports the development of an industrial base for Darwin.

“But we are convinced the Harbour is the jewel in Darwin’s crown and locating heavy industry smack bang in the middle of it will badly tarnish it.”

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