BELOW: Copy of a letter to Chief Minister of NT from Graham Kirby dated 13-01-2020

Re Kulaluk lease.

Attached an article by Jason Walls NT News Fri 10 Jan raises more questions than it answers.

The redoubtable GDA ‘consultant secretary’ Stephen Doherty has been working overtime instilling GDA’s shambolic association with a ‘new spirit of cooperation’ with an opportunity for Green Groups, The Larrakia Nation and other interest groups, ‘and so forth ’to help with the maintenance of the lease.

We can all share the bankruptcy of this dysfunctional organisation.

And if not, ‘back up’ plans by Mr Doherty will confidently address GDA’s financial woes. Including selling land to developers (they have already leased and sub leased useable areas of the lease) and taking court action over disputed debt.

There seems to be no shortage of funds for legal challenges in GDA’s accounts.

To put it in Northern Territory vernacular, “This mob are having a lend of us”, the NT tax payer, and have been for as long as anyone can remember.

I fully understand the sensitivity of this issue and the complex needs of itinerants which explains why it has not been addresses by successive governments. However, I believe now is the time to comprehensively address the issue of the management of the Kulaluk Lease not with a temporary political fix but a long-term sustainable plan.

If we miss this opportunity, it will fester unresolved at enormous expense into the future.

Does the Chief Minister’s Dept have such a sustainable plan?

Will the government yield to the threats of Mr Doherty?

How is the gamba grass management plan for the lease progressing?

Please acknowledge this email

Regards Graham Kirby.

Tel: 89854707

Below: A copy of a letter to NT News from Bill Day dated 14-01-2020

The Editor NT News

Dear Sir

Once again secret negotiations between the NT Government and the Gwalwa Daraniki Association Inc (GDA) have been exposed by the NT News (“Radical fix for debt”, January 10). Jason Walls writes that the GDA is offering to sell part of their 301ha suburban Kulaluk lease to the government to clear a $1.2million Power and Water debt and another parcel of land to alleviate a running annual deficit of $200,000 to $250,000. Meanwhile the non-profit association is under investigation by Licensing NT for failing to submit annual financial statements.

A person describing himself as the association’s “consultant secretary” has the audacity to further threaten that if the government rejects the idea, back-up plans include “selling the land to developers”. So what’s new on a community lease divided by 99-year subleases, caveats and undisclosed “arrangements”?

Naturally the Lord Mayor, Kon Vatskalis is in favour of plans to dump homeless itinerants into the swamps of Kulaluk, out of sight, out of mind, but what is shocking is the admission by the Chief Minister’s Department that the debt-saving land swap is “still under consideration”. Shades of Giles and Tollner’s previous “Memorandum of Understanding” between the Kulaluk leaseholders and the NT Government.

This ongoing farce that includes many players makes a mockery of the legacy of the Interim Land Commissioner Dick Ward and the heroes of the land rights struggle.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bill Day

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