

The Honourable Paul Henderson  
Chief Minister  
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CC: Concerned Territorians

Dear Paul,

PLan congratulates you on achieving the highest position possible in Territory politics. Our hopes are riding on an invigoration of government and community working together to fulfil the promises of government to the population.

There have been some recent actions by your government which are of concern to PPlan members and the wider community. We urge you to consider the following and the part that the community of the Territory might have in enabling a safe, healthy, prosperous and well laid out community fabric.

Recent commentary on the Council amalgamations has brought to the fore PPlan's long term belief that senior bureaucracy may be doing no favours to your (or previous) ministries' by isolating them from the real concerns of those who seek to be represented by parliamentary members.

The industrialisation of Middle Arm has been seen as a seriously bad idea by many Australians for a long time. During the height of the Wickham Point protests the then Labour government made commitments, and while expecting political commitments to have resolve may be a little foolhardy in today's environment, PPlan feels there is a place in taking to task those who promise and then fail to deliver.

Specifically "The gas tank will not be seen from this side of the harbour", well we can smile about that one I guess, multinational industrial companies have a responsibility to shareholders, what ever is required will be done.

The other has a far more long term consequence, the Labour government modified the planning scheme of the Northern Territory by inserting clause 9.1.2 which states "The purpose of this clause is to limit the nature of industrial development on Middle Arm Peninsula"

This clause, in effect, wiped out the use of Middle Arm for petro-chemical related industries, PPlan are certain that the public took this as meaning that we would were being looked after, our health and harbour had a value beyond exploitation.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007 the current Planning Minister reneged on this pact with the public by signing off on the deletion of Clause 9.1.2. Whilst all mandated steps were taking in this action we are appalled at this step which will place your government and elected members in a position of clear conflict with the voting population without any committed community consultation.

We urge you to reinstate this clause in it's entirety.

The previous Chief Minister had a project which would place a Defence of Darwin Museum in the government precinct. The author of this letter can never understand why anyone thinks removing

any public open space in our CBD is a good idea after the last five years of planning fiasco, but that is an aside.

The main point here is that after extensive surveying PPlan have been able to find twenty six people who consider the central business district a good place to place a Defence of Darwin Museum and one thousand, six hundred and ninety eight people who consider East Point a good place for a Defence of Darwin Museum. We have prepared a copy of this research and would appreciate the opportunity of delivering this information at time and place that suits.

Finally, while not in PPlan's bailiwick, Container Deposit Legislation would certainly be a good thing. If it could be brought to fruition in the current governments term we are sure it would go along way to raising the confidence level of this governments commitment to enabling a safe, healthy, prosperous and well laid out community fabric.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Kirlew  
Convener  
PPlan: the Planning Action Network Inc.