

Committee: Estates
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Signed: [Signature]



**Aboriginal Areas
Protection Authority**
protecting sacred sites across the territory

Our Ref: 2013/983, 21035726

Michael Wells
Director Heritage Branch
Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
GPO Box 1680
Darwin NT 0801

Dear Michael

**RE: ABORIGINAL BURIAL GROUND IN VICINITY OF TOTEM ROAD, KULALUK SPECIAL
PURPOSE LEASE**

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) have recently issued an Authority Certificate to (C2014/011) to Dragon Lady Pty Ltd, c/ Plan It Consulting Pty Ltd relating to a proposal to rezone land use from Conservation to Light Industrial on part of lots 8630 and 5182, located on the western side of Dick Ward Drive, directly opposite Totem Road in Coconut Grove.

During the course of consultations with Larrakia custodians the historical use of the area as a large burial ground was revealed, containing the remains of up to 200 individuals. Archival materials further support this proposition. These materials suggest that there are several areas within and around this location where Aboriginal burial grounds exist. The archival materials and discussions with Aboriginal custodians are unable to confirm the exact location of burials. In addition the ongoing and more contemporary use of the area for burials is demonstrated by the fenced Kulalak cemetery located to the immediate west of area proposed for rezoning.

As discussed with Dianne Bensley of your office at a meeting here at AAPA on 14 January 2014, AAPA personnel have undertaken to inform the proponent of their obligations under the *Heritage Act*. At this meeting it was also agreed that AAPA would provide the Heritage Branch with a summary of the archival materials and primary documents identified in the course of research relating to the burial grounds. This material is attached to this letter for your information.

Should you wish to discuss this matter any further, please contact Gareth Lewis on (08) 89994337.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ben Scambary
Chief Executive Officer

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