



Petition

Registration No.	25
Title	Historic town of Southport infrastructure
Presented on	27 November 2013
Presented by	Mr Higgins (Member for Daly)
Referred to	Minister for Lands, Planning and Infrastructure (Hon. Peter Chandler)
Date referred	27 November 2013
Response due	19 March 2014
Response received	30 January 2014
Response to be presented	11 February 2014

Petition

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

That the historic town of Southport be provided with town infrastructure to reflect its rapid growth due to the sale and development of the many untraceable owner blocks.

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WE PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

- 1. That money being held in trust from the sales of the untraceable owner blocks be set aside and used for infrastructure development within the town of Southport.**
- 2. That a Southport development committee be established with representatives from Litchfield Council, NT planning Authority and Southport Progress Association to consult and advise on development priorities.**

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY

Response

The petition is in two parts and relates firstly to funding from land auctions for untraceable land owners and secondly requests the formation of a development committee for consultation and advice on development priorities.

Pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, the Litchfield Council (the Council) recovers unpaid rates from absentee land owners by lodging an Overriding Statutory Charge on the land title. If extensive efforts to locate the land owners or next of kin are unsuccessful, the Council then exercises its powers under the *Local Government Act* and proceeds to auction the land. Revenue from the auction is used to recover its costs and other Statutory Charges (such as Bushfires NT for firebreaks, and Power and Water Corporation for electricity). Any funding remaining is deposited with the Public Trustee and cannot be "re-invested" by either the Council or the Territory to upgrade infrastructure for the Southport community.

Future infrastructure works for the locality will be delivered in accordance with current Government strategic land use planning and land release objectives.

The Northern Territory Government established an independent NT Planning Commission on 1 January 2013 to drive strategic land use planning and guide the Territory's long-term growth. The Commission's primary role is to prepare strategic plans, guidelines and assessment criteria for inclusion in the NT Planning Scheme.

On 17 December 2013, the NT Planning Commission released a document 'Towards a Darwin Regional Land Use Plan' that sets the framework for facilitating growth in the region. The plan covers the sub-regions of Darwin, Palmerston, Litchfield, East Arm, Cox Peninsula, Finnis and Coomalie and will be on exhibition until 10 March 2014.

The Land Use Plan visually identifies proposed land uses within the Darwin region. New growth areas, including inner urban and rural activity centres, will be identified for their potential to support future land needs.

Copies of the Plan have been distributed to both the Litchfield Council and the Southport Progress Association as stakeholders to participate in this consultation process. The petitioners are invited to provide input into this important piece of work to shape the strategic land use planning for the Darwin region.

I consider that the work by the Commission and the Development Consent Authority provides adequate public consultation process for the future development of the Town of Southport. Additionally, I am further advised that my Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment is currently undertaking a review of infrastructure in the Berry Springs District Centre. This review will inform Government on matters for the future development of the Town of Southport.