
From: Sue Bradley
Sent: Friday, 6 November 2015 9:54 AM
To: Public Accounts Committee LA; lcomm@nt.com.au
Cc: 'Hugh Bradley'
Subject: SUBMISSION RE RICHARDSON PARK

GPO Box 2301

Darwin NT 0801

6th November 2015

The Secretary

Public Accounts Committee

PO Box 3721

Darwin NT 0801

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory Public Accounts Committee

Inquiry into funding Rugby League facilities in Darwin

When expenditure is planned the returns are generally maximized. We all know that impulse spending is a sure barrier to the accumulation of planned assets.

When environments are properly planned people who use them know what to expect. When there is spot rezoning and developments inconsistent with Area Plans people become agitated. This response has become very evident in Darwin in recent times.

The proposed expenditure of \$20,000,000 at Richardson Park appears to be an example of both impulse spending **and** poor planning.

The 2012 proposal to relocate the NT Rugby League from Richardson Park to Warren Park at Marrara was an example of good forward planning. Marrara had been identified as a sports hub for Darwin in a central location. Richardson Park was hidden away, in a storm surge zone and adjacent to residential areas. The move to Marrara made sense and was supported by all stakeholders. Marrara is defined as a sporting venue in the Area Plan.

The proposed redevelopment of Richardson Park is not, so far as we have been able to ascertain, a feature of the Area Plans for the Ludmilla region. The 2012 proposal to move to Marrara outlines many of the drawbacks in remaining at Ludmilla and we will not repeat them here.

If the proposal to quickly redevelop Richardson Park is because someone has impulsively committed the NT to host one event – stop and look at the possibility of “borrowing” a facility at Marrara for that event (or admit that the commitment was inadvisable and withdraw) and proceed to build a proper planned facility for the long term at Marrara.

With the general planning principle of infill and densification in the Central Darwin Area, space for schools and other emerging community needs will be at a premium. The proposed reduction in space for Ludmilla School and inappropriate development of Richardson Park is therefore most inadvisable.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh and Sue Bradley
