



## **Public Accounts Committee - Inquiry into Rugby League Funding**

The Ludmilla Creek Landcare Group has been managing both sides of Ludmilla Creek since 1995. Ludmilla Creek Landcare is an effective and committed group of volunteers who work on the environmental management, enhancement and protection of the Creek. Since 1995 it has undertaken some major works along the Creek with regular working bees and plantings that attract 30-50 people. There are many more users of the walking tracks that have been established through the bush on both sides of the Creek.

Ludmilla Creek Landcare Group is very concerned about the impact of the proposed redevelopment on the site and the impact of up to an extra 10,000 people into the Ludmilla Creek area. Specifically these include issues of access, traffic, parking, litter and damage to the Creek catchment area which are of major concern.

The land in question around Richardson Park forms an integral component of the various and interlinked corridors of green which remain in the Darwin urban environment. There is a very high level of risk that the proposed development will impact severely on the native bush, wetlands and mangroves within the Ludmilla Creek and Ludmilla Bay catchment. There may be extended impacts on the overall health of the Darwin Harbour.

It appears that the government process has occurred without proper consideration of the impacts outside of the specific Richardson Park site development. For example Richardson Drive also includes the Ludmilla Creek Landcare managed Bush Block (backing onto Ludmilla Terrace.) The lack of any other nearby space means the need to expand parking for up to 10,000 spectators may occur into this area impacting on the natural environment. This area has been replanted twice in the last 10 years due to cyclone damage and the walking tracks are extensively used by the community on both sides of the Creek.

The options provided in the proposal do not adequately address the impact on Ludmilla Creek catchment area of the major traffic access, flow and control issues which would occur as a result of the redevelopment. These impacts can be clearly envisaged with roads needing to be widened along Richardson Drive, Douglas Street and a suggested road across the Ludmilla Language School oval to Namarluk Drive. All of these possibilities will significantly impact on the Ludmilla Creek catchment area with engineering costs also not factored into the current proposal.

Similarly there has been no consideration of the impact of run-off into Ludmilla Creek of significantly increased watering regimes and fertilizing. Or how to deal with issues of salt water intrusion on the playing surface. There is a need for an assessment or environmental study of this run-off impact into the Creek and Darwin Harbour and proposed mitigation requirements.

In addition to any damage to the environment that may occur during the construction phase, the use of high intensity lighting may also impact on the native animals and birds that reside in the Ludmilla Creek catchment area.

Finally, the nature of this area has always been residential with areas of remnant bushland, one a few such areas available to the community across inner Darwin. A broader vision for Darwin should logically see adequate planned development to match the growth needs of the community. It however should also realise the value to the community, and the unique circumstance and opportunity of such land in a capital city context. Other Australian capital cities are now implementing expensive programs to 're-claim' or 're-engineer' green open space, both in formal and informal environments. The current proposal at Richardson Park does not take into account the impact on Ludmilla Creek and the potential loss to the community of this unique inner city natural resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide views on this development proposal.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Capper

Secretary, Ludmilla Creek Landcare Group

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