



Giles

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26/11/13
CLERK: <i>[Signature]</i>

MINISTER FOR LANDS, PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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Attention: Ms Avril Vaughan
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No 607
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26/11/13

Dear Ms Vaughan

I refer to your letter dated 3 October 2013, in which you request that I review the decision made by the Chief Executive of my Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment regarding your client's proposed development application in respect of Lot 5260, Town of Darwin, known as Stella Maris.

As the Chief Executive observed in his letter dated 1 July 2013:

- good public policy requires that any proposal for the grant of Crown land should be publicly advertised, so as to ensure transparency, good governance and to ensure community input into the process of leasing or granting Crown land;
- the long-standing Government policy contemplates that high profile sites, such as Stella Maris, will be subject to a public process before lease or grant; and
- the proposed grant of the site to Unions NT was not advertised, giving rise to concerns that due process was not followed and that the proposed grant paid insufficient regard to the public interest in those circumstances.

I also note in this respect, that the relevant dealing appears to have taken place on 3 August 2012, which was the last business day before the writ for the general election was issued.

It is difficult to see any ground on which it be suggested that the Chief Executive's concern for the public interest is not well founded. We should also all be mindful of the recent findings made in New South Wales in relation to

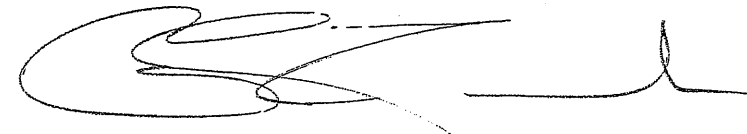


the grant by the Crown of interests over land, and in relation to the dealings with Union land, and the importance that necessarily attaches to proper process and transparency in all such dealings.

In accordance with those principles, I have directed my Department, within a reasonable period of time, to subject the Stella Maris site to a public tender or expression of interest ("EOI") process in which Unions NT, and any other interested party, is free to participate on equal footing.

Should you require any further information on the matter, please contact Mr John Coleman, Chief Executive, on telephone (08) 8924 7286 or via email at john.coleman@nt.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



PETER CHANDLER

22 NOV 2013

