

IN THE MATTER OF THE INQUIRIES ACT

**AND IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUIRY
INTO THE DECISION OF THE THEN
MINISTER FOR LANDS AND PLANNING TO
GRANT A LEASE OVER LOT 5260 TOWN
OF DARWIN KNOWN AS STELLA MARIS
TO UNIONS NT ON OR ABOUT 3 AUGUST
2012 PURSUANT TO AN APPOINTMENT
DATED 18 DECEMBER 2013**

**SUBMISSIONS FROM DELIA LAWRIE AND GERRY McCARTHY IN RELATION TO
THE PUBLICATION OF THE EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTS RECEIVED BY THE
INQUIRY**

1. We believe that this inquiry cannot be conducted properly or fairly if the public is excluded from any of the hearings and not allowed to see and review all of the documents and other evidence which is given to the Commissioner.
2. This inquiry was established in highly controversial circumstances and, we believe, motivated purely by a desire on the part of the CLP to try to cause political damage to ourselves as the leader and deputy leader of the opposition.
3. Further, the conduct of the inquiry to date by the Commissioner causes us great concern that we may not be fairly treated by him in this inquiry or in his report. Examples of what we believe is unfair treatment to date include deciding how he would conduct the inquiry without giving us an opportunity to comment, hearing evidence which he knew or should have known was evidence which we may want to challenge but without giving us any warning and refusing to provide us with a transcript of the evidence received by him to date.
4. In these circumstances, it is critical for us to be able to put our own case to the public as to why this decision was the right decision and for members of the public to be able to form their own view about the evidence and other material which has been put before the Commissioner. That is why we believe that all evidence and documents should be made public.
5. However, that should only be done if it can be done lawfully. We note from Mr Wyvill's note to the Commissioner that it seems that there has been a serious breach of the public interest immunity which applies to the large number of Cabinet Documents which have been released by the Territory to the Commissioner. That too is a matter of grave concern and appears to be another regrettable

consequence of the Commissioner proceeding without first consulting properly those affected by this inquiry.

Dated this 10th day of March 2014



Delia Lawrie



Gerry McCarthy