



**1 November 2023**

## **Submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct**

This submission is made by Uprising of the People Ltd

### **Introduction**

Uprising of the People Ltd is a Larrakia owned and operated non-profit organisation. We work to nurture, empower and sustain the relationships between Elders, Young people and country. Our work centres Larrakia Country, aka Darwin and the greater Darwin region. We advocate for the rights of Larrakia people and Larrakia Country.

### **Concerns about the Middle Arm Industrial precinct**

#### *Absence of consultation*

The Middle Arm Industrial precinct failed to properly consult with Larrakia people. The projects like this need to speak with Traditional Owners long before the cogs start moving on the project.

#### *Recommendation 1*

The process of consultation must be culturally appropriate. This includes, giving enough time to find a cross section of the Larrakia People to talk too, including but not limited to:

- Uprising of the People Ltd
- Gwalwa Daraniki Association
- Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Larrakia Development Corporation
- Kenbi Traditional Owners

In order to ensure Larrakia people are truly informed before consent is given or declined, there must be detailed, and comprehensive information shared with Larrakia families over a period of time that allows for critical insights by Larrakia into the project. It is the obligation of all visitors to Larrakia Country to respect the protocols of the Larrakia.



### Destruction of cultural heritage sites

The proposed development by Middle Arm Precinct will irreparably destroy Larrakia Country. The animals, plants, waters and soil are sacred and must be cared for so that the children of the future have land to live on.

I am not at liberty to discuss the particulars of the cultural story for Middle Arm. So, I write the following:

When we talk about sites of “cultural significance” we are speaking in the white man’s way. In our minds, as Larrakia, we see environment, ecology and culture as the same thing; it is interconnected. Everything ecological is sacred with cultural significance.

White man’s way laughs at our understanding, and says that if everything is sacred then nothing is sacred. We disagree.

White man’s way makes us prioritise importance of endangered species over other species. We know they are *all* integral to that place.

White mans way makes us prioritise one site over another and create a competition of significance. We see that if you destroy that site and the sites around it you are destroying the story. Our stories live in the country, the waters and the skies. As the people to that place, we are obliged by our laws to keep that country protected.

White man’s way tells us “We can’t protect everything”.

We say we *have* to protect and safeguard these places and stories.

We say the devastation of this project will outlive us and detrimentally impact on all future generations to come. The white man’s science also tells us how sick this project will make our people.

When we hear the Middle Arm project weigh up destruction of country for the sake of industry, dollar signs and jobs. We hear short sighted business and negligence.

### Recommendation 2

Inquiry must be done on Larrakia Country to hear from Traditional Owners.

### Recommendation 3

The advice of Traditional Owners must be given exceptional weight. Traditional Owners are the most important stakeholders.



#### Recommendation 4

The inquiry must be accessible to young families, children and youth, so that children and young people can be present to hear from the stakeholders and be informed about their future.

#### **Conclusion**

The Middle Arm Industrial Precinct process has already proven itself to be poor, inadequate and utterly dismissive of the realities of destruction the project will inevitably cause if it goes ahead. The illusive and fraudulent nature of the project being “green” or “supported by Larrakia”, has already demonstrated how little care the Precinct has for Traditional Owners and local stakeholders.

Our recommendations are straightforward and demonstrate how at odds this project is to the wants and needs of local communities.

It is imperative that this Senate Inquiry is held on Larrakia Country so that the Senate can hear our words.

As people of this country, we all must do everything in our power to ensure that this place lives on beyond our times. We are all part of writing that story. The Inquiry will allow us to share that story.

We know that the people who speak up for country are the people worth hearing from.

Mumuk,

Mililma May  
CEO of Uprising of the People Ltd