

Dear Letters Editor,

It is true, as stated in your article 'Sky's the limit in Virgin Territory' (NT News, 6 December, 2011, that the casino's development at Little Mindil caused controversy. The controversy remains today.

At the time, there was a huge petition to the NT Government. The Planning Minister refused to rezone the land from tourism to public open space, as had been intended by the previous CLP government. he said no one ever went to Little Mindil.

The issue was always about retaining this public foreshore, in as wide a band as those at Vestey's Beach, Fannie Bay, Nightcliff, and Casuarina, not just about accessing the beach.

Little Mindil is part of even wider parklands set down by our first Surveyor- GW Goyder. These stretch to Goyders Road.

When the lease to the casino began, the very recent survey left the public owning only the lower beach, even excluding the foredune where people sat to watch the sunset . This was dug up and carted away. Precious natural vegetation was ripped from the escarpment by machine, the NT Government having refused, on expert NRETAS advice, to zone it Conservation.

People might ask, just WHEN were the required rehabilitation of Little Mindil Creek, and the escarpment completed satisfactorily as required. They might also ask when the EIS was prepared.

Topping this, the present Planning Minister Gerry McCarthy has recently refused a request for a copy of the Land Title Agreement between Sky City Casino and the NTG. This should be a public document.

So the Darwin public is in the dark about what the casino will do with the land when the lease is completed in a few years.

Because of the secrecy, all of us can only imagine the worst.

M A CLINCH

Convener

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