

R O R K E S

BEER WINE FOOD

20 June 2014

City of Darwin

C/- darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au

To whom it may concern

Re: DRAFT 2014/15 CITY OF DARWIN MUNICIPAL PLAN

2014/15 Major Project Darwin City Centre Master Plan

We are concerned that the Draft Municipal Plan for 2014/15 does not provide any information regarding the proposal to spend \$3,000,000.00 as part of the Capital Works program (refer page 37). It indicates that nine (9) key projects have been identified but only Tamarind Park is mentioned. We understand that one of the key projects may include the intersection on the corner of Smith and Bennett Streets, surely this is significant enough that it should be identified. This is a key intersection of the Darwin CBD with a major project in the Paspaley's Charles Darwin Centre under construction and the proposal to rejuvenate the Heritage listed former Commonwealth Bank corner to a bar and restaurant. It is an exciting time for Darwin, but also some commitment needs to be made from City of Darwin Council for this area as there is a large amount of private money being spent on development within that area. There has been no direct consultation with any of the land owners or proposed tenants but rather a hit and miss approach in the chance they get to see closing dates such as we have in order to comment. We applied to the City of Darwin Council to use a small section of the pavement for outdoor dining and were vetoed prior to our application being presented. This is a prejudicial approach rather than a proactive one by the City of Darwin Council.

A further area of concern where the City of Darwin Council failed to inform and consult with landowners in the area is opposite my current business Dingo Moon Lodge at 88 Mitchell Street, the Council passed a motion to approve the existing footpath and on street car park to be used for outdoor dining by the 'Globetrotters Bar'. This move may be the causation for the loss of business for Dingo Moon Lodge. My guests sleep no further than 15 metres from the proposed outdoor dining development. What financial measures have been put in place in the budget by the City of Darwin Council to compensate land and business owners for the degradation of the amenity of the area and their subsequent loss of income.

It is further mentioned in this section of the report 'cooling projects aimed at improving pedestrian comfort in and around the CBD'. It would be fair to say that this includes 'trees', if so, then why were two trees removed from the front of the 'Globetrotters Bar' and the other from the front of 'Sushi Train' on Mitchell Street several years ago and not replaced? In fact, the City of Darwin Council paid for the filling in of the tree space on the pavement outside 'Globetrotters Bar' on a weekend day. It was around this time I requested a meeting with a Co-ordinator of the Parkes and Reserves at my business on Mitchell Street opposite 'Globetrotters Bar' in order to ratify an issue (trimming) of a tree outside my premises and he clearly told me "you cannot touch Council trees". Under a section of the City of Darwin Council by-laws I am permitted to maintain the verge if I am the contiguous occupier of the property. The words of procedural fairness and selective treatment come to mind in this matter. Are the owners of the 'Globetrotters Bar' required to replace the tree that was once removed and pay for the City of Darwin Councils costs for filling in the previous tree hole? If not, how is this expense amortised in a budget?

Regards



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