



RAPID CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

**SUBMISSION RE:
PROPOSAL FOR LOT 9738, TOWN OF NIGHTCLIFF
APRIL 2013**

Found in Darwin's northern suburbs, Rapid Creek and its catchment form the only significant freshwater system in Darwin's urban area and it is a valuable environmental and community asset. The Rapid Creek Landcare Group's members look after Rapid Creek through regular working bees, by promoting awareness about the creek and by advocating for better management throughout the catchment.

The Landcare Group, along with other community groups, fought long and hard to achieve conservation zoning (CN) for the Creek corridor between McMillans Road and Trower Road. The land adjoining the corridor, between Freshwater Road and Rapid Creek Road, is zoned SD11 and the current use of predominantly low density, rural living complements the natural, peaceful character of the Creek. The area is highly valued by Darwin residents.

The proposal is not complementary to the Creek and the current land use adjoining it. The proposal includes commercial activities of a more intense nature than those permitted within the zoning. To start commercialising the area will undo all the hard work carried out by the community in the past.

We have spent much of our own voluntary time increasing native vegetation cover in the area, as well as advocating for improvements in native vegetation cover and management on all land. This proposal will decrease vegetation cover.

Flooding in this part of Rapid Creek is already a significant issue and of great concern to residents. Any increase in hard surface (ie. carparks and buildings) has to be avoided to ensure there is not increased run-off which will further contribute to flooding. It would also seem inappropriate to allow new developments so close to the Creek which may be subject to increased flooding in the future due to increasing development throughout the catchment.

The proposal will lead to increased traffic on an already busy suburban road that has significant traffic calming devices to deal with current flow.

If this application is approved it will set a precedent for further commercial development in this special area which could seriously affect its natural values so highly held by the community.

Rapid Creek Landcare Group

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