



Allan McGill

Chairperson, Heritage Council NT

GPO BOX 4198

Darwin NT 0801

By email: [heritagecouncil@nt.gov.au](mailto:heritagecouncil@nt.gov.au)

27 August 2020

**SUBJECT: Proposed listing of the Arltunga Historical Reserve**

Dear Mr McGill,

I write in response to your letter of 12 June 2020 regarding the proposed listing of the Arltunga Historical Reserve (**Reserve**) as a heritage place under the *Heritage Act 2011*. Thank you for extending the submission time to accommodate the Central Land Council's (CLC) need to consult with the traditional owners of the Arltunga Aboriginal Land Trust.

CLC has consulted with the traditional owners of the Reserve regarding this proposal. Traditional owners were of the opinion that the Reserve, and particularly evidence of historic goldmining activity, is already adequately protected, with heritage values being actively preserved and promoted for tourism in a sustainable manner by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture (DTSC). A brief explanation is provided below, but further detail can be provided should the Heritage Council require it.

The Reserve is Aboriginal land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Land Rights Act)*, which means that the Reserve was given to a land trust to be held for the benefit of Aboriginals entitled to use or occupy the Reserve. In accordance with the Land Rights Act, CLC administers the Reserve in consultation with the traditional owners for this area. The Reserve is currently leased to the Northern Territory Government for a term of 99 years, which ends in 2108. The Reserve is managed by DTSC in conjunction with the traditional owners under the protection of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976*. The partners are in the process of drafting a joint management plan (JMP), with assistance from CLC. I understand that the JMP will likely highlight the ongoing importance of protecting the natural, historical and cultural values of the Reserve.

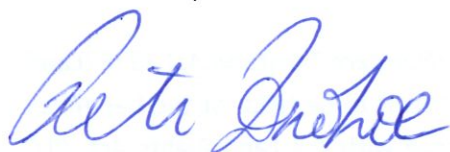
Amongst other objectives, DTSC currently manage the Reserve to conserve and protect its historically important and special features, including those described in the Statement of Heritage Value attached to your letter. DTSC actively promote historical features within the Reserve for public use, visitation and enjoyment using a sustainable and conservation based approach, a purpose which aligns with the functions of the Heritage Council under the *Heritage Act 2011*. As a Schedule 1 park under the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act 2003*, the heritage value of the Reserve is well-recognised. Indeed, discrete areas within the Reserve containing evidence of former goldmining activity are already listed on the Heritage Register and protected under the *Heritage Act 2011*.

The areas of historical significance are relatively small, with large areas of the Reserve containing little or no evidence of former goldmining activity. Declaring the entire Reserve as a heritage place is problematic and potentially creates unnecessary complications for ongoing management, particularly as it unfairly restricts activity within areas of the Reserve which are unrelated to goldmining.

CLC, on behalf of the traditional owners of the Reserve, requests the Heritage Council, and subsequently the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture, to reconsider the proposal to list the entire Reserve a heritage place on the basis that there is already adequate protection for the heritage features within the Reserve and on the grounds set out in this letter.

Should you require further information, I can be contacted on 08 8951 6304 or via return email [Peter.Donohoe@clc.org.au](mailto:Peter.Donohoe@clc.org.au).

Yours sincerely,



**Peter Donohoe**

**MANAGER LAND MANAGEMENT**