

Mr. Carl D. Cossill

31 May 2005

The Secretary
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA, ACT 2600

SUBMISSION2.....

Dear Sir,

PUBLIC WORKS INQUIRIES

I refer to the advertisement in the Northern Territory News of 30 May 2005 p.8, in which you called for submissions regarding the Upgrading of Patrol Boat Facilities at the Darwin Naval Base in the Northern Territory, for the Department of Defence.

I attach a copy of a letter which I have just sent to the Editor of the Northern Territory News, following frequent reports of illegal Indonesian incursions into the Australian Fishing Zone, and even more recently, of the discovery of a group of Indonesian fishermen illegally crabbing in an Arnhem Land river.

Basically, It has been shown that over 1000 km of 'unprotected' Northern Territory coast is just too much of an invitation for Indonesian fishermen to resist. And who knows how many illegal immigrants, or how much drugs, or whatever, may have entered Australia along this coastline....

.My suggestion to have a new 'Open' Town, centred around a Customs, Coastwatch, and Navy facility at the mouth of the Liverpool River, would permit the coast and the adjacent Fishing Zone to be more closely monitored than it is at the moment.

I would strongly suggest that the matter raised in my Letter to the Editor be given consideration, and that the money which would be spent in upgrading the Darwin Base facility could well be diverted to the setting up of a new Patrol Boat facility at the mouth of the Liverpool River.

Yours faithfully

Carl D.Cossill

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31 May 2005

The Editor
NT News
GPO Box 1300
DARWIN, NT 0801

Sir,

NEW TOWN TO DETER ILLEGALS

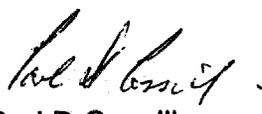
It is abundantly clear that illegal incursions into the Arafura Sea Australian Fishing Zone by Indonesian fishermen are not going to stop, and that our efforts to prevent them occurring are simply not working.

With over 1,000 km of coastline between the population centres of Darwin and Nhulunbuy 'protected' largely by Arnhem Land Aboriginal people bashing goannas over the head with nulla-nullas, and an occasional flyover by Coastwatch aircraft, the whole situation is a farce.

A new centre of population, built around a ready-response Customs and Coastwatch facility is therefore desperately needed, mid-way between Darwin and Nhulunbuy. I would suggest a site, on the western side of the Liverpool River Inlet, opposite the Maningrida community, would be ideal.

Such a Town of Liverpool River could be developed as the centre of everything to do with Arnhem Land, including various tourist pursuits, and as an outlet for present and future produce from the Arnhem Land region.

The land suggested for such a development is 'untouchable' Aboriginal Freehold Land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act*, but I really do think that preservation of our fish stock and National Security must take precedence over other political considerations.


Carl D. Cossill
Driver