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Ministers intervene

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EXCLUSIVE
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TWO of the McGowan Government's most senior ministers intervened to clear the way for a lucrative Broome development proposed by an Aboriginal corporation with strong ties to the Labor Party.

The \$57 million development — a homemaker centre near Broome Airport anchored by Bunnings — is on land owned by Nyamba Buru Yawuru, the operational arm of the Yawuru native title group.

Before the project had even been approved, the McGowan Government pledged \$7 million for site works.

Then in August — at the request of Treasurer Ben Wyatt — Planning Minister Rita Saffioti took the extraordinary step of calling in the proposal for her own personal determination after it was rejected by a panel of independent experts. The rezoning application was knocked back by the WA Planning Commission because it did not comply with the relevant town-planning framework.