

## LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

ABN 64 452 851 818

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Ms Katie Lowe

03 April 2018

Northern NSW Assessments | Environment Standards Division  
Department of the Environment and Energy  
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Lowe,

Our community greatly appreciates the opportunity to be heard and to describe our vision for dealing with our Land (Lot 99 DP823635) at Hickey Street and Iluka Road, Iluka.

The development of our Land at Iluka has been a vision of our Elders past and present for some 15 years and fully supported by the members of our community.

The Birrigan Gargle Local Aboriginal Lands Council is committed to ensuring that its members will be socially and economically self-sufficient which leads to self-determination through the provision of improved health, housing and educational programs for its youth and members.

The development of our Land at Iluka will allow the Land Council to undertake its vision and commence to implement the plan for self sufficiency.

The Land Council and its Members have resolved to use the economic benefit it will derive from the development on the following;

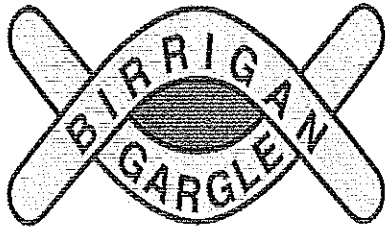
- Education

With income from the Iluka Development we can start up a home-work centre here in our hall on Ngaru Village that all the children from school and T.A.F.E can use the facility and resources to keep up with their studies and to learn IT skills, we could run it up to 3 afternoons a week ensuring that the children are getting the most value from what we can provide. Most of our children currently do not have computers or out of school education facilities.

We would also love to be able to start up a day-care/pre-school centre for our younger children to give them the start they need before they venture off to primary school and having the parents reassured that their child is ready for the next chapter in their lives. Birrigan Gargle would love to offer out scholarships for distance education, or be able to support with funding for a computer that a student may need access to.

- Employment

With extra income coming from the Development it will allow us a Land Council to expand and employ more staff on part-time and full-time contracts as the more we expand the busier we will become we would like to see Site-Officers to go out and maintain our properties, checking the fences and having frequent updates. We want our younger people to gain access to traineeships within all trades; electrician, plumbing, horticultural, floor technician, carpenters.



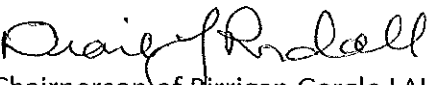
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- Housing  
**New housing opportunities** – as there is a wait list for social housing in our community we could construct units being built on the Ngaru Village to house couples, small families and the elderly we also would like to fill the vacant lots with new homes on Ngaru Village to suit families that have been on the Birrigan Gargle Housing List for a number of years.  
**Housing off the village** – Repairs and maintenance to our 25 existing lived in homes to ensure the safety of everyone living and visiting the houses we want to spot purchase homes for the members that want to live in town and not on the Village.  
**Renovations** - Major repairs to some houses on Ngaru Village that are currently unable to be lived in that would benefit from the repairs as it could house families that are living with other family as they are on the Birrigan Gargle house waiting list.
- Programs  
We as a community would love to see the elderly getting together and interacting with one another, a perfect example of this could be; arts and crafts, storytelling and perhaps a cooking school where the elderly could teach their ways of cooking to the younger generations. Not only would we love to see the elderly benefit but the rest of the community, we could run youth programs, we could have enough income to run a weekly youth group which would keep some of the young children out of trouble and off the streets
- Other initiatives –  
To run alcohol and drug programs within our hall, to somehow encourage and provide learner drivers with the instructor they need to progress on to the provisional license.  
As an active community we would love to be able to have access to a small bus that could hold up to 24 people, which we could take for sporting activities, or outings for the elderly, or excursions we could take the younger children around and teach them about our heritage.  
Sponsorships towards sporting teams, which may need uniforms or fee's subsidies, are some other things we would love to be able to help contribute towards.

Therefore for fulfilling these programs this will create jobs for small businesses in the Lower Clarence, for example, plumbing, carpenters, fencing contractors, electricians etc.

  
Chairperson of Birrigan Gargle LALC  
Diane Randall