

June 15, 2019

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| Document tendered by <u>MR MICHAEL DONOVAN</u> |
| Received by <u>ANDREW RATCHFORD</u> |
| Date: <u>4 / 2 / 20</u> |
| Resolved to publish Yes / No |

GKNP Steering Committee
The Loft
1/4 Church Street Lane
Bellingen NSW
2454

To the Great Koala National Park steering committee,

We, the Traditional Custodians of the Gumbaynggirr Nation, wish to express collective support for the Great Koala National Park (GKNP).

GKNP encompasses our Traditional Homelands and our people are holistically connected with the koala as a sacred totem and central figure in the Creation Stories which formed the geological features, land and water of our region. The Koala Storyline is a continuance of our Laws and Customs to this day and is highly spiritually significant. This is one of many significant cultural Storylines which run through Gumbaynggirr Homelands. Old-growth flora and its associated ecosystems are integral elements in the history of our Creator. For example, our Yuludaria (Dreaming) Stories speak of the severe repercussions - climate change, natural disasters and community disciplinary action - of over-exploitation of natural resources.

We believe GKNP is a positive opportunity to protect and preserve this cultural heritage within a precious biodiversity hotspot.

We acknowledge and respect the fantastic ongoing work by dedicated environmental advocates to develop this conservation project and it is not our intention to co-opt or accroach this honourable work. Having said that, it is imperative at this time in history that conservationists, traditional custodians and the wider community work collaboratively towards mutual outcomes with regard to the recognition and protection of our ecological and cultural heritage. The integration of Indigenous cultural knowledge into management and conservation plans is aiding and enhancing legal protection of biodiversity around the country. Specifically: Indigenous Protected Areas, park co-management models and Indigenous Land Use Agreements. This inclusion forms one element in recognizing the colonial genocide of Australian Aboriginals and respectfully endeavouring to heal and rectify that relationship.

In light of the above paragraph, we earnestly request that the GKNP steering committee consider working collaboratively with the Gumbaynggirr Nation to formulate and enter into a progressive co-management framework for the proposed Great Koala National Park. We believe that by combining our knowledge, skills and experience we have the opportunity to collectively create a great National Park with robust protections, rigorous cultural and ecological heritage records, and thorough and accurate cultural interpretation for the benefit of local residents and visiting tourists alike.

We look forward to further discussion and thank you for taking the time to consider this message.

With warm regards,

The undersigned

To the Great Koala National Park steering committee,

We, the traditional custodians of the Gumbaynggirr Nation, are signed below in concurrence with the attached letter.

| Name | Age | Contact | Date | Signature |
|--------------------|-----|---------|------------|-----------|
| Alice DAVIS | | | 15/6/2019 | |
| Eric Smith | | | 15/6/19 | |
| Offree Smith | | | | |
| Paula Silva | | | 15/6/19 | |
| SARAH SILVA | | | 15/6/19 | |
| Tony MARUCA | | | 15/6/19 | |
| Dianne Chapman | | | 15/6/19 | |
| Blonia Marcy | | | 15/6/19 | |
| Talara Dutton | | | 15-06-19 | |
| Michelle Phillip | | | 15/06/2019 | |
| Roslyn Kennedy | | | 15-6-2019 | |
| Roberta Skinner | | | 15/6/2019 | |
| Carol Smith | | | 15/6/19 | |
| Denise GOSWAMI | | | 15/6/19 | |
| Ess Giffen | | | 15/6/19 | |
| Maeshi Davis | | | 15/6/19 | |
| Louis Curran | | | 15/6/19 | |
| CELINE JARRETT | | | 15/6/19 | |
| Mavis Davis | | | 15-6-19 | |
| CYRIL DAVIS | | | " " | |
| Martin Ballangarry | | | 15-06-019 | |
| RICHARD Lacey | | | 15/06/2019 | |

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To the Great Koala National Park steering committee,

We, the traditional custodians of the Gumbaynggirr Nation, are signed below in concurrence with the attached letter.

| Name | Age | Contact | Date | Signature |
|------------------|-----|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Harry Hale | | | 15-6-2019 | |
| Paul Deiri | | | 15/6/19 | |
| Naiville Kin | | | 15-6-19 | |
| Annika Rotumah | | | 15.6.19 | |
| Madison Rotumah | | | 15.6.19 | |
| MICHAEL DONOVAN | | | 15.06.19 | |
| Michelle Donovan | | | 21/6/19 | |
| Lisa Rosser | | | 30/6/19 | |
| Jaimaya. R | | | 30/6/19 | |
| Cheryl Donovan | | | 30/6/19 | |
| Reg Donovan | | | " " | |
| Chris Donovan | | | 30/6/19 | |
| SIMON DONOVAN | | | 30-6-19 | |
| Paul or Craig | | | 30-6-19 | |
| Calijah Craig | | | 30-6-19 | |
| Reg Donovan | | | 30-6-19 | |
| Chalesha Craig | | | 30-6-19 | |
| Belinda Donovan | | | 30-6-19 | |
| MIKE DONOVAN SR | | | 30-6-19 | |
| Corvette Riley | | | 30/6/19 | |
| Glen Dennis | | | 30-6-19 | |

