

16th October 2018

Widjabal Sovereign Custodians of the Bundjalung Tribe

NOTICE OF Want of Jurisdiction and refusal to permit development at the Sacred Buninj Dreaming Site aka "North Lismore Plateau Development"

To the Lismore City Council, New South Wales Government and Commonwealth of Australia

The Widjabal Sovereign Custodians do not consent to the North Lismore Plateau Development and hereby refuse this development on account of the fact that the proposed development site does significantly destroy and desecrate our Sacred dreaming site known as the Buninj.

TAKE NOTICE:

The Buninj is a Sacred site. There are multiple Sacred sites and artefacts at this location which will be destroyed by the proposed development. The Widjabal people have done ceremony on this hill since the beginning of time. Located at the Buninj are the death rocks of the Widjabal people used in our funeral rites since time immemorial. It is the equivalent of a cemetery for us. Songline connections exists at this site which is important to our ceremony. There is more than one song at this location with many sacred sites on this hill. The Buninj has many significant meanings to the Widjabal and other Tribal people across Australia through our connection to the tribes of the Bundjalung and other Tribes across Australia under the Rainbow Serpent Dreaming to whom this sites is also significant through the songline connection. According to our law, as soon as the Buninj is destroyed there is no mother and everything will die. There is a sacred water spring in that mountain, that is why there is always water there. That is why we protect this dreaming under our law and duty of care to this land and our neighbouring tribes. We will be to do this ceremony as we have done since time immemorial according to our law if the development goes ahead.

The, Buninj is part of the Sacred dreaming of the Echidna. There is a cave sacred to the Buninj at the site. Some of the Buninj has already been destroyed and desecrated by the quarry.

A mural depicting the Buninj story and dreaming tracks which are a part of our creation story has been painted by law men Lewis Walker and Oral Roberts. It was unveiled by Lismore mayor Isacc Smith, and is on public display in Nimbin

The Law people and Elders of the Widjabal Tribe hereby give NOTICE that we do not consent to the North Lismore Plateau development. We do not give consent to anyone to make

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development upon Sacred sites on our lands. To do so is failure to show due respect to the Tribal law, culture and Elders past and present of this land.

We give Notice that this development is an offence to us and the Sacred dreaming that is held at the proposed site.

Upon the following facts we hereby call estoppel to all development proposed upon the Buninj.

- Appropriate consultation with Widjabal Elders in Counsel has not occurred
- Appropriate cultural heritage and environmental impact assessments have not been undertaken
- Archaeological Assessment have not been done correctly

- Appropriate environmental impact assessments have not occurred
- Appropriate land management plans have not been implemented

Furthermore, the North Lismore Plateau development is directly in contradiction to lodged submissions regarding the dreaming tracks that were made by Widjabal Custodian Mickey Ryan during the submission process.

Notice was given by the Sovereign Elders at Bentley on Widjabal land which still stands today According to high court case *PLENTY V DILLON* (1991).

Our desire is to inform and educate all entities involved in this development on how to consult our Elders correctly and how to protect this land, water and the people that it nourishes. We wish to inform you of our custodial law so that you may uphold the correct custodial duties to this land.

We rebut any approval given by people claiming to represent the Widjabal people. We give notice that only Widjabal Elders in counsel can speak for our land.

It is with our strongest intentions to protect our Sacred law and land that we hereby state that any entities or representatives of the entities known as the AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT have no jurisdiction or authority in matters pertaining to our Sacred law and culture in accordance with our NOTICE OF REBUTTAL OF CLAIM OF TITLE TO LAND AND CLAIM OF RIGHT which is attached.

All decisions regarding Sacred land and culture must be made by Widjabal Elders in counsel to protect the dreamings, law, ceremony, ecosystems, water and people of this Sacred land to protect this land for future generations to come.

Widjabal Sovereign Custodians

16th October 2018 We, the undersigned support the Widjabal Sovereign Custodians of the Bunjalung Tribe NOTICE OF Want of Jurisdiction and refusal to permit development at the Sacred Buninj Dreaming Site aka "North Lismore Plateau Development"