

Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council

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Monday, 29 February 2016

Ms Monica Gibson
Director Regions, Hunter & Central Coast
Department of Planning & Environment
PO Box 1226
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Dear Ms Gibson

RE: DRAFT HUNTER REGIONAL PLAN AND DRAFT PLAN FOR GROWING HUNTER CITY

Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council (BLALC) is pleased to make a submission on the draft Hunter Regional Plan and draft Plan for Growing Hunter City.

Direction 4.4 in the draft Hunter Regional Plan is supported

As a significant land holder in the Lower Hunter region, the Biraban LALC supports Direction 4.4 of the draft Plan to 'strengthen the economic and cultural self-determination of Aboriginal communities'. The Biraban LALC should participate in any future strategic assessment and mapping of their land as is proposed by Action 4.4.1.

Correct identification of the Biraban LALC

The draft Plans, and in particular Action 4.4.1 in the draft Hunter Regional Plan should refer to the Biraban LALC rather than the Koombahtoo LALC.

Biraban LALCs request to have our Constituted Gazetted boundaries Identified in the Hunter Regional Plan under the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs at the time, the Hon. Victor Dominello, which encompasses an area within the western side of Lake Macquarie Council (see map below), within this we would be identified as a large private land holder rather than identifying the location of Biraban LALCs owned lands.



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Location & Boundary map



Correct identification of land held by Local Aboriginal Land Councils including the Biraban LALC

Many of the maps in the draft Plans identify the land held by Local Aboriginal Land Councils as 'National Park and Reserve'. In particular, Figure 11 of the draft Hunter Regional Plan showing areas of high environmental value identify the Biraban LALC's landholdings at Morisset as 'National Park and Reserve'. Whilst many sites held by Local Aboriginal Land Councils may be vegetated, they are not National Parks or reserves and the maps should be updated to more correctly identify Local Aboriginal Land Council holdings in the region.

Morisset should be identified as a regional centre

Morisset was designated as an emerging major regional centre in the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy which is proposed to be replaced by the draft Plans. The draft Plans should continue to recognise the strategic importance of Morisset in the hierarchy of centres in the Hunter, given its proximity to the freeway and rail services to Sydney and Newcastle. Morisset has also been previously identified by Lake Macquarie Council as a service centre and transport hub for surrounding villages. Council has already prepared a number of initiatives to support growth in Morisset and to capitalise on its strategic advantages (e.g. Morisset Structure Plan and Morisset Town Area Plan). The draft Plans should support continued recognition of Morisset as a major regional centre and desirable location for economic growth and housing opportunities.

On behalf of the Board and Members of Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council we thank you for approaching us for comment, and look forward to working together in the future

CEO	<u>Stephen Griffiths</u>	Sign	<u>Stephen Griffiths</u>	Date:	<u>29th Feb 2016</u>
Board Member	<u>Marlene Bird</u>	Sign	<u>M. Bird</u>	Date:	<u>29th Feb 2016</u>
Board Member	<u>Clen Boyd</u>	Sign	<u>C. Boyd</u>	Date:	<u>29th Feb 2016</u>



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