



Simon Kot  
Director Strategic Projects and Infrastructure  
City of Karratha  
PO Box 219  
Karratha WA 6714

13 January 2021

Dear Simon,

### **NATIONAL PARK ACCESS ROAD PROJECT – MURUJUGA TOURISM PROGRAM**

I am writing to thank the City of Karratha for your ongoing support of the Murujuga Tourism Program and more specifically, the National Park Access Road Project. I would also like to inform you of two important resolutions recently passed by the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) Board, and the Murujuga National Park Council, and to formally request the City of Karratha's consideration of a number of items either not covered by, or inconsistent with the City of Karratha Council resolution of 18 April 2017.

In order to facilitate the future National Park Access Road (the road) being contained within a formally gazetted road reserve vested with the City of Karratha, the MAC Board made the decision on 22 October 2020 to support the future relinquishment of the freehold land required for the road by unanimously passing the following resolution: -

*The MAC Board endorses the City of Karratha continuing in its role as lead for the design and construction phases of the National Park Access Road, and for a public road reserve to be vested with the City once the road is completed.*

In support of the Board's decision, the Murujuga National Park Council passed the following resolution on 29 October 2020: -

*The Murujuga Park Council resolves to support the recent (22nd October 2020) MAC Board decision to create a public road reserve that services Murujuga National Park. The Murujuga Park Council also supports the alteration of the Murujuga National Park lease and joint management agreement to excise a portion of land to support the MAC Board's decision.*

An important community facility which was not covered by the Council resolution of 18 April 2017 was the beach boat launching area at Withnell Bay. This is a popular boat launching area for smaller vessels and will come under further pressure once access is improved. Due to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) refusal to manage this area, and with the City of Karratha's experience in managing similar facilities, we suggest the car park should be included as part of the road reserve to ensure it remains available to the community. It is important to add that MAC and the DBCA would not support the future development of a formal boat ramp in this area and only feel that improvements to the car park would be required to effectively manage visitation.



It was envisaged in 2017 that the road reserve controlled by the City of Karratha would terminate at the boundary of the National Park and a private road would service the Tourism Precinct. Since then, the boundary of the Murujuga National Park has expanded or is in the process of expanding, resulting in the entirety of the proposed road being contained within the National Park. Due to MAC's desire to excise the Tourism Precinct from the National Park, we will require access to a gazetted road to subdivide this land and as such, request the City of Karratha to take responsibility for the road reserve through to the boundary of the Tourism Precinct.

Along with taking responsibility for the design, construction and ongoing responsibility for the road through to the boundary of the Tourism Precinct, we also request the City of Karratha to take responsibility for the design and construction of the car parks, pull-over areas, and the secondary roads servicing the day-use areas. Unlike the road and the arrangement requested above for the Withnell Bay car park, it is not proposed that the other car parks, pull-over areas, and the secondary roads servicing the day-use areas would be included in the road reserve and as such, MAC and the DBCA as joint managers of the National Park would be responsible for the maintenance and repair of this infrastructure.

MAC is committed to the delivery of the National Park Access Road Project and is contributing \$2.5M towards the cost. MAC has also provided its project management expertise at no cost to the project and has taken responsibility for the Aboriginal Heritage Surveys, Flora and Fauna Surveys, Feature Survey, and Geotechnical Investigations which in 2017, were the responsibility of the City of Karratha. The State Government is also supportive of the project and has committed \$10M through the DBCA to deliver the road.

With the support of MAC, the State, and the City of Karratha, we will be able to provide access to one of the most culturally significant and unique locations in the world. The value to the community and the local economy will be immense and we look forward to realising this opportunity together.

If you have any questions please contact Travis McNaught who can be contacted on 0409 209 628 or at [project.director@murujuga.org.au](mailto:project.director@murujuga.org.au)

Yours sincerely,

Peter Jeffries  
**Chief Executive Officer**

