

Mr Nigel Browne  
Chief Executive Officer  
Larrakia Development Corporation  
PO Box 37207  
WINNELLIE NT 0821

Dear Nigel,

**RE: Support to expediate the Larrakia Cultural Centre (LCC)**

My heart felt congratulations on your progress to date with what will be an iconic Australian landmark for not only the people of Darwin and the Northern Territory, but first and foremost the Larrakia. I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Larrakia Development Corporation's (LDC) development of the LCC at the Darwin Waterfront.

The development of the LCC enables the LDC to create a facility that not only protects the cultural heritage of the Larrakia people, but assists in maintaining and promoting their language, history and stories for future generations. The location of the LCC on a site close to Chinute Chinute (Stoke's Hill) provides the opportunity for LDC to also protect a site of significant cultural value for all Larrakia.

The LCC will contribute significantly to creating sustainable employment and economic development opportunities for Larrakia and all Territorians. As we see it, the cultural centre is integral to the current focus across all tiers of government on revitalising the Darwin CBD and attracting additional tourists to the Northern Territory. It will promote the Aboriginal heritage of Darwin and attract additional tourists who are looking for a genuine experience.

*Iconic attractions include the world heritage listed Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Aboriginal cultural icons of national significance, such as the proposed National Aboriginal Art Gallery and the Larrakia Cultural Centre.*

*A focus on building and marketing these to national and international renown will put the Territory on the map for tourists and visitors.*

*TERC Final Report, November 2020*

Securing appropriate tenure of the land which the LCC will be located is critical to the successful long term commercial viability of the facility. A grant of freehold tenure will also build the capacity of the Larrakia Development Trust (LDT), allowing the LDC as Trustee to achieve greater outcomes for all Larrakia people, and will display a strong act of reconciliation by the Northern Territory Government.

*Secure land tenure underpins commercial developments. Aboriginal land tenure can be unfamiliar to interstate and international investors. Providing clarity around land tenure and resourcing land administration processes can help grow regional and remote economies*

*TERC Final Report, November 2020*

To secure long term investment for the site there must be an assurance that the LCC is managed and run by a corporation that is not reliant on recurrent Government funding with a robust commercial history and practice. The LDC, its people, systems, processes and mandate under the LDT fit that bill.

I know that for the Larrakia, allowing the LDC to expediate the development of the Larrakia Cultural Centre will represent a positive long-term investment in cultural and economic sustainability that benefits all Territorians. The LCC is a Lighthouse project and should be given every available opportunity to be realised.

As an organisation, Engineers Australia is proud to support the Larrakia Development Corporation in its continued pursuit of this exciting cultural development.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard McAllister', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard McAllister FIEAust CPEng EngExec NER APEC Engineer IntPE(Aus)

**President Northern Division**

16 March 2021