

## Submission

New Grafton Correctional Centre (Stage 2 Design, Construction & Operation)  
31 July 2017

I, Barry Fletcher, the author of this submission am a joint owner and occupier of property described as Lots 10 & 11, DP1205749 with a frontage along Avenue Road commencing at Wants Lane and continuing north for 480 metres directly opposite the Project Site at 313 Avenue Road, Lavadia.

My wife Sarah and I consider ourselves to be "affected landowners" in the terms of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements and have been recognised as 'key stakeholders' by the Department of Planning itself.

According to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements the applicant must consult with affected landowners during the preparation of the EIS which must describe the consultation process and the issues raised.

We both state emphatically along with a significant number of other affected landholders that we have not been adequately or properly consulted. We were not consulted at all prior to the preparation of the EIS for Stage One or its approval on 14th March 2017. The invitation to our first face to face meeting with those representing the applicant was expressed thus: "We would like to meet you since we will be neighbours for the next twenty years." At that first and subsequent meetings we and others have raised issues that have not been described or addressed by the applicant in the EIS. There is general and genuine anger among some of the affected landholders at least that we have been treated with disdain, even contempt.

We and other local residents are aware that the site is very significant for Aboriginal people. When work commenced at the site on 3rd July 2017 and during the following day a number of Aboriginal people were present. Their message was emphatic and clear. Do not dig. It is clear that they have not been consulted. We submit that the applicant has simply not consulted adequately on this issue and that it is becoming apparent that the site is of major significance and importance in this regard.

If this gaol is built on a site that has been and continues to be a special and sacred space associated with a songline running from Susan Island to the floodplain and includes burial sites in close proximity to the gaol site and then on completion incarcerates over 400 aboriginal men and women into the foreseeable future then it will successfully have provided the greatest insult possible to every Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander in the country and irrevocably prejudiced any advance in the quest for Reconciliation that may otherwise have been possible.

For the reasons outlined above I object to the applicant's proposal and submit that all work at the site be halted.

Barry Fletcher

Affected Landholder  
247 Wants Lane  
Lavadia  
31 July 2017