

From: [Anthony Tavella](#)
To: [Jon Stone](#)
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Draft Master Plan for the Iron Gates Residential Release at Evans Head
Date: Thursday, 5 December 2019 8:16:11 PM

From: noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au
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Sent: Thursday, 5 December 2019 6:49 PM
To: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox <eplanning.exhibitions@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Webform submission from: Draft Master Plan for the Iron Gates Residential Release at Evans Head

Submitted on Thu, 05/12/2019 - 18:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type: I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

First Name: Michael

Last Name: Bryant

Name Withheld: No

Email: [REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode: Evans head nsw

Submission file: [webform_submission:values:submission_file]

Submission: I am a long term resident of Evans Head. It is my belief that this development is completely inappropriate for the environment proposed, the same developer has already caused significant environmental damage to the area. The area should be remediated as ordered 22 years ago. It is my belief that the consenting authorities have a moral and legal responsibilities to reject this development on the basis of corrupt developer behaviour. I believe any consenting authorities will in the future be subject to legal action on the basis of proven environmental damage to the site. Some points I would like to make. DRAINAGE. It is entirely possible and indeed likely, that the western drain has breached the coffee rock, resulting in years of potentially toxic run off in to the Evans river. This has lowered the water table and already contributed to die back of areas of rare coastal littoral rainforest. I believe further independent environmental assesment would prove this along with significant degradation of mangrove areas to the east. I believe the western drain was ordered to be filled but this work was not carried out. To the observer (over many years) and a point that would no doubt be validated by an independent assesment, the wetlands to the east have suffered significant dieback no doubt attributed to the illegal access road construction, This has severely limited natural water flow and resulted in stasis of water. FLORA AND FAUNA ASESMENT. These assessments carry little credibility and are severely flawed by there timing and duration. The koala was brief and cursory, and did not take in seasonal movements or breeding patterns. Despite the briefness several endangered species were found on the site. The flora studies did not take in to account the reduced quality of vegetation due illegal land clearing by the developer. Additionally the biodiversity offsets are based on land that has been illegally cleared. CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS. Perhaps one of the biggest travesties is the complete disregard of the First Nation people. It is my understanding that "appropriate" letters were sent to indigenous leaders the developer and RVC identified. It is my

understanding and common knowledge in the area that the authentic people were either not contacted or not followed up in a culturally sensitive manner. This entire process is flawed and has no credibility. Areas of cultural significance to First Nation people have been disturbed and destroyed. The psychological trauma to the First Nation people will continue and must be addressed in a culturally sensitive manner. Surely we are beyond the era, as a society, where people are hand-picked by a developer that can immorally, and without knowledge, drive an agenda.

SOCIAL FACTORS The urban development strategy was adopted by council in 2006. Certainly, in today's environment, community values have changed and our planning authorities need to change accordingly. We only need to learn, look to our north to see what over-development is doing to the environment and the social fabric of communities. I work at the coal-face in an emergency department at Ballina hospital and I see daily the social problems that increased population density and displacement causes. The belief of an economic boom to the community doesn't stand up to scrutiny. Construction in similar communities has found in excess of 90 percent of work in construction will be to outside workers. Of course some businesses will gain and may be vocally supportive but these perceived benefits will be outweighed by increased crime, increased strain on already poorly funded health services and a loss of the quality and strength of the social fabric of our village.

BITING INSECTS The biting insect report carried out over 2 nights in March typifies the rushed, and complete lack of proper and thorough assessment on all areas of this DA. As a long-term local, regular river user and health professional I can assure any planning authority this area is dense with sandflies and mosquitoes. I can accurately predict, as a health professional, a high incidence of Ross river and Barmah forest infections will ensue, this will be a constant source of complaint to RVC and consenting authorities.

SUMMARY As a long-term local, rate payer and voter, it defies any logic, that after 20 years plus of fighting this completely inappropriate development, we have to do it all over again. The behaviour of the developer is of the lowest moral and professional standard imaginable. Environmental damage has clearly occurred and then loop-holes were used for the same developer to rise from the ashes. He has destroyed parts of an ancient fragile ecosystem, destroyed or disturbed areas of aboriginal culture and displaced endangered wildlife. When ordered to remediate, he declares bankruptcy. It beggars belief how the developer has been allowed to be in this position. This area is clearly fragile and rare, on the banks of a river that has its own catchment, it has areas of aboriginal and is clearly not suitable for any development. My question is how, after all the environmental and cultural damage, are planning authorities still dealing with this developer, an environmental vandal driven by greed. My hope is that planning authorities can show some leadership and clear boundaries and preserve at least a small part of fragile coastal environment for future generations.

URL: <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/draftplans/exhibition/iron-gates>