

**From:** [Anthony Tavella](#)  
**To:** [Jon Stone](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Webform submission from: Draft Master Plan for the Iron Gates Residential Release at Evans Head  
**Date:** Monday, 9 December 2019 9:16:02 AM

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**From:** noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au  
<noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 December 2019 7:59 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 Fri, 06/12/2019 - 19:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type: I am making a personal submission

First Name: Simone

Last Name: Barker

Name Withheld: No

Email: [REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode: Evans Head 2473

Submission file:

[191206-simone-barker-submission-to-draft-master-plan-final-with-attachments.pdf](#)

Submission: [Please see SUBMISSION FILE for full submission with additional attachments] 6 December 2019 Simone Barker [REDACTED] Evans Head NSW 2473 To whom it may concern, This letter refers to the Draft Master Plan for the Iron Gates Residential Release at Evans Head (Draft Master Plan). My name is Simone Barker, I am a Traditional Owner and Custodian of Bandjalang Country. I made a submission to the 2016 Draft Master Plan in March 2016 (2016 Submission) (Attachment 1). My concerns I raised in the 2016 submission are still valid. Please consider the 2016 Submission as part of this submission. As the legal Traditional Owner & Custodian I was not contacted by Everick Heritage Pty Ltd for consultation, and reject the Revised Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report prepared for Gold Coral Pty Ltd in July 2019 (Revised Report). Nothing has changed concerning my views on Iron Gates. I again strongly OBJECT to the Iron Gates Development. The representative who was consulted during the preliminary consultation with Everick Heritage has no knowledge of the sacred sites, language or cultural significance that exist within the Iron Gates proposed development site. Littered throughout the report is inaccuracies in the details and locations of sacred sites and stories. Paragraph 4.6 of the Revised Report indicates no written comments or feedback were provided – I can confirm I spoke to T Robbins during the review period where I rejected the report in particular rejecting the Midden collection strategy which is a view that is shared and was communicated by Doug Wilson. The report fails to indicate my objection to the report and in particular the Midden collection strategy. Regarding paragraph 8.1 (Aboriginal Participation) of the Revised Report, as the legal Traditional Owner & Custodian I was not consulted during the field study conducted on the 18th of July 2014. The report shows the inequality that continues to

impact women. As the legal & true Custodian I did not participate and therefore the assessment report is inaccurate not including the stories and significance of the view of our women. We hold sacred women's stories that men do not know the details of and these views are not represented within this assessment report. This speaks not only to the disrespect of Aboriginal culture with regards to inaccurate reporting contained within, but more commonly the continued inequality that women are suffering through today. Not including a 50% share of voice in the discovery and preparation of this report is offensive, not only to Aboriginal women, but women everywhere. In the 90's my father, Lawrence Wilson a Bandjalang Elder and Custodian met with Mr Ingles, the applicant. After listening to what Ingles wanted for Iron Gates my father spoke about the importance of the ecosystem, the animal habitats that were present and the significance of the Aboriginal sites to our people. This next attempt to develop at Iron Gates should not be allowed to go ahead. It has been proven Mr Ingles does not respect important Bandjalang sites, the Flora and Fauna or the spiritual connection my people have to our land. Mr Ingles has destroyed sites, such as a midden site, scared trees and animal habitats, these important places have been there since, long before non-Aboriginal people arrived in Bandjalang country. He has no concern for our river or the pollution that will occur if this development takes place. I say this due to the past when my father explained to Mr Ingles about how important it was not to contaminate or dig near the fresh water area, Mr Ingles ignored my father and went ahead with a change of plans, resulting in the freshwater being excavated and mixed, resulting in a change of the natural ecosystem. My people have already lost important ceremonial sites, Men's, Women, Birthing, Initiation, and Bora Rings, due to developments such as, roads, construction, housing and farming. I believe because of this my people are losing their identity, they are losing their connection to land. We are experiencing catastrophic, never been seen before bushfire threats accelerated by a persevering never been seen before in living memory drought conditions fuelling more than 200 fires burning on the east coast, with more than 1.6 million hectares of land destroyed. One of the largest of these fires destroying over 115,000 hectares joined up to the Washpool State Forest fires burning a total of 216,707 hectares, destroying 22 homes in is still burning in the Bundjalung National park south of Iron Gates. With the isolation of Iron Gates effectively creating a satellite city I am concerned for the future residents of the estate, who could be facing the similar devastation as Rappville recently experienced where local Danny Smith said, "I've lost the bloody sheds, the house, lost everything." Heartbreaking. I'm also concerned for the existing population of Evans Head, with emergency response personnel already stretched, I'm concerned that if we were under threat from fire like Iluka is at the moment, and if we had the reverse wind conditions the same threat would be facing Iron Gates right now, I'm concerned for the safety and defence of residents on the southern side of the town who back on to rugged bushland and existing residents in Cherry St, Cedar St and surrounds who could also be under threat. I'm finally concerned the Iron Gates community could be cut off due to fire with possible fatalities as a result. Finally, I'd like to know how G Ingles as sole director of Iron Gates Pty Ltd, who was court ordered to remediate the land as a result of a landmark Land and Environment Court decision in 1997, can deregister the company -did not liquidate the asset to remediate the land, and 22 years later under the disguise of a phoenix company rise again with the asset and a new DA/Master Plan application judged on it's current merit? My role as a Traditional Owner and Custodian is to protect our Country and to represent over 100 of my decedents. It is with this responsibility that I oppose the proposed subdivision of Iron Gates. "Iron Gates" Subdivision, 240 Iron Gates Drive, Evans Head. The continuation of this development will be the beginning of a sorry song line for Bandjalang people and with that the wider Richmond Valley Community. I'd like to call on our leaders to rezone the land back to an environmental zoning as is appropriate for the site. Simone Barker Bandjalang

Traditional Owner & Custodian Attachment 1 Copy of submission to the Draft Master Plan for the Iron Gates Residential Release at Evans Head submitted on 7 March 2016 IRON GATES SUBMISSION CUSTODIANS My name is Simone Barker nee Wilson and I am a traditional Bandjalang Custodian - appointed by passed elder, my father, Lawrence Wilson who originally filed and won our Native Title Claim. I am highly insulted by the Iron Gates development proposal, and have repeatedly tried to convey this to the consultants. The development imposes a residential area over one of our most precious and meaningful places, the Gumigurrah site that was our people's Winter camp site, the crossing point for our people and ceremonial site where brides were exchanged. It is also the site where the massacre took place, where our ancestors were raided at dawn by a punitive party and subsequently massacred while fleeing. Within the Iron Gates development I know of four burial sites that seem to be ignored by the last Heritage study that took place. Whenever I go to the site I think of our forebears, of the beauty and spirituality of their lives that was so deeply respectful of Nature and our laws. If this proposal goes ahead in its current form it will make it impossible for us to feel good about our situation because we will be always reminded by white people living in a short distance from our own camp site and how it appears that the white people have now won and totally dominate our most precious traditions. Never mind that we now have native title rights over our land – that would mean nothing if our site is overwhelmed by this development and the visual impact, noises, pets and motors of a residential area. We totally disagree with the Heritage study's conclusion that the current buffer is sufficient wide or well conserved to protect cultural values at the midden site and ongoing natural values. It is completely insufficient both for our needs and the needs of nature. We demand that the ongoing heritage study corrects this mistake and records our objections in detail. The buffer needs to be wide enough that no houses or yards can be seen from the opposite shore and there are to be no jetties or boat access ramps on the development site. Management of this buffer should be as a natural area, with no mowing or formal walking tracks. Dogs or cats should not be allowed in the new development. The proposed reserved area inside the proposal should be connected to the surrounding vegetation so that our animals can move in or out. Other Bandjalang representatives are entitled to their opinion. Without agreement with the Custodians their views need to be treated with caution. Many Bandjalang individuals, including those who currently run the registered Native Title body, have sadly been separated from their true culture and have no link with traditional Bandjalang decision making or representation. I also would like to add that in the past the courts have ordered the developer to remove the roads, drains and bridge but this did not take place.

Bandjalang Custodian Simone Barker

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