

[http://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/NativeTitleRegisters/Pages/RNTC\\_details.aspx?NNTT\\_FileNo=QC2016/008](http://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/NativeTitleRegisters/Pages/RNTC_details.aspx?NNTT_FileNo=QC2016/008)

2 October 2020

Kuranda District State College  
via email [principal@kurandadistrictsc.eq.edu.au](mailto:principal@kurandadistrictsc.eq.edu.au)

Dear Principal Steven Moore,

**RE: Postponement of Djabugay language teaching at Kuranda District State College**

Thank you for your prompt reply 18 September 2020.

Please be advised Buluwai and Yirrgay will not be accepting places on the KDSC Djabugay Language Advisory Group (DLAG) due to the incorrect structure and taxonomy, as advised to you in the letter dated 4 September 2020. To reiterate, DTAC is not the cultural custodian for Buluwai and Yirrgay knowledge, language or customs – and never has been – including the last 20 years. Therefore, using ‘Djabugay Language’ to encompass the Yirrgay and Buluwai people’s own tribal languages is a misnomer.

The suggestion to move the DLAG into a more appropriate structure in line with the CRC is still valid with nominations to the language advisory committee (CRC LAC) for all schools in the CRC area – not just KDSC. DTAC is neither culturally responsible, nor nominated as such, by Buluwai and Yirrgay tribes to preside over cultural information pertinent to Djabugay’s neighbouring tribes. Djabugay people and their nominated corporation DNTAC/DTAC can speak for their country north-side of the Barron River but have no cultural authority on the coastal Yirrgay country or Buluwai country south-side of the Barron River, including in our schools. To be clear, Kuranda District State College is on Buluwai country.

Regarding your ‘extensive undertaking’ and ‘community consultation’: Buluwai and Yirrgay representatives do not feel the consultation has been undertaken in an appropriate or thorough manner at all. Being that the CRC Native Title and representatives from Buluwai and Yirrgay have been available to KDSC since 2016, there has only been one Buluwai consultation with Justin Butler QLD Ed (5 Mar 20) and Yirrgay have received no consultation by either KDSC, DTAC or QLD Education. Therefore we find your community consultation incomplete, flawed and misaligned to the Cairns Regional Claim Group applicants as formed in 2016.

Our advice as the undersigned Yirrganydji and Buluwandji Elders, Traditional Owners, CRC Applicants and Directors of associated Aboriginal Corporations, is the adoption of the following by KDSC:


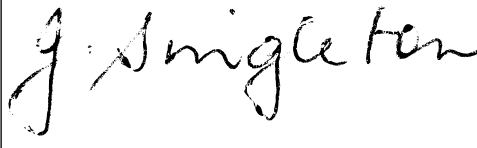
1. Postpone DTAC’s Djabugay language program
2. Agree to participate as one of the many schools in the CRC area and work within the existing CRC framework through the CRC Language Advisory Committee (CRC LAC)

We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss our proposal for a more inclusive and culturally appropriate way forward. The teaching of Indigenous languages is

undoubtedly important but must be done in a way that is accurate, consistent with the make-up of the Indigenous communities involved and allows input from all language custodians. To do otherwise risks unnecessarily causing or exacerbating community division; something that would be especially damaging in a school environment.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter and request your confirmation by reply.

Cairns Regional Claim Group Applicants

William Brim	Jeannette Singleton
	
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