CHIEF MINISTER

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His Worship the Mayor of Alice Springs
Mr Damien Ryan
Alice Springs Town Council
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Dear Mayor and Councillors

CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION

The Northern Territory Government remains focused on developing Alice Springs as the Inland Capital of Australia.

We believe that construction of a National Aboriginal Art Gallery is central to this vision.

We have undertaken extensive consultation with the community in relation to this project, including the business community, and we know there is strong support for the Gallery as a centrepiece for the future economic growth of Alice Springs.

We have also spoken extensively to Aboriginal people about the project – they are overwhelmingly supportive of it, however we acknowledge that a number of senior Aboriginal people have withdrawn their support for Government's proposed site.

We have listened to what they have told us and respect their position. As such, we are seeking to move forward with the project on an alternative site.

At this stage we are putting this proposal confidentially to Council to gauge your support before we seek the views of Aboriginal people and other residents.

What we will do:

- Hand over to Alice Springs Town Council the Government-owned portion of land on which the old Anzac Hill High School buildings currently stand (Lot 2683)
- Clear Lot 2683 of existing buildings and on this site:
    - Fund and build a new Alice Springs Town Library
    - Fund and build a water play park
    - Support the development of a new Alice Springs Town Council administrative centre
    - Ensure development takes into account registered sacred sites
- Support Council to retain Anzac Oval in its current form, with an offer to work with Council to enhance this site to better cater for community events, including the Masters Games

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

In exchange, you will:

- Hand to the NT Government the site on which the current ASTC administrative centre and Town Library stands to allow for the development of the National Aboriginal Art Gallery.

We believe this offers a positive solution that will allow the development of the Gallery project in the CBD, as well as delivering significant spin-off benefits for residents, for local business and for Council.

It will provide a short-term economic boost and local jobs through the construction phase. It will also provide a long-term economic boost and ongoing jobs through the operation of what will be a major cultural and tourism asset that will bring many thousands of people to Alice Springs, supporting local tourism, retail, hospitality, accommodation, art and culture and transport businesses, among others.

Importantly, the increased visitation will grow demand for air services in and out of Alice Springs, putting downward pressure on airfares and opening up opportunities for new air routes to the Red Centre.

This will be good for visitors but also for local residents who have long been calling for better air access and more affordable airfares.

The Gallery will also be critical in terms of celebrating and showcasing Aboriginal culture and putting it at the centre of Australia and the centre of Alice Springs.

Our proposal will be supported by an Aboriginal Workforce Development Plan to ensure we are maximising economic and social benefits flowing to local Aboriginal people. Our intention is that the Art Gallery will have majority Aboriginal management and workforce by the time it opens.

The proposal offers other significant community benefit with the construction of a contemporary library facility for the town and gives Council the opportunity to build a modern administrative centre that will ensure enhanced services to residents, as well as a welcoming and multi-purpose community space.

We ask that you keep this offer confidential while you give it consideration.

I would like to stress again that this Government remains firmly committed to working constructively and in partnership with Council and the community to deliver this and other important projects for Alice Springs.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL GUNNER

15 MAR 2019