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State Development, Natural Resources
and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Committee Secretary

By email: SDNRAIDC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Members

Re: submission on the *Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*.

Olkola Aboriginal Corporation represents the Olkola Nation of Cape York and owns and manages Olkola Country for the benefit of Olkola People. We welcome the opportunity to comment on the *Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018* (the Bill).

Recommended addition to the proposed amendments to the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*.

The Olkola Aboriginal Corporation supports the proposed insertion of the new section 27A (1-6) into the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*, however recommends that under section 27A (1) additional lots are added to the list as follows:

(d) lot 10 on SP261207; and

(e) lot 6 on SP262570.

Background

In late 2014, Olkola People received a handback of their Traditional Country with part of this country was returned as Aboriginal Freehold land (including lots 10 on SP261207 and lot 6 on SP262570).

Since the land handback, Olkola People have been managing and protecting the significant natural and cultural resources on this Country whilst also creating a viable future for their people in pursuing eco-tourism partnerships, carbon abatement savannah burning projects, cattle management as well as land management services.

Lot 10 on SP261207 and lot 6 on SP262570

Lot 10 on SP261207 and Lot 6 on SP262570 have significant natural and cultural values and it is the strong desire of the Olkola People for these lots to be included into the proposed new section 27A (1) of the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*. Lot 10 on SP261207 is

regarded as the most important core habitat of the endangered golden shouldered parrot, or *Alwal* in Olkol language. This bird, which once flourished throughout Cape York, is an Olkola totem species and now believed to be in numbers as low as 2000 birds. Alwal is a Cape York icon and is currently identified as one of the Threatened Species Commission's list of 20 priority bird species.

Olkola has been working in partnership with Bush Heritage Australia over the last 4 years to protect *Alwal* through an intensive monitoring and recovery program exclusively over lot 10 on SP261207 and is in the planning phase to develop a fenced refuge in this lot to protect *Alwal* habitat (*Alwal* makes its nest in conical termite mounds in grassland areas) from stray cattle and other threats to Alwal's survival.

Significant natural and cultural values also occur in Lot 6 SP262570, including mound springs on the central Crosbie Creek flood plains believed to be linked to the Mesozoic aquifers of the Carpentaria Basin, and a story place for the kangaroo rat and significant area to the Olkola People. This area also includes at least 3 Regional Ecosystems classified as 'of concern' for vegetation and biodiversity, and strong cultural sites key to Olkola Lore and Custom.

The inclusion of lot 10 on SP261207 and Lot 6 SP262570 (d-e) as an addition to the new section 27A (1) of the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007* is the strong desire of its Traditional Owners, the Olkola People.

Similarly, to the lots listed in the new section 27A (1) (a – c), the significant natural and cultural values of these lots warrant their inclusion into this amendment to the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Symonds

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CEO – Olkola Aboriginal Corporation