



**Ewin Early Learning Centre Inc**

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05/05/17

To Dear Jennifer

The purpose of this submission is to obtain in-principle support from the Shire for the use of the Coolibah Drive Road reserve for car parking, so that the Ewin Centre can expand the building envelope into the existing car park area (refer attached site plan and schematic diagram). The in-principle support will enable the Ewin centre to invest in a concept design process for this option with confidence that it will be considered "able to be approved" in a subsequent Development Application.

The Ewin ELC is an Education and Care service providing long day care to children aged 0-6 years, from Monday to Friday. The centre is licensed for 84 children per day, and currently is at approximately 90% occupancy. Our waiting lists remained consistent from 2009-2014 at approximately 50-60 children, however this increased in 2015 and has consistently remained between 80-100 children to date. The highest demand is for 0-3 year olds, and the current wait for a place for a 0-2 year old is 15 months from the date they join the list.

The centre receives daily inquiries about availability of places, and can confidently share that the long wait period is a serious barrier when people are considering relocating to Kununurra.

The Ewin ELC follows the Australian Governments Priority of Access policy for prioritising care for children. This includes giving priority to children at risk and children of working families. There are currently 114 families who access the service on a weekly basis who all meet Priority 1 & 2, with a total of 130 children who attend across the week.

The Ewin ELC prides itself on providing a high quality Education and Care program for the Kununurra community. The service has been rated as 'Exceeding' the National Quality Standards since 2013.

The facility was purpose built in 2007, and current operations have outgrown the building over the past 3 years.

The Ewin ELC Board of Directors, together with our Management team have been strategic planning for approximately 5 years to consider options for expanding the service into the future. Through engagement of a Child Care Consultant in late 2015 a report was developed that indicated expansion on the current site would allow for future growth if a shared arrangement could not be agreed upon for the adjacent block of land with Kununurra Neighbourhood House.

We feel the existing site is currently under-utilised, and have engaged an architect to explore a number of options for extending the building into the current car park, and relocating the car park to the large road reserve on Coolibah Drive. This new carpark site would not appear to compromise safe access or the amenity of neighbouring blocks.

Finding an alternative site to re-locate the centre and expand would require a 5-10 year period to realise, and this would not address the current needs of the community.

The development of the site requires the expansion of indoor and outdoor play spaces as well as the ancillary areas such as offices, ablutions and kitchen facilities; in order to maximise the additional licensed child care places that can be made available. We believe the most economical way for the Ewin ELC to expand its building (and service the needs of the community) would be to utilise the space in the existing carpark.

Yours Sincerely

Janelle Atwell

General Manager

On behalf of the Management & Board of Directors  
Ewin ELC