

results at Wallerberdina Station (65%). We have consciously not defined 'broad community support' to a specific percentage because there are a range of factors that need to be considered

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### **3. Rationale for Recommending to Proceed**

While the ballot result is in the majority at 57 per cent support, it is arguable whether 'broad community support' is evident, measured against earlier results at Wallerberdina Station (65 per cent). During the previous consultation period, Kimba demonstrated 51 per cent support and was not progressed to the next phase. The rationale for proceeding is:

- a. The high participation rate lends credibility to the ballot results, and a clear majority is supportive of progressing the nominations. A decision not to proceed would not respect the views of the majority.
- b. The support has increased since the Department first began engagement in Kimba in 2015.
- c. There is strong neighbour support around the sites, and the Council is supportive of proceeding in the process.
- d. Having alternative sites, from a broader Project perspective, is strategically advantageous given the heritage challenges at Wallerberdina Station.
- e. Not progressing this site would set a precedent of at least 58 per cent support to meet the definition of 'broad community support' even with strong neighbour support and an engaged and cooperative Council.

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Further, as you have previously responded to questions regarding the definition of 'broad community support' by referring to the previous nomination process, where 65 per cent support ratio was sufficient to progress the Wallerberdina Station nomination. By deciding to progress a ballot result of 57 per cent support, it may seem out of line with previous messaging, as the support is not as high as Wallerberdina Station's. However, Wallerberdina did not have strong neighbour support and had a publically opposed Traditional Aboriginal Owners group.

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