



The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP

Federal Member for New England

Our ref: NE54589

31 January 2025

Mr Stephen Gowlland
President
Merriwa District Progress Association Inc
PO Box 144
MERRIWA NSW 2329

Via e-mail: merriwaprogress@gmail.com

Dear Mr Gowlland

Thank you for your e-mail message and letter of 29 January 2025 on behalf the Merriwa District Progress Association Inc regarding the future of the Gummun Place Aged Care Hostel in Merriwa and in which the Association has sought assistance in locating funding for the Hostel at either the federal or state level.

I have noted your comments in relation to this important issue and appreciate the Association contacting me.

I have e-mailed a letter to the Minister for Aged Care, the Hon Anika Wells MP, asking if urgent consideration could be given to this matter in light of the concerns and points raised in your letter and for her advice regarding any possible avenues of funding that may be available through the Federal Government to assist the Hostel.

I have also e-mailed a letter to the State Member for Upper Hunter, Mr Dave Layzell MP, asking if he could make appropriate representations to the New South Wales Government regarding possible state funding and if he could reply directly to you.

Thank you once again for raising this issue – I am sure Mr Layzell will be in touch with you soon and I will contact you when I have received a reply to my representations.

Whilst my current Parliamentary commitments will prevent me from meeting with the Association at this time, I trust this will be of assistance and if I can further assist at any time, please let me know.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP
Federal Member for New England
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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