

Aboriginal Community Advisory Group

Report



Report of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group Meeting

Garden Suburb

13th and 14th November 2014

Introduction

The first meeting of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group (CAG) was held in Garden Suburb at the Yamuloong Function Centre on the 13th and 14th November 2014. There were 9 members in attendance and 2 Board members.

Acknowledgement to Country was performed by the CEO of Awabakal LALC, Steven Slee. The group were welcomed by the LSS Board and then given a presentation by the General Manager Brett Miners on the Hunter Local Land Services and its functions.

The Aboriginal CAG provided their views on the membership and governance of the group, Regional Strategic Plan and Aboriginal engagement policy. All of the comments recorded have been included below, there were many similar comments across each group which have been reflected in a single comment.

Election of office:

- Co-Chairs Craig Foreshew (LALC) and Mick Leon (Community) by consensus.

ACAG Outcomes

- A half hour session for Aboriginal CAG members to discuss issues relating to the ACAG meeting, with no staff/LLS reps. the half hour session be applied as a standing item on the agenda.
- Opportunity for sharing/learning good practices in management of Aboriginal owned land to be applied as an standing item on the agenda.
- Terms of reference ("ToR") to be adopted in principle; with amendments
- ToR to be finalised at next meeting
- A scheduled review of the ToR every 6 months
- Code of Conduct to be included within the ToR
- Remuneration (fee for service) be included in the ToR and finalised at next meeting
- Hunter LLS look at providing Cadetship/traineeship opportunities for Aboriginal community members, eg Elsa Dixon funding.
- Table a Cultural Awareness draft discussion paper on Policy/Procedures/funding for cultural management and due diligence for on-ground projects at the application stage.
- Briefing on the Crown Land Review process and the process for native title claims
- Briefing on NSW Native Title Amendment Bill
- Develop protocol for due diligence with PVP's
- Can we focus on cultural change by offering discount rate for surveys (for funded programs)
- Increase information on what services HLLS has to offer from PVP, advantages of PVP's on Aboriginal owned land,

- Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System – LALC/TO access and utilise information for PVP projects
- More information on the HLLS Biodiversity program, presentation at upcoming meeting
- Opportunities and ways to improve/capitalise on potential project for HLLS programs
- Give feedback on unsuccessful applications reasons why application was unsuccessful, how to identify a successful proposal for a particular program
- Community needs more information on LALC's as ratepayers, presentation (rating process)
- Members to agree accept/assess late applications finalise at the next meeting
- Additional information on climate change – example of management layers (eg. Native veg & fuels & risks, eg. Climate change induced?)
- When moving meetings around, having an open call session to invite community members to meet Advisory Group.
- Look at opportunity to invite other agencies to attend/present – For example Marine Parks Manager
- If required earlier, call a special meeting

Proposed opportunities for Aboriginal projects:

- Education programs for Aboriginal communities on Climate change, Cultural Burning, Pest Management and Emergency Management
- Ensure education workshops are undertaken in all three HLLS districts in consultation with Aboriginal community stakeholders
- Cultural Awareness training for HLLS Board and Staff members
- More Aboriginal land areas to be included in HLLS programs such as Biodiversity program with Aboriginal land management team (ALMT) to be employed on these projects.
- Develop PVP that are centred around management and protection of Aboriginal significant sites and natural resources on Aboriginal or privately owned property.
- Transparency in funding bids – how to do it well?
- Multiple outcomes – Aboriginal land management teams – Aboriginal – public – private land opportunities

Actions:

- HLLS to prepare a draft Aboriginal Community program – outlining the Objectives based on LLS four pillars.
- Aboriginal Community Programs to include, Aboriginal protocol and engagement, management of Aboriginal owned land including property management plans, funding/partnership government and private, employment
 - Suzie, Kerrie, Craig and Toby to review HLLS Aboriginal scholarship, name of scholarship and adding an obligation/encourage to do talks with LALC's/TO groups.
- Develop map of TO/language groups – with input from OEH and develop a layer for inclusion of LLS/Aboriginal group
- Table draft Code of Conduct and member removal process and targeted recruitment to areas that have under-representation, flag those areas of critical gaps
- Toby to circulate existing member list
- Investigate options for getting Q Fever vaccination (prior to February with John Hunter Hospital) provide advice back to Craig Foreshaw.
- Toby to circulate Q Fever fact sheet to members of Aboriginal CAG
- Toby to circulate presentations and “My local team” posters

Next steps

- The report from the Aboriginal CAG will be provided to the HLLS Board.
- A report on progress against the actions will be provided at the next Aboriginal CAG meeting.
- The next Aboriginal CAG meeting will take place on 26th - 27th February 2015.