



Local Land
Services
Hunter

9th Aboriginal Community Advisory Group Meeting

MINUTES

Aboriginal Community Advisory Group

Report

ACAG Meeting 23rd and 24th of April 2018





9th Aboriginal Community Advisory Group

Present:

Deb Swan-Roads and Maritime Authority
Warranha Ngumbaay-Community Member Upper Hunter,
Cecil Miller- Wanaruah LALC,
Arthur Fletcher-Community Member Upper Hunter,
Tony Hegarty-HLLS Board,
John Clark- Community Member Manning,
Robert Russell- Awabakal LALC,
Suzie Worth-Community Member Upper Hunter,
Mick Leon-Community Member Manning,
Toby Whaleboat- Aboriginal Communities Officer HLLS
Lyndel Wilson- NRM Team Leader HLLS

Guest Presenters: Amanda McCarthy-Coordinator Aboriginal Programs LLS,
Callaghan Cotter-Regional Weeds Officer HLLS
Arthur Brown-Hunter Region Pest Management Committee
Mick Leon and Pedda - TIDE Drones presentation

Apologies: Noel Downs-Wanaruah LALC, Tara Dever-Mindarribba LALC, Aleshia Lonsdale-Mudgee LALC,
Len Roberts, Karuah CEO (interim ceo), Carol Proctor-Batahah Intermirm CEO, Brett Miners-HLLS, Joe
Thompson –Healthy Landscapes Manager LLS, Kerrie Brauer-Community Member Lower Hunter
(Biraban LALC- *no rep at present*)

Venue: Club Forster, 19 Strand Street Forster NSW 2428 (02) 6591 6591 (See Appendix 1 for Map).

Hunter ACAG primary function (TOR): *The role of the Aboriginal advisory group is to advise the Hunter Local Land Services on the strategies and priorities that Hunter LLS should implement with the Aboriginal community.*

Day 1 –ACAG Meeting:

1. Closed Session:

1. Half hour session for Aboriginal CAG members with no Hunter LLS representatives
2. Robert Russell-nominated as Chair
 - 1.1. Update from closed session from the Chair:
 - Toby to be re-invited to future closed sessions.
 - Travelling Stock Routes(TSR)- issues on identification on TSR's relevant to the ACAG members (how identified, who's managing them- with consideration to Crown Lands responsibilities)



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- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage legislation- submissions placed from State Land Council- (Rob to distribute via Toby to all members)
- Uncle John- Indigenous Protected Areas are under review(IPA’s), and WOC rangers and issues with funding and management. Review outcomes will be provided soon. 15 organisations from Australia (TIDE only NSW rep), 5 Aboriginal representatives, 10 researchers/scientists/other land managers. Not many IPA’s in NSW (9-closest IPA to Hunter is in Nambucca- Gumma IPA)
 - **-Note:** since meeting Australian Government announced on a \$250million package to Aboriginal Ranger program until 2021 <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/apr/27/indigenous-rangers-to-receive-250m-in-funding-for-jobs-until-2021>
- Tony Hegarty-noted that LLS role is to manage TSR’s to maintain economic viability (maintenance and access)

Action 1	What assistance can be provided from LLS assist this process and management of IPA’s, and how IPA’s are developed- invite IPA representatives to ACAG meeting, to learn more about IPAs(Toby)- and Indigenous Land Corporation lands and potential support opportunities.	Responsible:Toby Whaleboat
Action 2	TSR- Toby to send around list of TSR’s within HLLS regions- web site from Crown Lands	Responsible: Toby Whaleboat

2. Introduction:

- 2.1. Welcome to Country- John Clark
- 2.2. Introduction by Hunter LLS Board member (Tony Hegarty)
Welcome to members. Note that the current ACAG is the only CAG currently running in Hunter LLS, acknowledgement of the uniqueness of this CAG, and value of maintaining this group, and thank-you to members.
- 2.3. Actions Outstanding from Previous Meeting- Toby Whaleboat:
 1. Travelling Stock Routes (*query into TSR land parcels*)- Toby presented on the Plan of Management- timeline Plan Of Management for TSRs to be developed in November) Toby to send around draft to ACAG in June(if available for distribution).

ACTION 3: Rob suggest meet in early October (from 2nd) to consider TSR POM to allow a combined response from ACAG.

2. (*OEH – poor consultation*) Robert Russell submitted a letter to OEH and contacted them by phone to discuss disappointment in consultation lead time and considerations

ACTION 4: Rob Russell to circulate the copy of OEH letter submitted



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3. (*Events calendar*) HLLS to continue investigate ways to send information to community eg create events calendar to promote upcoming events.-including the HLLS web page and events pages.
4. (*HLLS leverage of funds*) Confirm any funding opportunities outcomes to ACAG members (ongoing partnerships- long term programs- National Landcare Program Employment and Career grants)
5. (*Maintain ACAG member involvement in Training events*) **Training programs**- ensure consultation in training program development i.e Sedgefield training, and working with local community. Rob- LLS, Awabakal CVA, ET, \$65K Rocky Nob- Fletcher, revegetation corridor, and swamp and fox baiting program (shore bird and eagle protection program) and training in CALM III, Newcastle Uni- Cultural Burning program in Blackbutt reserve. Toby identified evaluation process that is completed at end of all training programs, to provide continual improvement and learning program.

6. (*Guy Ballard Invitation*) Guy invited but unable to attend April meeting

ACTION 5: Toby Whaleboat to continue to invite Guy Ballard to next meeting

7. (*indigenous fire knowledge planning and on ground management- Upper Hunter*) Sedgefield TSR Aboriginal Cultural Burn -Noel and Kleinfelder have assessed the site, ecologist report provided, looking to deliver in July.

Uncle John-query Great Lakes/Manning/Hunter?- Toby indicated training in fire management, 3 year program in Lower Hunter/Manning GL and next to Upper Hunter- likelihood to continually deliver this program on a rotation basis to maintain training and cultural education outcomes. Toby to confirm this through a longer term program for 2018/19-2020/21 program with ACAG members

10. (*Working group to meet to continue development of Plan*) Aboriginal Engagement and Employment plan meeting has been held- further efforts for RAP and integration of this into the Engagement and Employment Plan, currently in Final Draft.

11. (*continue discussions with OEH following the November presentations*) Lyndel updated that 2 projects were submitted for funding through OEH Saving Our Species program- Muswellbrook Common (Wanarua LALC) and Cessnock Forests (Mindaribba LALC and adjoining lands). Cessnock forest project successful with \$240K for forest restoration and durable/vandal proof fencing to prevent illegal access/arson impacts. Cecil also noted that for Muswellbrook Common site- Fire Funding- also an opportunity for additional funding for Trail management program with RFS.

12. OEH- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage(ACH) legislation invitations to maintain ongoing communications/presence in ACAG meetings, maintain linkages



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13. Karuah LALC CEO on leave at present, interim CEO not able to attend in his place.

3. HLLS Aboriginal Program Delivery for 2017/18 – Toby Whaleboat

Program Update: deferred

4. Hunter Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan – Callaghan Cotter

Art Brown (Chair of Regional Pest Animal Management committee) and Cal Cotter provided presentation on the Pest Animal Management Plan.

The new Biosecurity Act (to commence mid 2018), all landholders (public and private) will be responsible under one Act. Natural Resources Commission (NRC) reviewed current practices, and determined the approach as “think regionally, act locally” as the better approach to pest management. Declarations have also changed, and identify if an animal is a “biosecurity threat”, and so now includes deer/cats and other species that may have not previously been identified as feral/declared pest animals (this list does not include any native animals).

Jamie Morton-LLS staff member is collating all consultation feedback from regional consultation sessions and reviewing the plan. Consultation closed (ACAG members were able to provide feedback to the plan through the meeting).

All pest animals are reviewed via a risk matrix, and reviewed on ability to manage and guides strategies across the state (into 4 categories: prevention, eradication, containment and asset based protection)

Alert Species also listed include 2 X deer, cane toads, greenfinch, ostrich, barberry dove, and several fish and turtle -these can be reported via a Hotline (detailed in the Plan)

Priority species in Hunter: *Wild Dog, Wild Deer, Horse, Feral Cat, Rabbit, Fox, Wild Pig, Feral Goat and Carp.*

Key Strategies:

- Reduce negative impacts of pests
- Local plans for priority species
- Support to landholders (training, education and coordination)
- Longer term programs/research into new techniques
- Response to new incursions

Discussion points (all were collated to input into the Draft Plan via Cal Cotter):

- Deer area a problem in Mandalong
- Indian Myna birds and issues (the Pest Plan identifies further info needed)
- What opportunities for Feral Goat meat business out west (economic viability)



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- Enforceability of the Pest Plans an issue
- Issues with dogs dumped into bush areas
- 1080 regulations- notification requirement distance to neighbouring landholders (i.e within 1 km of bait site), concerns baiting vs trapping
- Indigenous fire control- could this be considered complementary control technique for several pest animals?
- Deer control Archery may be more effective (noise issues dispersing animals)
- RMS/Councils –signage on road in priority areas(i.e deer)
- Concerns over ripping of rabbit warrens and impacts to the landscape
- Birapi hunters(MGL) hunt pigs-main issues are land access(John)
- Community education needed to support plan implementation, question on Bounties- none in NSW

12.30pm Lunch

1.00pm Afternoon Session 1:

5. **Aboriginal Program LLS State Operations - Amanda McCarthy (LLS Aboriginal State Coordinator)**

LLS State Aboriginal Program Initiatives

Reconciliation Action Plan

RAP launch on 28th May (and regional launches available)

Some RAP priority initiatives include LLS Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week activities, inclusion/display of Aboriginal Art, improve Aboriginal Employment outcomes within LLS(including understanding attrition rates-exit interview data etc), LLS Staff inclusion of contribution to RAP as part of annual Personal Development Plans, employment pathways- succession planning, regional Aboriginal programs review.

Discussion on a project initiated through the development of the LLS RAP to identify what lands are aboriginal owned/managed across LLS regions(using FARMS database system)

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Reforms

ACH-“nuts and bolts” on the ACH wont become clear until legislation and Unit is established.

ACH reforms not due to be reviewed until late 2018.

LLS- provided a state-wide response(based on all LLS’s contributions) on how ACH could impact on business, and supported/promoted ACH consultation with key advisor groups

2.30pm Afternoon Tea

3.00pm Afternoon session 2:

6. **Opportunity for sharing/learning:** Presentation on Manning Great Lakes (TIDE Rangers) Conservation Land Management (Cert 4) and Drone Training (TIDE Rangers)



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Drone training- Before and after monitoring, weed mapping/assessment, 3D footage, cultural assessment, 7 day training course for 4 TIDE training, run through LLS program at Tocal College.

3.30pm

7. Hunter LLS - Thank you presentation for ACAG community members two year term

Toby provided a summary of the last 4 years of achievements for ACAG priorities and achievements resulting. ACAG Members were thanked for their involvement and dedication, and Toby was also praised for his efforts to support outcomes.

8. General Business – Date and location for the 10th ACAG meeting week of 2nd October

John Clark- grateful for the support to his team and rangers training and support.

Upcoming elections/next members for election to the ACAG.

Action 6	Develop process to recruit/seek re-elect to ACAG group (and Code of Conduct and TOR) before October 2018 (for a 2 year term)	Toby Whaleboat
	Note: Warranha- query on a probationary period for applicants/ and recommended use grass roots language to ensure appropriate communications/reach to right individuals. Recognition of prior knowledge and learning.	
Action 7	Send CMA Code of Conduct to all ACAG members	Warranha or Deb
Action 8	Collate photo's members of ACAG and a short write up on the role and successes of the ACAG members over the current term.	Toby Whaleboat

4.08pm: Meeting Close

Day 2: Field Trip

9.15am – 12.00pm: TIDE Aboriginal Ranger program project site visit

Visit to Taree coastal area and local cemetery discussing cultural heritage in the area and local traditions. Visit to Booti Booti NP to observe Drone use on beach front with TIDE members- drone demonstration with TIDE staff cancelled due to rain.

Close of Field Trip 12pm



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Summary of Actions from this meeting (meeting #9):

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