



Local Land  
Services  
Hunter

# Aboriginal Community - Advisory Group - Report

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**ACAG Meeting 27th and 28th of July 2016**



## Report of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group Meeting

Manning/Great Lakes District

27 July 2016 at Club Forster

**Attendees:** Mick Leon (ACAG Co-Chair), Arthur Fletcher (Community Representative), Suzie Worth (Community Representative), John Clarke (TIDE, Community Representative), Deb Swan (Guest), Warranha Ngumbaay (Mudgee LALC), Kylie Orth (Mudgee LALC), Jessica Wegener (Briaban LALC/ ACAG Co-Chair), Cecil Miller (Guest), John Thorpe (Guest), Tony Hegarty (Hunter LLS Board Member), Brett Miners (Hunter LLS General Manager), Toby Whaleboat (Hunter LLS), Karen Fitzherbert (Hunter LLS),

**Apologies:** Kerrie Brauer (Community Representative), Noel Downs (Wanaruah LALC), Michael Green (Buhtabah LALC)

### 1. Introduction

The Sixth meeting of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group (ACAG) was held in Forster on the 27th and 28th of July 2016. The first day of the meeting commenced at 9.30am with a half hour closed session with no Hunter LLS representatives. The meeting was opened at 10am by Welcome to Country performed by Uncle John Clarke.

### 2. Welcome and meeting open at 10.43am - Tony Hegarty (HLLS Board member)

### 3. Report back on Actions

Action	Status
1. Toby to work with Noel to develop input into weeds committee regarding weed removal around middens.	Ongoing
2. Work with RFS to identify training opportunities for ALMTs in Bushfire Awareness and/ or Bushfire Fighter.	Complete – Bushfire awareness training undertaken in Lower Hunter May 2016, proposed for Manning Great Lakes in May 2017
3. Prepare Draft Brochure on Community access to Travelling Stock Routes (TSR).	Ongoing – To be prepared following completion of the Hunter TSR Management Plan. TSR Framework can be found at <a href="#">NSW TSR State Planning Framework</a>
4. Prepare a letter, accompanied with the 5 year program to be signed by both ACAG co chairs to send to ILC and other agencies to leverage funds.	Ongoing – 5 Year Program incorporated in the draft Hunter LLS Aboriginal Engagement and Employment Plan.

Action	Status
5. Distribute a copy of the presentation by ILC	Complete
7. Distribute the presentation by Rural Fire Services Jamie Bertram -	Complete

#### 4. - Presentation - Draft Local Land Services Amendment Bill 2016 - Geoff Forster (Hunter LLS)

Presentation on the draft amendments provided. Item raised and discussed include:

- What is required in the codes for cultural heritage
- What triggers an additional investigation
- Due diligence assessment training for staff to provide skills in when additional investigation is necessary and:
  - Ensure staff are aware and can communicate to the land holders
  - Ensure staff are skilled in identifying cultural landscape features.

**Action: Hunter LLS to prepare Cultural Heritage/Due diligence guidelines and training for staff**

#### 5. - Department of Planning's Guidelines for Economic Sustainability for assessments – Suzie Worth

Guidelines circulated with Agenda prior to meeting.

Discussion items:

- Draft Guidelines for economic assessment October 2015 placed on public exhibition
- Draft Guidelines in use by consultants and Community asked to comment on cultural significance detailed in a report utilising the Economic Assessment methodology
- The methodology required the site to be ranked on the scale of significance, concern raised that the ranking does not adequately capture the significance.

**Action: Write a letter to Department of Planning and Office of Environment and Heritage about guidelines and ask:**

- Why community was not consulted re the document?
- Why are archeologists already using it?

#### 6. - HLLS Indigenous Fire Knowledge Conference – August 2016

ACAG asked if they supported community attending the fire conference and how community should be selected. ACAG advised:

- Conference is key to further advance those currently undertake training
- Diploma students
- Open expression of interest to ALMTs Diploma students in Lower Hunter followed by ALMT'S in other districts where spots not filled.
- Ensure Diploma students respect local protocols

**Action: Prepare an EOI for ALMT Diploma students to attend Conference**

#### 7. - Mid Coast Council Presentation – Isabella Stratham

- Isabella provided an overview of the environmental trust grant project at Cellito Beach and Bald head and opportunities for community involvement.

#### 8. - TIDE Presentation (Shaun Hooper)

- Shaun talked about the partnership between the TIDE Aboriginal land management team and the Booti Booti National Parks programs.

#### 9. - General Business: Agenda items for next meeting

- Next location Upper Hunter Denman (Rescheduled to Lower Hunter - Lake Macquarie)

#### 10. Summary of new actions from the meeting

##### Action arising from ACAG Meeting 27 July 2016

1. EOI to ALMT Diploma students to attend the Indigenous Fire Knowledge Conference Cape York
2. Hunter LLS to prepare Cultural Heritage/Due diligence guidelines and training for staff
3. Write a letter to Department of Planning and Office of Environment and Heritage about guidelines status and consultation

**Meeting Close: 4.30pm**

#### Field Trip - 28 July 2015

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the ACAG meeting the members visited Booti Booti National Parks and they were met at the Booti Booti National Parks office location by Taree Indigenous Development and Employment (TIDE) team leader Shaun Hooper and National Parks Ranger Fiona Miller. Shaun and Fiona talked about the partnership between the TIDE Aboriginal land management team and the Booti Booti National Parks programs.

Hunter Local Land Services would like to give a special thankyou to the Foster Aboriginal community and especially Mick Leon, Shaun Hooper and Fiona Miller for their hospitality and involvement in the field visit.