



Local Land
Services
Hunter

Aboriginal Community Advisory Group

Debrief

ACAG Meeting 19th and 20th of September 2017



Introduction

The 8th meeting of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group (ACAG) was held in the Upper Hunter at the Muswellbrook RSL on the 19th and 20th September 2017.

Attendees: Noel Downs (Wanaruah LALC), Arthur and Lyn Fletcher (Community Representative and Guest), Glen Jonas (TIDE, Guest presenter) John Clarke (TIDE, Community Representative), Warranha Ngumbaay (Community Representative), Suzie Worth (Community Representative), Rob Russell (Awabakal LALC), Tara Dever (Mindaribba LALC), Katherine Howard (OEH Presenter), Paul Hellier (OEH presenter), Lindy Hyam (Chair of Hunter LLS Board) Brett Miners (Hunter LLS General Manager), Toby Whaleboat (Hunter LLS), Karen Fitzherbert (Hunter LLS), Lyndell Wilson (Hunter LLS), Eva Twarkowski (Hunter LLS).

Apologies: Aleshia Lonsdale (Mudgee LALC) Michael Green (Bahtabah LALC), Kerrie Brauer (Community Representative), Mick Leon (ACAG Co-Chair), Tony Hegarty (Hunter LLS Board Member).

1. ACAG members Closed Session

The meeting commenced at 8.45am with a half hour closed session during this time no Hunter LLS representatives were present.

2. Welcome –

The meeting was opened at 10am by Welcome to Country performed by Arthur Fletcher and members were asked to stand for one minute silence.

Lindy Hyam Chair of the Hunter LLS Board thanked Arthur Fletcher for the Welcome to Country and welcomed all members to the meeting.

3. Report back from closed session

Rob Russell (LALC) and Suzie Worth (Community) were nominated as a temporary Chair for the duration of the ACAG meeting.

- Travelling Stock Route (“TSR”) - TSR land returned to Aboriginal not for profit organisations. Crown Lands are developing the framework, but community will need to be involved in the process. TSR’s can provide opportunities for Non – Government Organisations (“NGOs”) to obtain land to create training and employment and build capacity of the community. Community want to engage with TSR stakeholders to build partnerships. LALCs are quite capable of managing TSR land.

Actions - Take a look at the TSR land parcels to make considerations.

Actions - ACAG require an update on TSR next meeting. However, update will be required before the Crown Lands consultation and review is completed.

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (“ACH”) Legislation – Reform
Office of Environment and Heritage (“OEH”) need to improve lead time to promote ACH consultation workshop eg Community had only a week notice to attend the Newcastle workshop, as a result the workshop had poor community attendance.
Action – Awabakal LALC and HLLS to write to OEH to advise community disappointment.
Action – HLLS to investigate ways to send information to community eg create events calendar to promote upcoming events.
- HLLS Aboriginal program Budget Cut impacting on building the Aboriginal community’s capacity in regard to Aboriginal land management training and employment. HLLS total funding had been severely cut and that had direct implications to the HLLS Aboriginal program which led to allocating of funds for priority activities.
Action - HLLS to investigate strategic partnerships for long term (3-4 years) leverage of funding initiatives.
Action – HLLS planning; training to be a priority activity and ensure community involvement
- Aerial baiting – Wanaruah LALC not convinced that the Aerial baiting program in the Upper Hunter is working.
Action – HLLS to provide the Upper Hunter pest management report at next ACAG meeting
Action – HLLS to Invite Guy Ballard to next ACAG meeting

4. Terms of Reference (“ToR”) Review

- ACAG members reviewed the updated (June 2017) Terms of Reference –
ACAG members request new amendments:
 - Membership application - Remove Expression of Interest
 - Former Reps to be welcome back
 - Increase number of members; eg 2 members from an organisation or community
 - HLLS to send out CMA Aboriginal reference group Terms of Reference, updated ToR, ToR “Adopted out of Session”.
 - Applicants to be endorsed by community organisation such as LALC or Traditional Owner organisations, letter of support. Applicants shortlisted, another stage of procurement provided, applicants introduce themselves to ACAG and provide background or history of their involvement with the Aboriginal community for final selection.

5. Progress Against Actions from last ACAG meeting

6. Report on Actions

Action	
1. Provide Data Use Agreement Form to all members to complete and submit to Hunter LLS to request GIS data (specifically Travelling Stock Reserves and LALC Boundaries)	HLLS - Send out email with information about <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Crown lands contact and web-link to apply for TSR mapping layers. ➤ Contact for NSWALC
2. Invite an OEH representative to present on the Save Our Species program at the next meeting.	Completed
3. Invite representatives from OEH Science Division to attend the next meeting to scope the development of the mapping products in consultation with the ACAG and LALCs.	ACH mapping meeting out of session

7. Overview of 2017-2018 Aboriginal Program

- **Action** - Indigenous Fire Knowledge planning and on-ground management, workshop and training (Upper Hunter) HLLS - begin lead up work; engage stakeholders Wanaruah and Mudgee LALC for 3 – 4 location and RFS for resources and burn plan.
- Indigenous Fire Management Assessment Team Training course and workshop - Manning/Great Lakes.
- Conservation Land Management Diploma Capacity Building – Upper Hunter postponed till July 2018.
- Due Diligence Cultural Heritage Training for HLLS Board and staff members.
- Travelling Stock Routes Cultural Assessments Workshop and on-ground assessment - Upper Hunter
- Aboriginal Cultural landscapes video production training – **Action** encourage community participation.
- Aboriginal Land Management Teams Capacity Building Grants Program not included in DSDP; Community concern regarding Aboriginal training and employment initiatives. **Action** - Ensure training and employment is priority in HLLS planning.
- HLLS Aboriginal Community Advisory Group Meetings – 2 per year
- Aboriginal Program Communication materials promoting HLLS – display banner, brochures, media.
- Capacity building Aboriginal education HLLS Aboriginal Scholarship 3 Aboriginal students University of Newcastle not in DSDP.

8. Update on Draft Aboriginal Engagement Plan

- Not discussed

Action- Working Group meeting to be convened to further develop the Plan.

9. LLS Reconciliation Action Plan Update

Action – HLLS confirm location and venue for workshops and crown lands review dates. Promote through list of contacts. Add to events calendar.

10. Katherine Howard and Paul Hellier OEH Save Our Species presentation

Office of Environment and Heritage representatives presented information about the Saving our Species program – what projects Aboriginal communities were engaged in such as the Regent Honeyeater project in Cessnock.

Action – HLLS to contact representatives for further discussions and proposals

11. OEH LALC ACH Mapping proposed project

Office of Environment and Heritage offer to undertake workshops for LALCs.

Action – Representative to present at next ACAG meeting

12. Taree Indigenous Development and Employment Ltd (TIDE) presentation

- HLLS Indigenous Fire Knowledge workshop demonstration burn at Tarbuck Bay
- Manning/Great Lakes HLLS Certificate 4 in conservation and land management course.

Action -

General Business

Date of Next Meeting – 6th - 7th March 2018

Location – Great Lakes Area, Karuah

Action - invite Karuah LALC CEO

Informal Dinner - All were invited for Dinner and Informal Discussions at the Remington Motor Inn, 28-32 Maitland Street, Muswellbrook

4.30pm: Meeting Close

Day 2: Field Trip – 20th of September 2017

Holydeen Travelling Stock Route

2nd day itinerary:

- 9.15am - 10.30am Holydeen TSR
- 10.30am – 12.00pm Holydeen Site Aboriginal Site Identification and Assessment Projects

- 12.30pm – 1.30 pm Lunch Denman hotel
- 1.30pm finish

The ACAG members visited the Hollydeen Travelling Stock Route near Denman to tour two completed project sites.

The 2 Projects include:

- Aboriginal Site Identification training for Aboriginal land management teams from the Lower Hunter. Members visited a location onsite near a dam and were informed of the various training techniques used in the workshop to assist Aboriginal students develop their Aboriginal site identification skills.
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Assessment
Members visited an Aboriginal shelter and camp site found on the TSR as part of the ACH assessment.

Action - ensure ACH assessor invites LALC site officer to participate in assessment

Hunter Local Land Services would like to acknowledge and give a special thankyou to the Aboriginal community in the Upper Hunter and the guests and presenters that participated in the meeting.