

Aboriginal Advisory Group Meeting

Minutes

13th ACAG Meeting

Date:	3 & 4 March 2021
Time:	9:30am to 4:00pm
Location:	Murrook Cultural Centre, Williamtown

Attendees

Chair	David Feeney, Co-Chair		
Members	Suzie Worth – Co-Chair	Rob Russell, Awabakal LALC	
	Tara Dever, Mindaribba LALC	John Clark, Community	
	Arthur Fletcher, Community	Deb Swan – Alternate Co-chair	
	Ashley Williams, Biraban LALC	Elizabeth McIntyre	
	Warranha Ngumbay, Community	John Thorpe, Community	
	Mick Leon, Community	Clare MacDougal, Manager Healthy Landscapes	
	Toby Whaleboat, Senior Land Services Officer, Aboriginal Communities		
	Apologies	Kerrie Brauer, Community	
	Visitors	Levi Jacobs	
Secretariat	Eva Twarkowski, Community Engagement Team Leader		

**In attendance for part of the meeting*

Minutes

Item 3. Report back on key items from closed session.

Co-chairs nominated include:

Suzie Worth – for the duration of the membership

Dave Feeney – for the duration of the membership

Deb Swan – Alternate Co-chair

The main point of discussion during the closed session included identifying employment opportunities within the organisations – how to support Toby's position in the Hunter.

Second point was the Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs)- The LALCs or Community have not been notified of the TSR expression of Interest for the lease.

Action – Hunter LLS to investigate the type of cultural activities ACAG members can undertake on TSRs. HLLS - to present on the TSR Expression of Interest process and options at the next ACAG meeting.

Item 4

- Reporting on Key actions from the 12th ACAG meeting

Item	Action	Completed	New/Ongoing Action
1. Acknowledgment of Country	Fly the Aboriginal flag at LLS offices NAIDOC WEEK Aboriginal flag was flown at Paterson Office for Reconciliation Week event	Yes	Liaise with State LLS to confirm what the process is for the Aboriginal Flag to be flown all the times and not only during Reconciliation Week or NAIDOC Week.
2. On-ground works Cultural burn	Send around the dates and invitation for those who would like to attend the scheduled cultural burn	No	Send out the cultural burn schedule
3. Terms of Reference	Send TOR to all attendee and members for review	Yes	N/A
4. University of Newcastle Proposal	Send report on review and recommendations on the Uni of Newcastle Indigenous Knowledge Cluster, development of Community Guide and MOU proposal	Yes	N/A
5. NAIDOC Week Activities	Details regarding NAIDOC week schedule	Ongoing	ACAG members to send the details of NAIDOC activities in the Hunter.
6. Supporting Aboriginal Land Management Resources	The document was amended to include feedback from the ACAG members, and the document was finalised and launched	Completed	N/A

- HLLS Aboriginal Program 20-21

HLLS provided an overview of the on-ground activities and cultural burn activities and showed the planned 2021 schedule for cultural burn demonstration activities in the Hunter. This schedule was

developed by Victor Stephenson. Burns that were delayed from last season are included in this year's schedule

Deb Swan is the Director of Firesticks Alliance – and is declaring it as a conflict

The Board is committed to support the cultural burn program and facilitate it in such a way that it is profitable and productive, this will provide Long-term employment opportunities

New Action – Deb speak to State training services – provide funds for a short workshop or training course around business development

Aboriginal people that want to undertake a cultural burn – can contact the LALC as per HLLS resource document.

The main issue is that we don't know these people who are doing these cultural burns and what their background or qualification is. Need to ensure that Cultural burns are accredited providers

New Action - generate a list of providers for cultural burning- HLLS investigate

LALCs -purchasing more vehicles and fire trucks. This will make the LALCs self-sufficient and won't need a third party like the RFS in the future

Utilisation of existing vehicles and or purchasing of fire vehicles will assist in managing future burns

New Action - Record/audit of all compliant fire fighting vehicles and staff that are available in the Region – HLLS to investigate

New Action – Partnership Action - HLLS organise Hunter regional RFS/Forestry/NPWS representative - to attend at the next meeting

Ashley -declared Conflict of interest – Husband provided the Fire Vehicle for the Biraban burn

Action – Toby to invite Graham Kelly to attend one of the ACAG meetings

- Aboriginal Culture and Communities State-Wide Advisory Group (SWAG)

Toby provided an overview of the last SWAG including the intent, processes and structure of the meetings.

Item 6

Overview of the State-wide Aboriginal Community Engagement Strategy

Outcome 1 in the Strategy was broad and unachievable statement – need to adapt to ensure the engagement strategy is captured on a regional level.

Action - HLLS will develop a draft a Regional Aboriginal Community Engagement Strategy and circulate to the ACAG for initial comment.

HLLS to organise a specific workshop which will include an ACAG working group and external facilitator.

Program Hierarchy

There was a group discussion on the Program Hierarchy, it was agreed that everyone would review and provide comments by the end of March 2021. It was noted to include as an Agenda item at every meeting.

Action - ACAG to provide comments on the Program Hierarchy by 26th April 2021

Item 7 Terms of Reference Review deferred to the next meeting. It was noted that the Terms of Reference could also be included in the facilitated session.

Action - HLLS to ensure that the TOR is reviewed and finalised at the facilitated workshop or ACAG meeting

Item 10 - Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Presentation Andrew McIntyre, DPIE

Action- Circulate the DPIE Aboriginal Outcomes strategy

The strategy is ultimately to partner with communities,

New information and data collated around Aboriginal artefacts and places goes to DPIE. The information and data are owned by DPIE. This goes to the AHIMS and has not yet gone back to the communities.

Open to collaborative projects. Work with Community can share knowledge supporting the information that DPIE has collected from the maintenance scheme

Can share that information back into the community, that may be lost into the future a great way to capture that knowledge.

ACAG - would like to see more consultation with the Aboriginal community not just the land councils.

Question to Andrew – ACAG would like to know how many more of these sites are within the river system

HVFMS has surveyed the river – above Maitland - Wallis Creek, Paterson and above Tocal - Williams River.

DPIE need a more comprehensive weed strategy as well as and a cultural heritage management plan.

ACAG – Suggested that there could be opportunity to train LALCs in GIS

Action – HLLS or DPIE to provide a link to the HVFMS website

ACAG – Ensure there is engagement with Aboriginal community and opportunity for Aboriginal procurement.

Action – HLLS to investigate opportunities to run courses on tenders - Aboriginal Training Services NSW – could partner to run training

There is currently funding for on-ground works worth 1.6m over 4 years which will finish in 2022, The HART team is made up of a team of 4 - HART have a training, work component and can also do work on Aboriginal cultural issues

Upcoming projects include Wollombi brook/Congewai Ck, Wollemi

Next steps – will involve community engagement, which has been limited

Action - ACAG – suggested that DPIE report on the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme twice a year

Action - Include Andrew's contact details in the minutes – Andrew McIntyre Office: (02) 4927 3118

Item 11- Worimi LALC Presentation

Examples of some of the funding and programs that Worimi LALC have

IAS grants – APZ, Excess veg, dumping clean ups, surveys, nursery, networks, meetings

EPA – Tanilba Bay – illegal access and dumping program

Action - HLLS to engage with the LALC representative for the Regional Pest Animal committee - so they can send out the information from the committee

Matt Kennedy provided an overview of the HLLS Weeds Action Program

Action - Provide Matt Kennedy's contact details

Eva provided an overview of the Rising from the Embers Land and Culture festival on the 28th May (schools) and 29 May (general public). This is the first Aboriginal festival ever held in the Hunter. There will be a separate area dedicated to LALCs, TOs and other Land Management organisations. Link to the website - <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/our-uni/indigenous-collaboration/the-wollotuka-institute/rising-from-the-embers>

Action - Send through EOI, if you would like to participate in the Rising from the Embers festival

Clare provided an overview of the LLS strategic plan, which is in draft and will be on public exhibition in April 2021

HLLS is seeking consultation and engagement on the Natural Resources Management Plan, from the ACAG which is currently in development

Action: Circulate the draft NRM Plan to ACAG for comment

Dates for the next two ACAG meetings:

16/17 June Merriwa

15/16 September - Manning

Mick Leon – Suggested to collate other Local Land services activities - Recognition of Aboriginal People – CMA/Local Services Board – recognition of previous work – history

Action – HLLS to investigate previous land management activities undertaken by Aboriginal people through CMA and LLS

Closed on 4pm

Summary of Actions Table

Item No	Action	Completion Date
3	Hunter LLS to investigate the type of cultural activities ACAG members can undertake on TSRs. HLLS - to present on the TSR Expression of Interest process and options at the next ACAG meeting.	May 2021 June 2021
4	Liaise with State LLS to confirm what the process is for the Aboriginal Flag to be flown all the times and not only during Reconciliation Week or NAIDOC Week.	As soon as possible
4	Send out cultural burn schedule	As soon as possible
4	Circulate the response from University of Newcastle to ACAG	As soon as possible
4	ACAG members to send the details of NAIDOC activities in the Hunter.	As soon as possible
4	Deb to speak to State Training Services – provide funds for a short workshop or training course around business development	April 2021
4	Generate a list of providers for cultural burning - HLLS investigate	1 st June 2021
4	Record/audit of all compliant fire fighting vehicles and staff that are available in the Region – HLLS to investigate	April 2021
4	Partnership Action - HLLS organise Hunter regional RFS/Forestry/NPWS representative - to attend at the next meeting.	April 2021
4	Toby to invite Graham Kelly to attend one of the ACAG meetings – HLLS to follow up	April 2021
6	HLLS will develop a Regional Aboriginal Community Engagement Strategy and circulate to the ACAG for initial comment	April 2021 April 2021

	HLLS to organise a specific workshop which will include an ACAG working group and external facilitator	
6	ACAG to provide comments on the Program Hierarchy	26 th April 2021
7	HLLS to ensure that the TOR is reviewed and finalised at the facilitated workshop or ACAG meeting.	April 2021
10	HLLS to circulate the DPIE Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy	As soon as possible
10	HLLS or DPIE to provide a link to the HVFM website.	A soon as possible
10	HLLS to investigate opportunities to run courses on tenders - Aboriginal Training Services NSW – could partner to run training	May 2021
10	DPIE report back on the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme to the ACAG twice a year Include Andrew's contact details in the minutes	Ongoing As soon as possible
11	HLLS to engage with the LALC representative for the Regional Pest Animal committee - so they can send out the information from the committee	As soon as possible completed
12	Provide Matt Kennedy's contact details	As soon as possible
12	HLLS to circulate the draft NRM Plan to ACAG for Comment	April 2021
12	Rising from the Embers Land and Culture Festival – 28 th to 29 th May. Send through EOI, if you would like to participate in the festival. https://www.newcastle.edu.au/our-uni/indigenous-collaboration/the-wollotuka-institute/rising-from-the-embers	As soon as possible
12	HLLS to investigate previous land management activities undertaken by Aboriginal people through CMA and LLS	May 2021