

Aboriginal Community - Advisory Group -

Report -



Report of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group Meeting

Swansea

30th and 31st of July 2015

Introduction

The third meeting of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group (ACAG) was held in Swansea on the 30th and 31st July 2015. The first day of the meeting was opened at 9.15am by Chair Mick Leon which included the Acknowledgement to Country performed by Michael Green from Bahtabah LALC. A Welcome and Introduction was also performed by Hunter LLS Board Member Tony Hegarty, shortly afterwards the ACAG members had a half hour closed session with no staff or LLS representatives.

Meeting Attendees: Arther Fletcher, Suzie Worth, Mick Leon, John Clarke, Micheal Green, Craig Foreshew, Tony Hegarty (HLLS Board Member) Karen Fitzherbert (HLLS), Toby Whaleboat (HLLS), Brett Miners (HLLS General Manager).

Meeting Apologies: Noel Downs, Kerrie Brauer.

ACAG Meeting outcomes:

Report back on Actions from February Aboriginal CAG

- Recommend "Aboriginal Community Advisory Group" (ACAG) as name of Advisory group – Completed.
- LLS to write to Great Lakes City Council regarding helicopter herbicide spraying and impact on non - target species eg. Drift impact on oyster leases Letter to be co-signed by LLS and ACAG Co Chair - Complete Letter signed 30 July 2015 and sent.

Actions from ACAG February 2015

- LLS to write to OEH regarding Biame Cave seeking information about the management plan the designation of the site and opportunities for stakeholder involvement. Outcome: Completed Letter sent 20 July 2015.
- LLS to provide information on Drone herbicide spraying in high risk areas such as steep slopes to Mick Leon. Outcome: LLS prepared Video on website address: <http://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/videos>
- LLS to circulate the DVD on Coastal and marine – seagrass friendly moorings to members. Outcome: outstanding action, refer new actions.
- LLS to incorporate GIS training within project management training and look into QGIS system. Outcome: Incorporated into Project Management Training, refer new action.
- LLS to promote ACAG meetings and ALMTs during community events such as NAIDOC week and advertise any opportunities in Koori mail, Indigenous times and other media sources Outcome: Completed Advertisement in the Newcastle Herald for NAIDOC week Completed. New Action to promote workshops and pest activities by Rangers in the Koori Mail.
- LLS to Develop Cultural burning and seed collection workshop within 2015/16 program. Outcome: Completed Programs included in Aboriginal Service Delivery Plan for 2015/2016.

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- LLS to provide Biosecurity and Invasive pest species information at ACAG next meeting. Outcome: Completed, Ross Garland Biosecurity Ranger presented at ACAG meeting on 30 July 2015.
- LLS to arrange NSW OEH to attend next meeting to advise on status of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Reform and the gateway process. Outcome: outstanding Action, refer new action.
- LLS to ensure ToR Fee for service process is well documented. Outcome: Agenda Item will form ongoing discussion with ACAG.
- LLS to ensure expenses for member to attend ACAG meetings be included in ToR – Updated ToR
- LLS to ensure travel expenses payments are processed adequately and efficiently. Outcome: Noted.
- LLS to draft a short proposal for approaches to NSW State Land Council regional councillor focussed on leverage of funds (dollar for dollar) targeted at activities such as training Aboriginal community members in project management. Outcome: Outstanding action, refer to new action.

Regional and District Aboriginal Plan Session

An overview of the Hunter LLS proposed programs to be delivered in 2015/ 2016 was presented by Karen Fitzherbert and provided as a hand-out on the day.

The overall Strategy and approach of the program was supported with feedback that the following items should be part of the program priorities:

- Provide targeted training (refer next paragraph)
- Provide targeted training opportunities for HLLS Board and staff in Aboriginal cultural - awareness and engagement -
- Supporting Aboriginal communities to develop property management plans
- Provide support the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group
- Provide targeted University Scholarship for Aboriginal students

The regional objective to provide targeted training opportunities for Aboriginal Land Managers in project management (Lower Hunter) was supported with the following suggestions being added to the way the program is delivered:

- Focus on mentoring, sharing and learning with links to Aboriginal Elders
- Courses need to be delivered as intensive 2 week programs (not staggered over 1 year)
- Certificates awarded after the completion of each course (as well as at the completion of diploma)
- Bus tours and camp visits undertaken to other ALMTs across the district (i.e. TIDE, etc)
- Bahtabah LALC to be the host organisation for delivery of the project in the Lower Hunter
- Project officers from Tide, Biraban LALC and Bahtabah LALC to assist in the planning and delivery process.
- Look at participants being billeted with community members including Elders for the duration of each intensive program (2 weeks)
- Include on-ground components to support / reinforce learning
- Include opportunities to develop long-term business opportunities in land management
- Focus at Diploma level – i.e. Diploma in Land Management
- Accepted to focus on one district for the first year (Lower Hunter) and move to other districts thereafter

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- A proposed outline of the Diploma Course is attached to the meeting notes for further discussion.

Presentation on Lower Hunter District programs

- Ingrid Berthold Lower Hunter District Coordinator gave a presentation on Lower Hunter - activities. -

Travelling Stock Reserves presentation

- Jamie Maddocks Regional Coordinator Invasive Species and Emergency Management gave a presentation on the development of a Plan of Management for travelling stock reserves.

Presentation on Pest Management

- Ross Garland Biosecurity Ranger gave a presentation on Pest Management in the Lower Hunter.

Presentation on HLLS Strategic Plan

- Karen Fitzherbert Regional Coordinator Hunter Catchment Contributions and Strategy gave a presentation on the draft HLLS Strategic Plan.

Proposed opportunities for Aboriginal projects:

- NSW State Land Council Conference – 17th to 21st August 2015 at Hunter Valley Crown Plaza Cessnock
- NSW Coastal Conference 10th – 13th of November 2015, Forster NSW
- Aboriginal land management team capabilities statement to be completed by ALMT's. Biraban LALC example provided

Summary of Actions:

Outstanding Actions from ACAG February 2015

- LLS to circulate the video on Coastal and marine – seagrass friendly moorings to members. Sea grass friendly moorings at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHsKVm9UMxQ> - Complete.

New Actions from July 30th 2015:

- LLS staff to provide opportunities for upskilling in GIS when ALMT are undertaking work on HLLS projects, Staff Briefing to be prepared and distributed to HLLS District and Regional Coordinators at Management Team Meeting - Karen F by November 2015
- Statement of ALMT Capabilities to be collated by HLLS and distributed through HLLS networks (website and landholders) upon receipt of Capability statements – due by next ACAG. Prepare brochure of ALMT Services for distribution to landholders, landcare networks - Toby W. January 2016
- One ACAG member to attend and represent the ACAG at the NSW Coastal Conference and report back – EOI to attend conference to be sent to members
- LLS to arrange (via written letter) NSW OEH to attend next meeting to advise on status of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Reform and the gateway process for next meeting (representative booked)

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- Provide copy of Hunter LLS “Your Local Team” to Aboriginal CAG members – refer website link provided
<http://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/our-staff>

Sitting Fees

- Find out more information and report back to ACAG

Media opportunities

- Koori mail other Indigenous newspapers article on wild dog trapping workshops
- Advertise upcoming workshops in Koori Mail and Indigenous Times

Partnership opportunities

- Leverage HLLS funds through Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion
- Through NSWALC
- Indigenous Advancement Strategy

Day 2: 31st July 2015

The second day of the ACAG meeting involved a tour of East Lake Macquarie to visit proposed sites for Aboriginal land management projects. The 1st part of the morning included a field visit to the Northern part of Belmont wetlands. Mr Greg Wright a member of the Belmont Wetland State Park was the guide for the tour that took the ACAG members through a walking trail showcasing the trail as a potential for a funding proposal targeted towards creating employment and training for Aboriginal land management teams in bush regeneration and the development of the walking trail and interpretive signage.

The 2nd part of the morning visit included a tour of the northern end of Belmont Wetland Park, walking from Cold Tea Creek to Belmont Lagoon discussing land management options for a proposal which would include Bush regeneration and ecotourism.

After lunch for the first part of the afternoon the ACAG members were taken to Crabs beach to see bush regeneration and dune care work that was previously undertaken by Bahtabah LALC Aboriginal land management team. The work involved protecting an Aboriginal area of significance by planting the foreshore, beach and dunal areas with native plant species such as spinifex and lomandra. The 2nd part of the afternoon included a tour to the Aboriginal burial site at Swansea Heads where the ACAG members payed their respect to the local Aboriginal people that were buried there. Land at Swansea heads that was granted to Bahtabah LALC may have some land management options for a proposal which would include bush regeneration and a potential location for Bahtabah LALC Aboriginal land management team work shed and office. The Swansea headland offered scenic views looking over the ocean, Swansea channel and Blacksmiths Beach through to Redhead beach that was appreciated and enjoyed by the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group members (the picture on the front cover of this report was taken on top of Swansea Headland).

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 in Upper Hunter on 25th - 26th November 2015.