

# Hunter Local Land Services Aboriginal Advisory Group April 2019 Minutes



<b>Date:</b>	<b>DAY 1- MEETING 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2019</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>Arrival at 9:00 am for a 9:30 am start</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Charbonnier Centre, Singleton
<b>Accommodation and Meeting Room</b>	Charbonnier Centre, Singleton

**Attendance:** Rob Russell, Suzie Worth, Dave Feeney, John Clark, Arthur Fletcher, Kenton Proctor, Aleshia Lonsdale, Rob Lester, Tara Dever, Tony Hegarty, LLS Staff Lyndel Wilson, Joe Thompson, Clare McDougal (Community Engagement Team Leader-new)

**Apologies:** Noel, Brett Chambers, Joedi Lawler, Deb Swan, Kerri Brauer, Brett Miners (LLS GM)

Item No.	Title	Notes
1.	Acknowledgement / Welcome to Country + Minutes Silence	Interim Chair Rob Russell Arthur Fletcher provided a Welcome to Country
2.	Apologies Order of Business	Interim Chair Rob Russell
3.	Closed session	Aboriginal CAG members and Aboriginal Communities Officer
4.	Introductions (LLS Board) Update from Aboriginal Community representative	Tony Hegarty/Rob Russell LLS Board update Daryl Dutton has Robyn Parker, Alison Mudford taken on the new board roles. Several terms will also finish in April 2020 (including Tony Hegarty) Introduction to Community Engagement Team Leader (with staff like Eva Twarkowski Community Engagement staff and Jess/Toby's Aboriginal Communities Officer will be lead by Clare under the new team)
5.	Morning Session Report on key items from closed session	Interim Chair Rob Russell report from the closed session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing agreement across the ACAG members with Federal Government Indigenous Protected Areas- want to consider Mt Sugarloaf as an IPA under this program (logistics still to be worked out).</li> <li>• ACAG members very supportive of the Cultural Burn program. Issues in Newcastle with program and resistance, but ACAG highly supportive of program.</li> <li>• Nominations of co-Chairs- with Deb Swan absence, have refrained from this until next meeting</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merger of OEH into new Cluster under State Government. Also noted that there is no representative for NSW in Aboriginal Affairs. Tony H mentioned no information given.</li> <li>• What will happen with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage legislation (under OEH change)</li> </ul>
6.	Minutes Actions from the previous meeting Business arising from minutes General Correspondence	<p>Minutes endorsement:</p> <p><b>Minor amendments to Meeting #10 minutes:</b> Acknowledgement of Country, Field Trip Werakata, and addition of Uncle Arthur Fletcher as apology, Warranha attended on Day 1, Mary Jean-Sutton/Alison Lamond (Virtus Heritage) note name in minutes.</p> <p><b>Endorsed:</b> All members endorsed Rob Russell first, Dave Feeney seconded.</p> <p><b>Business Arising:</b> Rob Lester: query on NAIDOC week participation and Corporate Australia (financial support) involvement. Tara Dever, high costs for NAIDOC week event (Mindarribba uses stallholders for fees). ACAG interested in another meeting before NAIDOC week with Corporate Australia (out of session or subcommittee meeting). Rob Russell, suggested CA attends sub-committees with the individual LALCs in regards to event support.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> Jess to distribute contact details for Corporate Australia to ACAG members (or other sponsor opportunities)</p> <p>General Business:Discussions on the DVDs internally to determine updating this package.</p> <p><b>Action 1 Actioned</b> IPA (unable to attend), ILWC presentation at 11 April, Uncle John (IPA presentation) (Jess may want to reinvite IPA to next meeting)</p> <p><b>Action 2: Actioned</b> TSR – TSR Officer (peter F) invited to this meeting</p> <p><b>Action 3:</b> Can be actioned with TSR presentation</p> <p><b>Action 4:</b> OEH Guy Ballard- Jess could not locate him in OEH – <b>Action Rob Russell to contact Miranda from OEH.</b></p> <p><b>Action 5: Cultural Heritage Legislation-</b>Joe provided an update from Brett Miners on the legislation (will attach to the minutes)</p> <p><b>Action 6: Complete</b> Future Traineeship program, background investigation within LLS into these opportunities has resulted in a new program in Collaboration with OEH, LLS Soil Conservation Service, HART program has commenced, and in recruitment of a Team Leader, and another identified role (now), and recruiting additional 4 team members, through a river keeper program over the next 3 years. (6 identified positions). Jess was on recruitment panel for Team Leader role. Seeking recruitment from local youth in the Upper Hunter (skills, weed control, planting, machinery skills and other</p>

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		<p>opportunities).</p> <p>Other LLS Traineeship opportunities, still being investigated across all of LLS (NSW), under the RAP and still being developed</p> <p><b>Action 7: Complete (copy of Toby presentation)</b></p> <p><b>Action 8: Complete</b> Meeting held and BirdLife Australia onto several sites of Wannaruah lands (will happen before/during May).</p> <p><b>Action 9: Complete</b> Link sent for Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt forest</p> <p><b>Action 10: Complete-</b> Joe sent reference to academic papers on 1080 baiting (impacts on aerial and ground baiting on Spotted tailed Quolls) UNE Armidale presenter could come to talk if needed.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> investigate UNE Armidale presenter on Quolls and 1080 (bait) to next meeting (Rob/Jess)</p> <p><b>Action 11: Complete-</b> Presentation circulated</p> <p><b>Total Field Days:</b> Jessica handed out registration forms to participate in the Total Field Days 3-5 May</p> <p><b>Weeds Conference</b> local Hunter weeds conference (Brett Chambers member of HLLS Weeds Advisory Group)</p>
7.	<p>LLS Hunter Program Update</p> <p><b>Reconciliation Action Plan-</b> key initiatives update (such as plaques, Art, HLLS training and resources and LLS ACAG/Aboriginal Community Due Diligence training options with OEH)</p> <p><b>Aboriginal Scholarships</b> CALM Training program (CALM, Diploma and Cultural Burn and alignment Aust Govt program Upper Hunter)</p> <p><b>LLS Soil Con Service HART program</b> (update)</p> <p><b>Incentives program</b></p>	<p>Jess Wegener</p> <p>RAP (LLS Reconciliation Action Plan)</p> <p><u>Office Acknowledgement Plaques</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunter LLS reviewing delivery of plan (in Hunter region)</li> <li>• Jess sent around MEMO regarding plaques for each office in the Hunter LLS region. (all LLS across NSW will have acknowledgements at each office)</li> <li>• Acknowledgement statement (general statement option)</li> <li>• 5 responses from ACAG members</li> </ul> <p><u>Artwork for each Office</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of the RAP to support Artwork within each of the Offices</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Uncle John: Investigate development of a booklet/case study on the programs within Hunter LLS, to showcase the work achieved here.</p> <p><b>Cultural Due Diligence Checklist (LLS internal checklist)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LLS completed training</b> with Virtus Heritage (Mary Jean Sutton and Alison Lamond) with use of AHIMS database and going through the Due Diligence Code, to ensure appropriate due diligence process if followed by LLS staff (and stakeholders)</li> <li>• Development of a Due Diligence package for Hunter LLS</li> <li>• <b>Recommendation for LLS staff to go via ACAG when determining on</b></li> </ul>

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	<p><b>and Small Grants/Scholarships</b> overview (Lyndel) and National Landcare Program</p>	<p>who to engage in future for due diligence (seek ACAG) and seek more review by ACAG on content on development in future.</p> <p>For public documents involving cultural heritage, also ensure ACAG are consulted prior to publication(i.e if the HLLS Checklist is redone for broader community use)</p> <p>Rob Lester note does not endorse due to issues with public photo printed. Note this is an internal document for LLS staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> Arthur F propose an agenda item on protocols, and ACAG role in providing review/feedback into public documents (developed with LLS).</li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> Joe T to recommend TOR and establish a sub-committee about the things that ACAG consider important to be able to support process, and develop a position statement.</li> </ul> <p><u>Scholarships</u></p> <p>Scholarships update, leveraging funding to facilitate more participants in the program. Discussion on scholarships and cultural burn program.</p> <p>Query on how individuals participate? Smart and Skilled Program covers student fees. HLLS only provides subsidies for participation in attendance.</p> <p>Students participating in CALM/Diploma Courses, will be also included in the Cultural Burning mentoring program. Students will be able to learn more about burning practices in a range of vegetation types.</p> <p>Tony H, reminded ACAG had substantial input into previous courses.</p> <p>Discussion on RFS and involvement/facilitate relationships with the program and engage them.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Jess to provide an overview for participants enrolling in the course, more information on the course and student participation commitments, timing and any additional information.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> Lyndel send to all ACAG the cultural burn flow chart for Cultural Burning Mentoring program (DONE- Sent to Jess to send on 16/4/19)</p> <p><u>HART program</u></p> <p>See update in Actions List in regards to the HART program in Actions update.</p> <p>Interest in extending this through the Lower Hunter and Manning areas, once this pilot is reviewed/on track.</p> <p><u>Incentives Program/ Small Grants Scholarships update</u></p> <p>Lyndel gave an update on the incentive programs – the Hunter healthy and productive landscape program. All aboriginal LALCs, Organisations or TO groups encouraged to submit EOI's through the Incentives Program or the Small Grants/Scholarship programs. Any threatened species/vegetation outside the priority map (from the web page), still submit an EOI for Hunter</p>

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		<p>LLS to consider.</p> <p>All info can be accessed from here: <a href="https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/grants-funding-scholarships">https://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/grants-funding-scholarships</a></p> <p>Update on NLP2, reminder all groups/organisations to submit EOIs to be involved in the program, that will run to 2023.</p> <p>Targeted species (and areas for on ground actions) include Myall Ramsar, Hunter Estuary Wetlands, Australasian Bittern, Eastern Curlew, Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, and Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Box Gum Grassy Woodland, and a project working with Oyster and Fisheries.</p> <p>NLP2 projects include requirements for 4% aboriginal employment (of whole program) and 20% with Landcare.</p>
8.	<p><b>HLLS Community and Indigenous Participation Plan</b></p> <p>Purpose of plan (Australian Government requirements/HLLS Strategy)</p> <p>Process and ACAG involvement</p> <p>LLS Aboriginal Procurement Policy</p>	<p>Hunter LLS developing a Community and Indigenous Participation plan (to meet Australian Government requirements), and also to meet Hunter LLS strategy, NSW procurement and Reconciliation Action Plan goals. This plan will be developed internally by Hunter LLS staff Clare McDougal-new Community Engagement Team Leader.</p> <p>The plan will draw on existing plans/program momentum, ACAG input, and other stakeholder input. IN particular the plan will guide how LLS implements programs under the National Landcare Program, but also include other participation approach through HunterLLS.</p> <p>Process will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. May- LLS will draft an internal plan</li> <li>2. June- LLS will seek feedback/input from ACAG (and other relevant stakeholders)</li> <li>3. July- LLS will finalise the plan and send to Australian Government.</li> </ol> <p><b>ACTION:Clare McDougal will be in touch with ACAG members to seek initial feedback/input following the ACAG meeting</b></p>
10	TSR Plan of Management and TSR list Overview	<p>Peter Fotheringham, Senior Biosecurity Officer-TSR</p> <p><a href="mailto:Peter.fotheringham@lls.nsw.gov.au">Peter.fotheringham@lls.nsw.gov.au</a></p> <p><b>Peter Fotheringham</b>   Senior Biosecurity Officer TSR  <b>Hunter Local Land Services</b>  15 Isabella St [PO Box 76] WINGHAM NSW 2429  t: 02 6553 4233   f: 02 6553 4148   m: 0409 034 557</p> <p>Peter Fotheringham TSR manager and 2 staff (Upper Hunter) manage TSR's in the Hunter.</p> <p>Verbal Presentation from Peter (list of reserves provided), Grazing Reserve Permits (leased to farmers – about 170 leased by LLS of the total 260 TSRs managed by LLS in the Hunter. EOI will come up at the end of 2019 for a 5</p>

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		<p>year term for Annual Grazing permits. (on HLLS web page).</p> <p>Annual grazing permits provide funding for TSR managements (fencing, troughs bores, weed control, pest control etc). Each reserve has up to 30 requirements under a management plan, required to be implemented by the lessee.</p> <p>TSR web site under development to be able to view/access all TSRs (by paddock)- demonstrated in the ACAG meeting. HLLS GIS staff developed this. (link to be sent around)</p> <p>TSRs owned by the Crown, and managed by LLS (have a reserve number R11217). Can use Six Maps, which has it's own Lot number.</p> <p>Hunter Draft POM, will not be too different from the state LLS Plan Of Management, and will have additional consultation/feedback into the draft plan document. ACAG members will be engaged to provide direct input into the TSR POM (HunterLLS).</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Rob Lester:Query as to how cultural heritage is managed on TSRs. Pete F indicated cultural due diligence is carried out prior to any works.</p> <p>John Clark: Indicated an interest in aboriginal teams managing weeds on TSRs (through TIDE)</p> <p>Rob Russell: Multiple Land Claims under process is with Crown Lands, and Crown are managing these. If LLS can prove continual management it may not be granted, but if it's not under continual management (under NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act) may be rejected.</p>
11.	<p>Indigenous Protected Areas program- Competitive Grant Round update</p> <p>LLS Video from NCLLS on IPA Management</p>	<p>Uncle John/</p> <p>John (TIDE) organised several meeting Botha LALC, NPWS, Crown Lands, Mid Coast Council, State Forests and Aboriginal groups to discuss opportunities. Developing MOUs with groups to propose an IPA into the current Indigenous Land and Sea Management program (Federal Government Program).</p> <p><i>"Each declared Indigenous Protected Area is actively managed by its Indigenous owners, who protect their land's plants, animals and cultural sites. The rangers work to control weeds, feral animals and wildfire, and carefully manage visitor impacts.</i></p> <p><i>Every Indigenous Protected Area makes an important contribution to Australia's nation-wide network of parks and reserves, the National Reserve System."</i> IPA program</p> <p><a href="https://www.environment.gov.au/land/indigenous-protected-areas">https://www.environment.gov.au/land/indigenous-protected-areas</a></p> <p>IPA does not change land ownership, only allows for different management of the nominated areas, under the IPA national reserve system.</p>

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		<p>Karuah, Foster and Taree LALCs are submitting their own IPA's</p> <p>IPA identifies opportunity for more partner agency/land managers to partner to submit for new IPA's under the program</p> <p>IPA program closes on 30 April 2019</p> <p>Jess presented a video from Firesticks Alliance on cultural burning on TSRs.</p>
12.	<p>Indigenous Land &amp; Sea Corporation</p> <p>The ILSC's Our Land Our Future program achieves benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through land, salt water and fresh water acquisition and management.</p>	<p>Will Hamill, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC)  <a href="mailto:Will.hamill@ilsc.ov.au">Will.hamill@ilsc.ov.au</a> or 0417 949 703</p> <p><u>Purpose of ILSC:</u> 1. land and sea acquisition, and 2. land and sea management.</p> <p>Since 1996, acquired 255 properties, 6 million hectares to aboriginal estate.</p> <p>ISLC Small and Large Project Grant Project "Our Land Our Future" program. (Small under \$100K such as IPA Land Management Plan/Cultural Fire Management, Larger projects over \$100K seek leverage with other partners, includes Land Acquisition)</p> <p><a href="http://www.ilc.gov.au/Home/Partner-With-Us/Large-Projects">http://www.ilc.gov.au/Home/Partner-With-Us/Large-Projects</a></p> <p>5 key areas for program: 1. Agribusiness, 2. Niche Indigenous Products, 3..Tourism, 4. Looking after Country and 5. Urban Development</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Query on ILSC purchasing of land, what if the Community organisation decides to sell it (and community supports it)? ISLC due diligence checks are in place to consider this risk, as the purpose for the acquisition is to facilitate other initiatives with communities on that land.</p> <p>Query(John) on what constitutes eligibility- needs to be Indigenous controlled (such as registration with Supply Nation etc) (ORIC) at least 5 members.</p> <p>Discussion(Arthur) on change from ILC to ILSC: ILC will be renamed the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) and take on a broader remit to not only support land based projects but fresh and salt-water activities to create even more opportunities on country for Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>Discussion (Joe T), oyster leases and oyster growers, several leases not active, what opportunities given the Crown leases the land? ISLC looking into aquaculture/oyster farming industries, and interested in investigating further.</p> <p>Cultural burning and Carbon Credits, ISLC working to develop economic benefits to TOs for cultural cool burning programs, example Savanna grasslands in Northern parts of QLD.</p>
13.	<p>General Business</p> <p>Project of interest- Rocky Knob (Rob</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Sedgefield TSR Cultural Burn project</u> video still being developed, will be circulated once finished.</li> <li>• <u>Rocky Knob Project</u>- Rob Russell –ET project funded, to restore a visual</li> </ul>



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	<p>Russell/Jess) As provided by members.</p> <p><i>Nomination of a meeting date - support for Aboriginal people to care for Country and practice traditional land management has increased.</i></p>	<p>screen between the housing estate and the Rocky Knob, to reduce access visitation. Plant 4380 plants as a screen. Vertebrate pest control pre-feed and baiting for pest control measures will commence October/November this year. LLS currently owns the land(vested by LandCom to CMA about 20 years ago), but LLS Hexham land parcels are about to be handed over to PWS to extend the existing Hexham and Hunter Estuary reserve area. Joe discussing with PWS later this week to discuss Place Declaration and handover to initiate processes. Community day to support revegetation program.</p> <p>Hunter LLS Strategy requires to survey to understand how LLS is performing against this KPI. Working group will meet after 24 May.</p> <p><b>Action ALL: to review and consider the Term of Reference, and ensure ACAG members attend and support full attendance of the committee.</b></p>
14.	<p>Schedule future Meeting date: October 15-16 needs rescheduling- clashes with LLS Board Meeting</p>	<p>Meeting #12</p> <p>22-23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 in Taree.</p>
14.	<p>Meeting Day 1 Close</p>	

**NOTE: Dinner will be at 6:30 pm in the main Upper restaurant**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>DAY 2- Field Trip 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2019</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>10am</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<p>Sedgefield TSR Cultural Burn Site, Singleton</p> <p>Field visit</p> <p>ACAG member please invite any interested community members.</p> <p>HLLS staff and LLS Board members may also be invited</p> <p>LLS Staff Peter Fotheringham, Carolyn Jenkinson also attended day 2/</p>

Item No.	Title	Presenter	Time
1.	Meeting at Sedgefield Cultural Burn Site, 9 months since the burn last (other field events details to be confirmed)	Jess Wegener, Aunty Suzie	10:00 am
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close of meeting, Light Lunch provided</li> </ul>		12:30 pm

**Please note:**

- If you are travelling in your own vehicle you will be paid the approved Government rates per kilometre, we will need a copy of your current registration and comprehensive insurance papers.
- For those traveling more than one hour and whom wish to stay the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> please contact Jess Wegener with Accommodation preferences dates

Attendees List

<p><b>Interim Chair</b></p>	<p>Rob Russel</p>	
<p><b>Members</b></p>	<p>Warranha Ngumbaay warranha@gmail.com</p> <p>Suzie Worth suzieworth17@bigpond.com</p> <p>carrob1@outlook.com</p> <p>kerrie@awabakal.com.au,</p> <p>John Clarke jclark@tide.org.au</p> <p>dave.feeney@bigpond.com</p> <p>Brett Chambers brettc@worimi.org.au</p> <p>Arthur Fletcher arthur.c.fletcher@gmail.com</p> <p>SWAN Deborah deborah.swan@rms.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Aleshia Lonsdale tiriikee1@hotmail.com</p> <p>CEO Rob Russel ceo@awabakallalc.com.au</p> <p>ceo@mindaribbalalc.org</p> <p>Carol Proctor or Kenton Proctor CarolBahtLALC@hotmail.com</p> <p>Noel Downs ceo.wanaruah@bigpond.com</p> <p>Andrew Gilbert andyndebg@bigpond.com</p> <p>Ashley Williams ceo@birabanlalc.org.au</p> <p>Cal Davis ceo@ptlalc.com.au</p>	
<p><b>Apologies</b></p>	<p>Warranha</p> <p>Deborah</p> <p>Kerrie</p>	

<p><b>Visitors</b></p>	<p>Peter Fotheringham, <i>Senior Biosecurity Officer - TSR</i></p> <p>Lyndel Wilson <i>Team Leader NRM</i></p> <p>Steve Smith <i>ILWC</i></p>	
<p><b>Secretariat</b></p>		