

Aboriginal Community - Advisory Group - Report

ACAG Meeting 25th and 26th of November 2015



Report of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group Meeting

Singleton 25th and 26th of November 2015

Attendees: Arthur Fletcher, Suzie Worth, Mick Leon, John Clarke, Micheal Green, Craig Foreshow, Noel Downs, Dave Feeney, Ffiona Manton, Tony Hegarty (HLLS Board Member), Brett Miners (HLLS General Manager), Karen Fitzherbert (HLLS), Toby Whaleboat (HLLS)

Apologies: Kerrie Brauer, Warranha Ngumbay,

Introduction

The fourth meeting of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group (ACAG) was held in Singleton on the 25th and 26th November 2015. The first day of the meeting commenced at 9.30am with a half hour closed session with no staff or Hunter LLS representatives. The meeting was opened at 10am by Susie Worth on behalf of Chair Craig Forshow and followed by Welcome to Country performed by Arthur Fletcher (Wonnarua Elder). A Welcome was also performed by Hunter Local Land Services Board member Tony Hegarty.

Susie Worth – Invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

Report back on Actions from July Aboriginal CAG

Action	Name	When
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LLS to circulate the video on Coastal and marine – seagrass friendly moorings to members. Sea grass friendly moorings - Environmentally Friendly Moorings Clip - At: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHsKVm9UMxQ -	Toby	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LLS staff to provide opportunities for upskilling in GIS when Aboriginal land management teams are undertaking work on HLLS projects, Staff Briefing to be prepared and distributed to HLLS - 	Toby/ - Karen	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement of ALMT capabilities HLLS collate and distribute through - HLLS networks (website and landholders). - Capability statements from Aboriginal land management teams are to be received by mid November 2015. 	Toby	30 th of Nov 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare brochure of Aboriginal land management team services for distribution to landholders, landcare networks 	Toby	January 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One ACAG member offer to attend and represent the ACAG at the NSW Coastal Conference and report back at following ACAG meeting. EOI to - attend the conference will be sent to members. - 	Toby	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LLS to arrange NSW OEH to attend next meeting to advise on status of - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Reform and the gateway process - 	Toby	Complete

Report back on Actions from July Aboriginal CAG continued

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide copies of Hunter LLS “Your Local Team” to Aboriginal CAG - members refer to website link provided - Hunter LLS staff contacts - (http://hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/our-staff) - 	Toby	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find out more information about what other LLS region are doing in - terms of sitting fees for their Aboriginal advisory groups and investigate - why some groups are being paid sitting fees and report back to ACAG. - <p>Response– Brett Miners advised that the Hunter LLS Board thoughtfully considered the proposal to cover ACAG member sitting fees and resolved to cover the travel costs and accommodation costs but not sitting fees. Brett understands the cost for members to attend the ACAG meetings and offered for Hunter LLS staff to attend any community sessions in their community.</p>	Toby	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Koori mail other Indigenous newspapers for articles on HLLS - workshop - Upcoming HLLS Aboriginal program workshops advertised in Koori Mail - and Indigenous Times - 	Toby	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage HLLS funds through Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs for long term implementation of the HLLS Aboriginal program through NSW Aboriginal Land Council Indigenous Advancement Strategy 	Toby	Ongoing – Refer new action.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LLS to ensure travel expenses payments are processed adequately and efficiently 	Toby/ Karen	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LLS draft short proposal to approach 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. 	Toby/ Karen	Outstanding

Noel Downes advised that Albury TAFE have a well-developed on-line GIS training program for \$500 recommended for ALM Teams to register.

Toby advised that HLLS is available to attend local fairs and events. HLLS has a stand and information materials to distribute to the community about our initiatives and programs. Contact Toby or Karen if you would like HLLS to attend an event or meeting or other activity.

Noel Downs advised there are currently a limited number of grants or incentives available to LALCs to cover the cost of property planning. He advised that in order to be eligible for grants the property planning work needs to be complete first.

Toby Whaleboat announced that the Aboriginal Land Management Teams grants opened on the 16th of November 2015 and would be closed on the 11th of December 2015.

Request ALMTs to provide their contact details and services provided to Toby. Hunter LLS will design a draft ALMT brochure for the ACAG to review in February 2016.

Presentation on Cultural Heritage Reforms Update

- Sarah Paddington, Office of Environment and Heritage gave a presentation on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage reforms. The items covered in the presentation include: i) background to the reforms, ii) working party and government consultation model, iii) Public and inter-agency consultations, iv) Current status and year ahead.
- Sarah provided additional information following the meeting on:
- Independent expert Working Party. Uncle John requested information about the independent expert Working Party. I've provided links below for information about the group and their report.
 - A fact sheet about the Working Party - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/20130373QA4workparty.pdf>
 - Information about the Working Party - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ACHreform/ACHworkingparty.htm>
 - Their report can be located here - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/20130139achrefdiscussion.pdf>
- 2013 proposed government model for reform. Craig requested information about the 2013 Government model which was released for public feedback.
 - The paper referred to is available here: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/20130760achrefgov.pdf>
 - The principles of the reform and key concepts developed in the model are available here - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/achreform/ACHproposedmodel.htm>
- Previous work for the ACH law reform. A question was asked about the previous work for the ACH law reform
 - There has been a great deal of research and feedback provided on how to improve the system. That is available in the ACH reform "Resource Centre" here - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/achreform/ACHmedia.htm>
- **Public feedback.** Public submissions made in response to the Government's proposed model for reform (released in 2013) is available here - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/achreform/ACHsubmission.htm> -
- **Next steps.** In terms of the steps required for the ACH law reform to be:
 - The Government is still working through the feedback received from Phase 3. There were many views put forward by the range of stakeholders. The feedback reflects the diversity of views, priorities and protocols from the stakeholders. The government has progressed the project to working through a range of mechanisms

to specific parts of the reform which will find the best balance for the majority of stakeholders. It is acknowledged the development of any new legislation is a complex and multi-staged process. This equally applies to ACH reform. Prior to commencing Phase 4, there are a number of key steps the Government must undertake before Phase 4 can commence or be announced. These steps include:

1. - considering all of the feedback and how it can inform a final model
2. - seeking Cabinet support for the proposed final model (refined based on the Phase 3 feedback)
3. - draft a Bill for consultation
4. - prepare public consultation
5. - amend the draft Bill as necessary
6. - have final Bill heard in Parliament.

Presentation from Rural Fire Service and training opportunities

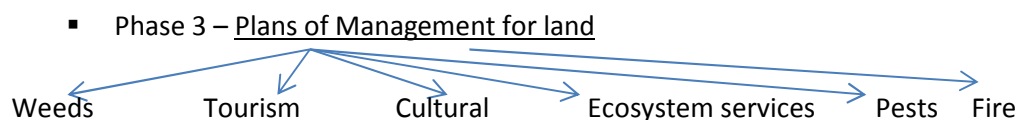
- Jamie Bertram, District Services Officer gave a presentation on Culture and Burning from the North Coast.
- The RFS worked with the ALMT Rangers to conduct pre and post burn surveys on weeds, medicine plants, bush tucker plants, cultural assets and endangered ecological communities across a 20 x 20m transect and conduct a small cool burn on the headland site.
- RFS provide support to LALCs and Aboriginal Land Management Teams in Bushfire - Awareness training for Rangers and more advanced training in Bushfire Firefighter. -
- The Bushfire Firefighter training is a week long course, it was delivered to 3 x ALMT Ranger Teams on the North Coast. Was delivered in affiliation with Riverina TAFE who provided the accredited training. There was a course, practical training, theory and 10 question oral assessments. Practical training involved burning an area infested with lantana.

Toby Whaleboat advised that there are opportunities for Aboriginal land management teams across the Hunter LLS region to participate in a 2 day cultural burn workshop in April / May 2016 to raise awareness, build and capture traditional ecological knowledge and enhance fire implementation skills, as well as applying fire to country for land management and biodiversity outcomes. More information to be provided in the New Year.

Presentation from the Indigenous Land Corporation

- Adam Ismail from the Australian Government Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) gave a presentation on the ILC programs and grant opportunities. The main focus was on the Our land Our Future (OLOF) program.
- The OLOF program offers:
 - i) - Small land management infrastructure and property planning projects up to \$100,000.

- ii) - Working with other co-investors to support land management projects through a collective impact approach, well planned and supported, sustainable and able to leverage funds project value over \$100,000
 - iii) - Formal commercial partnership to invest in equity and market share, robust return on investment and sustainable land managed into the future. Project value over \$1,000,000.
 - iv) - Owner operator establishing agriculture, tourism and environmental enterprises on indigenous held lands.
- ILC priorities include:
 - 1. - Maximising the productivity of existing Indigenous-held land.
 - 2. - Assisting land management activities following native title determination and supporting Prescribed Bodies Corporate.
 - 3. - Providing access to and protection of land with cultural and environmental values.
 - 4. - Developing land -based enterprises that provide training and create employment, particularly agriculture, tourism, ecosystem and heritage management.
 - 5. - Developing social and cultural enterprises
 - 6. - Assisting land management projects that bring regions and not just communities together.
- Projects the ILC are interested in:
 - 1. - Land based enterprises
 - 2. - Tourism and eco tourism businesses
 - 3. - Employment and training programs
 - 4. - Major infrastructure capital development for land based enterprises
 - 5. - Pastoral businesses
 - 6. - Agricultural production
 - 7. - Environmental and carbon enterprises
 - 8. - Access to or protection of sites with significant Indigenous cultural values
 - 9. - Protection or restoration of natural landscapes with significant cultural and environmental values
- For more details visit www.ilc.gov.au or refer to the ILC presentation attached.
- Discussion of ideas for ILC projects:
 - 1. - Three phase LALC Planning and Assessment regional project –
 - Phase 1 – training and equipment of ALMT's to undertake work on their own land.
 - Phase 2 – project officers / project managers and LALCs prepare mapping, planning and assessment of LALC owned land.



2. - Identification of land for future Aboriginal ownership which has cultural, social and economic significance. Once identified develop Aboriginal Land Use Agreements for new land opportunities.

Action: Workshop regional projects that may be funded by the ILC at the next ACAG meeting.

Regional Hunter LLS Aboriginal Program 2015/2016

The following programs are scheduled for 2015/2016. More details about the program will be provided to all ACAG members and LALCs in January 2016:

- 3 day Fire stick burn workshop (\$25,000 total program \$10,000 investment from Biodiversity program) Scheduled for April/ May 2016.
- Part time Conservation Land Management diploma course for 10 project officers from the Lower Hunter district (\$35,000/ year partnering with Hunter LLS and a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) i.e. Tocal College), targeting project and business management study units. Direct negotiation with Bahtabah LALC with the support of Biraban LALC / TIDE to coordinate the delivery of the course within the Lower Hunter.
- Pest management training course and workshop to be delivered by Hunter LLS Rangers in the Lower Hunter, Upper Hunter and Manning Great Lakes (\$15,000 (\$5,000/ district) open to all ALMT members. Includes property inspection, identification of priority pest areas, pest management plan, training, implementation and delivery. Sites to be nominated in each Lower Hunter, Upper Hunter and Manning Great Lakes district.
- Upper Hunter ALMT Training Wild dog trapping Workshop (\$5,000) HLLS Delivered
- Communication \$20,000 – Aboriginal Cultural landscapes awareness, DVD Training of Aboriginal member in video production DVD Planning and implementation Recording stories of Aboriginal Elders Delivery – Call for 3 quotes for service.
- Projects that support ACAG priorities and leverage additional funds (\$33,000) enable investor participation such as ILC, Aboriginal Affairs and NSWALC in building a working relationship
- Brett Miners advised that the funding for the Regional Aboriginal program would be - consistent over the next three years. -

Craig Foreshow was of the understanding that the entire Regional program would be offered to Bahtabah LALC for coordination and delivery. Agreed that only the part time Conservation Land Management diploma course would be coordinated and delivered by Bahtabah LALC. Request that next year's Regional Program is offered to a LALC to be coordinated and delivered as a capacity building opportunity.

Action: At the next ACAG meeting review the 2016/2017 Aboriginal program and options for the delivery of the Hunter LLS Aboriginal program as capacity building opportunity for a LALC.

Action: Organise a meeting with Bahtabah LALC, Biraban LALC and Hunter LLS to discuss the delivery of the part-time Conservation Land Management Diploma for project officers/ project managers in the Lower Hunter through Bahtabah LALC.

New Actions from the 25th of November 2015 ACAG meeting

1. - Hunter LLS to write a letter to all LALCs in the region providing a summary of our Aboriginal Programs for 2015/2016. Noel Downs offered to distribute to NSW LALC and other organisations on our behalf.
2. - Distribute a copy of the Sandy Hollow Hotspots report provided by Noel Downs
3. - Distribute via email "Your Teams Poster" to all members to print
4. - Run another HLLS Aboriginal Land management Teams Grants process in beginning of 2016 and leave open until all grant fund allocated.
5. - Distribute copy of the OEH presentation given by Sarah Paddington
6. - Distribute a copy of the presentation by ILC
7. - Distribute the presentation by Rural Fire Services – Jamie Bertram
8. - Work with RFS to identify training opportunities for ALMTs in Bushfire Awareness and/ or Bushfire Fighter.
9. - Workshop regional projects that may be funded by ILC
10. Organise a meeting with Bahtabah LALC, Biraban LALC and Hunter LLS to discuss the delivery of the part-time Conservation Land Management Diploma for project officers/ project managers in the Lower Hunter through Bahtabah LALC.
11. At the next ACAG meeting review the 2016/2017 Aboriginal program and options for the delivery of the Hunter LLS Aboriginal program as capacity building opportunity for a LALC.
12. 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.

Agenda items for next meeting (yet to be finalised):

- i) Review 2016/2017 Aboriginal program and options for the delivery of the Hunter LLS Aboriginal program as capacity building opportunity for a LALC
- ii) Proposed regional Aboriginal projects that may leverage from 5 year program to attract ILC grants and other agencies/ organisations funding
- iii) Weed Management and Regional Weeds Committee
- iv) Update on Crown lands Review
- v) Plan of Management process for Travelling Stock Reserves
- vi) Presentation from a Wollotuka Scholarship recipient

Meeting Close: 4.30pm. Next Meeting – February 24th and 25th (TBC)

Field Visit - 26th of November 2015

The 2nd day of the ACAG meeting involved visiting the Wonarua Nations Aboriginal Corporation (WNAC) proposed Community Hubs that were located near Singleton.

The field visits began at 9.30am, the ACAG travelled to Camberwell to meet Laurie Perry the CEO of WNAC. The 1st community hub the ACAG visited was the Wonnarua mine rehabilitation (WMR) team Camberwell office and nursery. The WMR is an Aboriginal land management team composed of Aboriginal members of the WNAC.

The tour started with a Welcome to country that was performed by Laurie Perry and Laurie continued talking about the various functions of the Camberwell property followed by a tour of the nursery.

The next field visit at 10.30am was a tour of the Pioneer Road St Clair Mission property this location is where the former Aboriginal mission was located together with the site of the old church and Aboriginal corroboree grounds. The proposed plan for this location is to develop a community centre for the Aboriginal community. Pioneer Road was the next location visited by the ACAG members, the tour of Pioneer Road included a 12 bedroom house proposed for a youth camp that would cater for Aboriginal youth and disadvantaged youth.

The ACAG had lunch at Pioneer Road youth camp and this location was the final destination of the tour of the WNAC community hubs. Hunter Local Land Services would like to give a special thankyou to Laurie Perry and the WMR team for their hospitality and for providing catering and the tours and thankyou to the WNAC for inviting the ACAG to visit their properties.



ACAG Photo at St Claire, Glennies Creek. -