

Hunter Local Land Services Aboriginal Community Advisory Group Oct 2019

Minutes



12th ACAG Meeting

Date:	DAY 1- MEETING 22nd October 2019
Time:	Arrival at 9:00 am to 4:30pm
Location:	TIDE Development and Employment Enterprise Building Office, 82 Victoria Street, Taree

Accommodation and Meeting Room

Inn Motor Inn 77-79 Victoria Street, Taree

Meeting Attendees:

Suzie Worth, Community Member Upper Hunter,

John Clark, Community Member Manning,

Arthur Fletcher, Community Member, Glandale

Tara Dever, Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) CEO.

Warranha Ngumbaay, Community Member, Mudgee

Cecil Miller, Wanaruah LALC

LLS Staff: Toby Whaleboat, Clare McDougal, Eva Twarkowski (Community Engagement team).

Guest speaker: Jeff Talbot, Strategy and Engagement LLS

Apologies: Noel Downs (Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Lands Council), Brett Chamber, Community Member, Kerrie Brauer, Community Member, Dave Feeny, Community Member, Rob Russell, Community Member, Deb Swan, Community Member, Carol Protor, Community Member, Tony Hegarty, HLLS Board Member, Brett Miners, HLLS General Manager.

Summary of key issues requiring regular updates include:

Summary

- Terms of Reference
- TSR Plan of Management and associated legislation
- OEH Aboriginal Legislation
- 1080 Baiting studies looking into the impacts (negative or positive) on Spotted-tail Quolls
- Reconciliation Action Plan, HLLS RAP and Hunter Region Community Engagement Strategy

Notes

Closed session

Aboriginal CAG members and Aboriginal Communities Officer

Acknowledgement / Welcome to Country + Minutes Silence

Interim Chair: Cecil Miller

John Clark undertook a Welcome to Country

Apologies

Notes

Order of Business

Interim Chair: Cecil Miller

Introductions (LLS Board)

Introduction by Clare

Update from Aboriginal Community representative

Round table Introductions by Cecil Miller

The group provided a short summary about their background and roles in ACAG and also the broader community. Some points raised from the introductions include

- It is important to work together, collaborating with other groups and organisations to identify employment opportunities eg is there a program set up for land councils and community to identify what programs are out there
- Tara- learns so much from the group and brings a lot of knowledge and everyone's experiences back to the community and thoroughly enjoys attending
- The issue of Travelling Stock routes and usage was raised during introductions. Cecil indicated that more and more will be handed back. Some are traded and sold
- Welcome back Toby

Action need to look in the TSR and management

Morning Session 1

Report on key items from closed session

Interim Chair Cecil Miller - report from the closed session:

Firesticks programs and assistance to get cultural burns completed.

Is there an avenue to assist with getting the burns completed – identify within the Bushfire Management Plan – an avenue to complete the cultural burns

Action – identify within the Bushfire Management Plan whether there is an avenue or process to successfully complete cultural burns

Minutes

Actions from the previous meeting

Business arising from minutes

General Correspondence

Minutes endorsement:

Action 1 Jess to distribute contact details for Corporate Australia to ACAG members (or other sponsor opportunities). Ongoing Action

Action 2: Investigate UNE Armidale presenter on Quolls and 1080 (bait) to next meeting (Rob/Jess) – ongoing action

Notes

Jess could not locate Guy Ballard at OEH. Toby did contact Guy to invite him to attend the next meeting and to present on 1080 but was unable to attend. Acton is ongoing - Toby to send an invitation to the next meeting

Action 3 – Joe Thompson to recommend Terms of Reference. This will be discussed at today's meeting.

Action 4: Arthur F propose an agenda item on protocols, and ACAG role in providing review/feedback into public documents (developed with LLS) –Action is ongoing.

Action 5: 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 – Action is ongoing.

Action 6: 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 – Toby to discuss in the meeting

LLS Hunter Program Update

Toby Whaleboat

Review of the 2018/19 Hunter LLS Aboriginal programs

- 6 programs were delivered during the financial year – which meet the priorities and outcomes of the LLS Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Partnerships with Tocal College to run the Conservation and Land Management programs. HLLS also partner with State training services who have funded the program
- HLLS have developed partnerships with Local councils and Landcare networks
- HLLS maintains existing partnerships with Tocal College
- Victor Stephenson from Cape York – shares knowledge with the elders and has delivered cultural burning knowledge and training in the Hunter
- Oliver who works with NPWS –is an Indigenous fire practitioner with the Firestick Alliance.

National Reconciliation Week –Hunter Local Land Services

Hosted 3 events in the Hunter Region one in Scone, Taree and Paterson, which were very successful. Laurie Perry and James Wilson facilitated the session with a movie screening - Occupation Native –which contained some powerful messages, and at times confronting. A number of staff were not aware of the extent of past injustices to Aboriginal people. Staff were very engaged and were involved in constructive and respectful discussions.

Cecil - Hunter LLS is seen as open and inclusive. Jeff also acknowledged that HLLS took the initiative to run multiple sessions and not just one session.

Naidoc Week 2019 – Hunter LLS held a stall at Maitland and Muswellbrook celebrations. Tara provided an overview of the Maitland event at Maitland Park. There were about 3000 people that attended with 55 stalls. It was very inclusive with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community groups and stakeholders attending.

John Clark also provided an overview of the NAIDOC week event at Taree.

Notes

Acknowledgement of country – Office Acknowledgement Plaques

Plaques have been completed and are ready to be installed at the 3 district offices. The group discussed the look and feel of the plaques and also discussed the Aboriginal Flag.

Action - Toby –to set dates for opening of the plaques

Action – submit a recommendation to fly the Aboriginal flag at LLS offices -need to confirm who will do this, should it come from the group?

Action- Jeff Talbot will also look into implementing this across the State.

There was a general discussion about increasing voting members, including representatives and an alternative representative, to ensure all members or their alternative representative attend the meeting. There have been issues around missing members and nominated chair. Difficult to proceed with certain documents or finalise decisions without the presence of all members.

Uncle John – suggested using tag line – Caring for Country under ACAG.

Aboriginal Support Network ASN

Toby recently completed a Communication skills course. The ASN provides great support to the LLS offices throughout the region

Jeff – is a good way for Aboriginal Support Officers to get together share knowledge, ideas especially when there is usually one Aboriginal Officer per district or region – can be isolating otherwise.

On-ground activities - cultural burn program

Upper Hunter

Paynes Crossing – cultural burn mentoring program and CLM training

Toby explained the burn plan and method of collating baseline data prior to the burn.

Cecil- Potential issues with soil integrity and erosion.

Lower Hunter

Bahtabah land – Black Smiths Creek, cultural burn

Arthur – this was a big event for families, elders

Toby - the cultural burn attracted a lot of attention - ABC radio were on site all day and it was televised on NBN

HLLS will commence planning and scheduling events in 2020

Action – Toby will send around dates and invitation for those who would like to attend the scheduled cultural burns

Arthur – what is the end result for the cultural burning in the Cessnock area –or anywhere - is this piecemeal approach or is there a plan

Notes

Cecil – cultural burns are classified as mosaic burning – 5 to 10 year period and map these areas – burning off different areas. Different vegetation types will also need a different approach.

Toby - With the training program – students learn about the different vegetation types, soil, landscapes etc. – They then integrate this knowledge into their roles and in their own organisations. This is more of a training program – part of the firesticks cultural burn.

Toby – The 3 year program – is part of training up Aboriginal rangers.

To deliver the program HLLS needs to approach the LALCS to identify possible cultural burn sites. There is a list of mapped locations and work with the planning group on how to deliver the burning program

Cecil - Benefits – they can develop the plan now and then implement when the time is right

Suzie –suggested that landowners – should be talking to the RFS and organising the their bush fire plans now – need to be proactive and not reactive

Terms of Reference

Clare - The TOR is 2 years old – any changes needs to go to the board

It is important to ensure that it is meeting everyone's needs.

Action – Send TOR – to all attendees

There was a discussion about developing a process or protocol for members who do not attend regularly

1. Send out a reminder e-mail two weeks prior to the upcoming meeting to confirm attendance
2. Where members have not attended 2 consecutive meetings and have not sent an apology send a follow-up letter confirm member's participation in ACAG.
3. Voting right by proxy to vote if the rep is not there

Cecil – suggested that everyone who is not at the meeting today review the TOR and provide a submission

Warranha - Originally the ACAG had two representatives –may have two reps who are hosting – so it is not so intimidating.

Mick suggested to bring along another member of the community to the meeting so that they become familiar with the format and process of the ACAG, but only have one official representative.

It was proposed that the TOR be reviewed every 2 years.

Action – Confirm dates of upcoming ACAG meetings

An ACAG member raised concerns about a non-Aboriginal member on the ACAG committee

Some members expressed that the non-Aboriginal membership is not an issue if the non-Aboriginal member have been nominated by an Aboriginal organisation to attend and act on behalf and in the best interest of the organisation.

It was proposed by some members that the TOR may need to be reworded to Aboriginal organisations

Clare – needs to look into the detail – but it does say that it needs to be Aboriginal groups not necessarily an individual.

Arthur - important discussion point – need to talk about this at a later date

Notes

There needs to be ownership of The TOR document.

Tara - Discussion – suggested the AGAG community members and LALCs have a 3rd meeting to workshop the TOR. This will address and confirm the criteria for selecting members

Put up for review section 3.3

Move forward – look at the other committees and their TOR – Toby to send out

It was noted that an earlier version of the TOR included details around the issue of Aboriginality

Action - Toby to organise an additional closed session to discuss and confirm criteria in the TOR

Action – Toby/Clare to obtain earlier version of the TOR

Presentation by Jeff Talbot

Aboriginal Program Review

Aboriginal Program Review – Advisory Group Feedback

A review of all existing Aboriginal programs in the state has been undertaken

It has been identified that there is inconsistency with the approach across the different regions

The Advisory group meetings are relatively new. The group is trying to identify how well LLS engages – In the process of finding a bench mark and where we are currently at with developing and delivering programs

In reference to the Reconciliation Action Plan Section 13 – 13.4

Identify opportunities to promote best practice in community engagement. This will incorporate capturing feedback from the ACAG

One of the areas for discussion is how do we get a consistent approach across regions?

E.g. Dingo and wild dog – cultural issue in the north-west

The following points are considered to improve engagement and develop partnerships:

- What worked well?
- What is it that you want in a partnerships context – needs to apply to NRM and Agriculture
- Aspirational aspects
- How you build capacity around fire management and education
- Knowledge sharing around cultural management into the LLS core business - Eg fire management

- Look at how you can leverage from other agencies such as fisheries
- Section 12 of the RAP looks at identifying engagement opportunities
- All Information will be collated before the end of the year
- Engaging our services through procurement
- There is an expectation that 3% of the procurement is through Aboriginal businesses.
- Clare – HLLS has achieved 8% this year.
- Note from John with regards to the RAP – it is important to develop a piece about the Hunter

Notes

Action - Clare to look into incorporating this into the RAP and the Hunter LLS RAP

Toby - Hunter Aboriginal Community Engagement Plan. There is a draft Management Plan –developed by the Aboriginal Community that needs to be finalised

Action - Jeff and Toby set a date for returning the feedback form. Toby to e-mail to the ACAG

The group had a discussion around the Travelling Stock Reserves issue

Toby - working to meet the RAP priorities – looking at further engagement and there is more work to do.

Toby highlighted that the cultural burn program is a unique program in the Hunter and in Australia. It is vital that there is a transfer of knowledge, for use of plants

TSR – possibly could be handed back – LLS approach – a lot of crown land has been handed back. It is still unclear as to what will happen to the TSR

Action - look into the status of TSRs

Toby – there are opportunities – there has been land parcels handed back

Where TSRs are not under continued management it may not be granted

Action – investigate current status of the Plan of Management

Summary – key issues that requires regular updates include:

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Session 3

Presentation by Chris Sheed – Project manager – Cultural Programs

Chris provided an overview if TIDE'S cultural programs over the last few years

TIDE was offered the following contracts;

- Management of Farquhar park - unique river –care taking contracts from Crown land. Exciting for the managers
- 6 year bush regeneration contract on the islands and Farquhar park. Just awarded another six years for pest management critical for migratory shorebirds –main threat are dogs and foxes
- Harrington –LLS and Crown lands –dune areas
- Advancement working on country rangers – cultural burning -3 years ago – Tarbuck bay – great partnership
- Saltwater NP funding for management of undeveloped river estuary
- Marine Debris – LLS – Brian Hughes
- Tangorao Blue –categorising every item of garbage across Australia. Shore birds are impacted and other marine animals

Drone program – was funded 2 years ago. Students attained a Certificate in aviation

5 students attained qualifications i.e. 4 in Certificate IV in CLM and 1 complete the Diploma

Notes

Presentation by Pedda Cody - Marine debris program – video produced by Mid coast council

Following the Drone training program – we have established a company called Gilayn-manday - Aerial services

We obtained funding for spatial capacity project, which involved 2-day course with 11 rangers attending Flight foundations courses – operating basics unmanned aerial vehicles UAV

Learnt about all aspect of operations

Completed a Certificate 3 in aviation – remote pilot and attained a Remote Operators Certificate

Only one in Taree has a REOC

We have set up for:

- Working with Midcoast council – survey water weeds on private land
- Sand dune monitoring Old BAR Beach, Manning Coast Care
- Identifying whether the deterrence measures are working
- Oyster reef regeneration project
- Create natural oyster reefs working with Oyster farmers
- This also will help reduce bank erosion improves water quality – this is from impact of boats
- Monitoring to track whether these areas are regenerating
- Brett Reserve – African Olive program –Midcoast council Mark Tull
- Dark Pt Aboriginal Place headland – monitor and keep an eye on the sand erosion
- Illegal forward driving –NPWS before and after stills
- To id whether the deterrence measures are working

Action – send all information from last meeting to ACAG

General Business

Mick Leon – will be submitting a membership form

Mick has also volunteered to be the person to assist in reviewing and assessing how the ACAG is tracking

Broughton Island Research Project –Invitation to register interest in Aboriginal Community Consultation – document is tabled – circulate in minutes due date Friday 24th October 2019. Unlikely to make the deadline

Scan document

Aboriginal Place declaration flyer –won't be proceeding

A Participation Plan – submitted to the Government –circulate with meeting papers

Meets Australian priorities – make it a Hunter local process

Meeting –close 4.22pm

Notes

Meeting #13

Date and location of the next meeting to be determined - suggested dates

Lower Hunter venue to be confirmed (Biraban LALC) 5th and 6th May or 11th and 12th May

Summary of new Actions

Item	Action	Responsibility	Due Date
Acknowledgement of country	1. Action - Toby –to set dates for opening of the plaques	Toby	1 st December 19
	2. Action – submit a recommendation to fly the Aboriginal flag at LLS offices -need to confirm who will do this, should it come from the group?	Community members/Toby	30 th December 2019
	3. Action- Jeff Talbot will also look into implementing this across the State.	Jeff	1 st December 2019
On-ground activities - cultural burn	4. Action – Send around dates and invitation for those who would like to attend the scheduled cultural burns	Toby	As soon as dates have been confirmed
Terms of Reference	5. Action – Send TOR – to all attendees and members who did not attend on the day	Toby	Together with the minutes
	6. Action – Confirm dates of upcoming ACAG meetings in 2020	Toby	14 November
	7. Action - Organise an additional closed session to discuss and confirm criteria in the TOR	Toby	14 November
	8. Action – Obtain earlier version of the TOR	Toby/Clare	14 November
Aboriginal Program Review	9. Action - Look into incorporating a piece about the Hunter into the RAP and the Hunter LLS RAP	Clare	30 December 2019
	10. Action - Set a date for returning the feedback form. Toby to e-mail to the ACAG	Jeff/Toby	Feedback form to go out with the minutes
Travelling Stock Reserves	11. Action - look into the status of TSRs	Toby	30 December 2019
		Toby	

	12. Action – investigate current status of the Plan of Management		
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Date:	DAY 2- Field Trip 23rd October 2019
Time:	10am
Location:	Old Bar Farquar Park
Project	TIDE Rangers Fencing Project to provide protection for endangered shorebird nesting sites from being damaged.

Item No.	Title	Presenter	Time
1.			
2.			

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 15th and 16th please contact Jess Wegener with Accommodation preferences dates

Attendees List

Interim Chair	Cecil Miller	
Members	Warranha Ngumbaay warranha@gmail.com Suzie Worth suzieworth17@gmail.com John Clarke jclark@tide.org.au Arthur Fletcher arthur.c.fletcher@gmail.com	
Apologies		

Visitors	Jeff Talbot, Senior Land Services Officer, Strategy and Engagement LLS	
Secretariat	Eva Twarkowski	