

Aboriginal Community - Advisory Group - Report

ACAG Meeting 16th and 17th of March 2016



Report of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group Meeting

Port Stephens 16th and 17th of March 2016

Attendees: Mick Leon, Arthur Fletcher, Suzie Worth, Mick Leon, John Clarke, Micheal Green, Kerrie Brauer, Jessica Wegener, Noel Downs, Fiona Manton, Jodie Cameron, Tony Hegarty (HLLS Board Member), Brett Miners (HLLS General Manager), Cal Cotter (HLLS), Karen Fitzherbert (HLLS), Toby Whaleboat (HLLS)

Apologies: Warranha Ngumbaay

Introduction

The fifth meeting of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Group (ACAG) was held in Port Stephens on the 16th and 17th March 2016. 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 Welcome to Country performed by Mick Leon.

Mick Leon – During the half hour session the Advisory group had elected in a new Co-Chair to fill the Co – Chair vacancy and on behalf of the Advisory group welcomed and introduced Jessica Wegener (Biraban LALC rep) as the new Co- Chair of the Advisory group.

Closed session items:

- As part of the long term goal and training of Aboriginal youth in governance the Advisory group propose to invite an Aboriginal youth member to the next meeting
Action: Youth member (scholarship recipient preferred) to attend meeting for a set period of time.
- The Advisory group asked if LLS should register under OEH Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP). **Action:** LLS to invite OEH to next meeting to explain roles and benefits of becoming a RAP.
- Concern that agencies are not talking about and consulting with LLS and OEH in regards to Due diligence and RAP process and outcomes.
It is recommended by the group that the ACAG be utilised to develop the HLLS Due Diligence process.
Action: invite the RAP representative from OEH for discussion
- Pulbah Island mining proposal priority as it's a significant Aboriginal site could a proposal for co-management – request a joint letter to the minister.
Brett Miners advised that this would not normally raise response to specific developments however we should input into development at the highest level possible and emphasis any impacts to community.

Action: – Proposed that Awabakal Traditional owner organisation, Kerrie Brauer and Bahtabah LALC Mick Green to investigate further and respond back to HLLS and HLLS to provide the relevant info so communities can be empowered for information.

- Hunter Growth Plan –
Jess attended a Department of Planning meeting which raised issues on development on Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) lands and provided information on a submission to the department. Also there was requirement to identify land as private land and LALC boundaries. There was no structured plan or process for Department of lands to engage LALCs. **Action:** Hunter LLS to include issue in submission to Department of Planning.
- Prepare Draft Brochure on Community access to Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR) -
Action - Add Travelling Stock Reserves on next agenda item. -

Tony Hegarty (HLLS Board member) Welcome and meeting open at 10.43am:

- Tony advised our approach to policy from the Board and encouraged ACAG to advise on policy at a regional level.

Report back on Actions from 16th of March Aboriginal CAG

Action	Name	When
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.	Toby	Ongoing
2. Distribute a copy of the Sandy Hollow Hotspots report provided by Noel Downs	Toby	Members will receive USB at July 2016 meeting
3. Distribute via email “Your Teams Poster” to all members to print	Toby	Completed
4. Run another HLLS Aboriginal Land management Teams Grants process in beginning of 2016 and leave open until all grant fund allocated.	Toby	Completed
5. Distribute copy of the OEH presentation given by Sarah Paddington	Toby	Members will receive USB at July 2016 meeting
6. Distribute a copy of the presentation by ILC	Toby	Members will receive USB at July 2016 meeting
7. Distribute the presentation by Rural Fire Services – Jamie Bertram	Toby	Members will receive USB at July 2016 meeting
8. Work with RFS to identify training opportunities for ALMTs in Bushfire Awareness and/ or Bushfire Fighter.	Toby	Completed
9. Prepare a letter, accompanied with the 5 year program to	Toby	Ongoing

be signed by both ACAG co-chairs to send to ILC and other agencies to leverage funds.		
10. 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	Completed
11. 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	Completed
12. 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

Toby Whaleboat and Karen Fitzherbert (HLLS) Presentation on:

- A report on progress against the actions from 4th Aboriginal CAG meeting (Toby Whaleboat).
- Review 2016/2017 Aboriginal program and options for the delivery of the Hunter LLS Aboriginal program (Toby Whaleboat/Karen Fitzherbert)
- Proposed regional Aboriginal projects that may leverage from 5 year program to attract ILC grants and other agencies/ organisations funding

Discussions from HLLS presentation:

- Mick Leon advised that the Aboriginal Affairs Indigenous Advancement Strategy is being revised
- Expression of Interests regarding the HLLS Conservation Land Management Diploma Course will be sent out within the next 2 weeks
- Communication - A draft copy of the Aboriginal Program brochure was provided to members to check contact details and members were asked to provide photos of ALMT working on activities.
- Jodie suggested acknowledgement to country be inserted into brochure.
- Group was informed of the upcoming pest management planning, ALMT bushfire fighting training day and Indigenous Fire management workshops to be held in May and June 2016. Provide invitation to ALMT and ACAG members to attend workshops
- Group advised that HLLS Aboriginal program should aim to introduce into the community to build their capacity to expand into Emergency and agricultural services.
- Brett Miners encourage and supported the building capacity of the community in - agricultural and emergency services. -
- **Action** – Investigate the option of setting up an assessment panel. For example would LALCs like to participate in the assessment panel.
- Proposal is to invite the Youth ACAG Board to participate in the assessment of grant - applications. -

- Provide Jamie Bertram (RFS) presentation to all members.
- Less support Agricultural to LALCs including: training, nursery and creating opportunities for LALC to generate income from agricultural activities and production.
- Opportunity to develop property management plans for LALCs
- Mick noted that there are minimal pest management programs for Minor Birds.
- Invite Roy Ahsee from NSWALC to attend the next ACAG meeting to discuss NSWALC and HLLS collaboration including details of HLLS Aboriginal program to develop a larger scale regional program.

Presentation –Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment - Sharon Molloy, Office of Environment and Heritage

- Explained ACAG requesting – good place to start, need to comfortable with the information to move on with this process
- Need for engagement – NPWS should know about OEH's role in UHSA
- Offsets managed via bio-banking funds credit
- Recommendation that - Community require a full understanding of the process before being involved in the process
- Establish and have conversation with OEH to get ALMTs to manage the lands on which the offsets occur.
- How can this build capacity of ALMTs to deliver the work on-ground
- **Action** – invite OEH to talk on Save Our Species grant opportunities at next meeting.
- Projection of activities and skills to gain and deliver the ALMTs
- What types of skills would land managers need to manage offsets
- OEH will follow up with the bio-banking team to deliver bio-banking support, guide and case studies 15 bio-banking sites send info to ACAG.

Presentation Weeds Management and Regional Weeds Committee - Cal Cotter, Hunter LLS

- First meeting December 2015 – Focus on understanding committees role
- Biosecurity regulation being developed over 2016
- Support person and planning contract
- Weeds committee to consider how weed removal undertaken on sensitive sites
- **Action** - Toby can provide outcomes for Noel to input into weeds committee and the weed removal around middens.
- Aquatic weeds strategy included in regional weeds strategy
- How does a complaint get resolved eg Brush creek goes into copper Creek at Lake - Macquarie -
- Cal discussed pest and weed drought funding

Presentation by Regan Kelly

- Regan shared the benefits he gained from being a recipient of a Hunter LLS Scholarship through the Wollatooka Insititute at the University of Newcastle.

General Business

- The next meeting to discuss the RAPs and due diligence process to improve the - communication and consultation with Local councils -

Agenda items for next meeting-

- AHIP and due diligence processes – opportunities to improve consultation with local councils regarding due diligence in their LGA
- Community access to Travelling Stock Routes (TSR)
- Action from Mick Green and Kerrie to update in regards to Pulbah Island proposed mining assessment.
- Roy Ahsee – invite next meeting
- Submission on growth plan review by ACAG comments on 27th and 28th July 2016 date for next meeting.
- Invite an Aboriginal youth member (scholarship recipient preferred) to attend meeting for a set period of time.

New Actions from the 16th of March 2016 ACAG meeting

Action: Youth member (scholarship recipient preferred) to attend meeting for a set period of time.

Action: LLS to invite OEH to next meeting to explain roles and benefits of becoming a RAP.

Action: – Proposed that Awabakal Traditional owner organisation, Kerrie Brauer and Bahtabah LALC Mick Green to investigate further and respond back to HLLS and HLLS to provide the relevant info so communities can be empowered for information.

Action: Hunter LLS to include issue related to identifying LALC land as private land in submission to Department of Planning on the draft Hunter Growth Plan.

Action: Prepare Draft Brochure on Community access to Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR)

Action – Investigate the option of setting up an assessment panel. For example would LALCs like to participate in the assessment panel.

Action – Invite OEH to talk on Save Our Species grant opportunities at next meeting.

Next Meeting – July 27th and 28th 2016, Foster
Meeting Close: 4.30pm

17th of March 2016

The 2nd day of the ACAG meeting involved visiting the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council. -
The morning session began at 9.30am with Welcome to Country from Uncle Neville Lilley. After the -
Welcome to Country the ACAG were greeted by Richard Kime (Worimi Green Team Supervisor). -

Mr Kime presentation was on the history and establishment of the Worimi Green Team. The ACAG was informed of how the Worimi Green Team began as a 2 person team and developed into a thriving and viable entity of the LALC, with many partnerships made to encourage short term and long term employment for LALC and community members.

After lunch the afternoon session involved going to visit a Worimi Green Team project. The project was held in the Worimi State Conservation Area and focussed on tracks that were impacted by 4 wheel drive vehicles. The aim of the project was to reduce the impacts caused by 4 wheel drive vehicles which involved the restriction of 4 wheel drive vehicle into the area and works were undertaken to improve the protection of native vegetation and furthermore encourage native vegetation regrowth. The field visit concluded at 3.30pm.

Hunter Local Land Services would like to give a special thankyou to the Elders especially Uncle Neville Lilley and for Maxine and her team for providing catering and thank you to Richard Kime and the Worimi Green Team team for their hospitality and tour of the Worimi conservation lands.