



**ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**MEETING NO. 06 – 26 June 2019**

**COMMUNIQUE**

The Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee (AACC) enables whole-of-government co-ordination on strategic government initiatives and policies that affect the cultural, health and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

**INTERIM ABORIGINAL WORKING GROUP**

The AACC had invited the Interim Aboriginal Working Group (IAWG), peer-nominated group of 13 Aboriginal leaders from across the State, to present their proposed engagement model to AACC members.

This model reflected a more inclusive and contemporary partnership for engagement between Aboriginal people living in WA and the State Government. The IAWG had presented its proposed model to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on 25 June 2019. It was noted there needs to be an interface between the AACC, the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council and the proposed office for 'strengthening accountability and advocacy in Aboriginal affairs'.

The AACC agreed the engagement model represented a significant strengthening and improvement of the partnership between Aboriginal people and the State Government to deliver more targeted, co-designed programs and services.

**FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF BY-LAWS UNDER THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES ACT 1979**

The Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) requested the AACC note the need to determine the most appropriate State Government agency for administration of by-laws under the *Aboriginal Communities Act 1979*, following the 2017 machinery of government changes.

The AACC noted DPLH was not the appropriate agency and that DPLH intended to consult more widely on its 'Future Administration of By-Laws under the *Aboriginal Communities Act 1979*' paper before making a recommendation to the AACC for consideration and decision.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOWN-BASED RESERVES AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES SUB-COMMITTEE**

The AACC agreed to establish a Town-Based Reserves and Remote Communities Sub-Committee of the AACC, chaired by the Department of Communities, to develop a whole-of-government strategy for the future of Aboriginal town-based reserves and remote communities to better inform future investment, service design and service delivery in remote communities in Western Australia.

It was agreed development of the strategy will need to be aligned with the statewide policy for the transition of Aboriginal town-based reserves, and will also need to include economic opportunities for traditional owners of town-based reserve land.

**WA GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT WITH ABORIGINAL WESTERN AUSTRALIANS**

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) provided an update to the AACC in relation to mapping Aboriginal engagement/representation structures, carried out by DPC and the Department of Communities.



Twenty two government agencies had been asked to respond to a survey to capture a cross-section of engagement structures used by government, with the results indicating some disparity between formal engagement mechanisms and geographic areas.

It was noted there is a need for a streamlined whole-of-government engagement partnership strategy with Aboriginal people. There are also synergies with the Premier's 'Our Priorities: sharing the Prosperity', which sets out whole-of-government targets to deliver better outcomes for all Western Australians.

#### **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS STRATEGY**

DPC, as the lead agency, provided an update to the AACC on its progress in developing a whole-of-government Aboriginal affairs strategy for WA.

The strategy is intended to be high-level and will include consideration of key factors such as Closing the Gap Refresh agenda; the Coronial Inquest recommendation in relation to youth suicide in the Kimberley region and the Premier's Priorities.

#### **PARTNERSHIP WITH RECONCILIATION WA**

The AACC noted the partnership between Reconciliation WA and DPC, which includes co-location at the Constitutional Centre.

Reconciliation will work with the State Government in relation to development of a Reconciliation Action Plan, potentially for government agencies and Parliament House staff.

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Darren Foster

**Chairman**



Aboriginal Affairs  
Coordinating Committee

*\*Confidential deliberations are not included.*