

**Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972) Review:
Phase 1 Consultation Workshops:
May 2018:
Facilitator Report:**

Workshop Name: My Heritage, My Voice:

Date: Tuesday 15th May 2018:

Town / Venue: Warmun: Gija / Kidja

Facilitator: Lee Harper Penman:

Number of Attendees: 14:

Any logistical / venue related issues: N/A

Summary of Key Issues raised:

- Lack of trust by the community regarding Government related initiatives and projects.
- Limited belief regarding transparency in Government and external organisation consultation, with particular focus on the Kimberly Land Council.

Summary of key ideas for amended legislation:

- Acknowledgment and the formulization of Gidja Eldership led forms that inform Government.
- Inclusion of younger adults within Ranger programs which could support and assist to implement Government legislation.
- Kinship recognition – Gidja Country, Gidja led involvement and decision making.

Points of contention:

- The perception that community do not want to get involved, they do, the Government just do not know how to engage, they use the wrong people who do not know community.
- The support of local established gidja elders, who appropriate to the area.
- The community do not know what these workshops are about, do not understand the subject matter, are confusing the heritage Act with Native Title.

Overall effectiveness of workshop:

Excellent response to the workshop, 14 elders and community leaders in attendance was productive in the sense that it not only started the process, but allowed the time and space for the gidja eldership and traditional owners to get their questions answered and to gain clarification, regarding the difference between the heritage act and native title so they can go back to members of the community and start those discussions of interest for when the team return.

Very vocal in thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

Any other observations:

The attendees gave the impression that community engagement in gidja country has to be pushed up a gear, in others words you have to be seen within the community to engage the community, if this is not achieved then the gidja community will dis - engage before they re - engage.

Seems that the reputation of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is at stake for the community to engaged based on past experience, no to little presence within the community, this also being The Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The Kimberly Land Council are seen and perceived as not a true representation of the gidja community and are not trusted.

Any suggestions for next phase of consultation:

- More time on the ground needed for the location to drum up the interest.
- Use information gained to generate more discussion, thoughts, and ideas.
- Workshops to be run morning to afternoon and then afternoon to evening on the same day.
- Day 1 strategic out reach.
- Day 2 delivery of workshop consultation process.