



COMMUNIQUE

Meeting No. 20 - 4 September 2024

The Aboriginal Water and Environmental Advisory Group (AWEAG) held its 20th meeting on 4 September 2024 at the Central Regional TAFE located in Kalgoorlie. The meeting was Co-Chaired by Alistair Jones and Anthony Bellottie with additional support from AWEAG members and included engagements with DWER and other Western Australian Government and Commonwealth Government agencies.

The main items presented below are outcomes from the AWEAG meeting:

We began our day with a Welcome to Country and a Smoking Ceremony facilitated by Jason Dimer who provided AWEAG members and DWER staff the cultural experience of Kalgoorlie with his Cultural Immersion Tour. Being a Traditional Owner of the Kalgoorlie region representing the Ngadju Wangkatha and born and raised in the Kalgoorlie Boulder, Jason showcased his wealth of knowledge about the place he calls home. Jason provided lunch for all involved such as Kangaroo Casserole, Kangaroo Tail Stew and vegan friendly mushroom and vegetable soup this was then followed by a tour of Karlkurla Park where Jason shared his family history. Day one also involved a tour of our Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant where AWEAG members and DWER staff received an in-depth overview of what works at our treatment plant is currently undertaking in the region and how it is managed by our staff Abnesh Chetty Environmental Officer – Licensing Waste Industries based in the Kalgoorlie office.

AWEAG members appreciated both tours and learning about the works that DWER is undertaking in the region as well as the in-depth cultural experience that Jason Dimer had facilitated. AWEAG Co-chairs expressed their gratitude and respect to Jason for sharing his knowledge, heritage and family history whilst providing a cultural tour that they will remember.

Internal Presentations

Aboriginal Engagement and Partnerships Team - AWEAG Governance

Jillian Collard presented to AWEAG members and Co-Chairs an overview of the work completed by the Aboriginal Engagement and Partnerships (AEP) Team on strengthening the governance of AWEAG. This included incorporating valuable advice and feedback from our Strategic Planning Day in March this year. Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct to be finalised and approved by co-chairs. Terms of Reference to be a more higher-level strategic document including more accountability and active participation from our AWEAG members and the terms of Absent members per meeting. Meeting. Future commitments to strengthening our AWEAG governance consist of aligning it with each of the clauses and components of the recommended ISO44001 Collaborative Business Relationship Management Model and the development of the Leadership Model for emerging leaders for our AWEAG committee.

Mark Parfitt presented the Remuneration topic to AWEAG Co-Chairs and members, Remuneration item to be treated as a case-by-case scenario as the Community Paid Participation Policy does not cover all issues AWEAG. One pager to be developed prior November meeting. Lillian Aigner presented AWEAG Visibility,

Processes and Resources work that has been completed post March meeting. This includes internal work of processes and procedures relating to AWEAG Scheduled meetings 2024, AWEAG Agenda Item Submission Process and documents such as Agenda Item Request Forms, Agenda Item Coversheet, AEP Team definitions and Agenda Item. Jillian Collard presented AWEAG SharePoint, this item will soon be finalised and approved for AWEAG members to access AWEAG documentation and resources prior to meeting.

AWEAG members and Co-chairs have appreciated all the work that the AEP team has provided, AWEAG Co-chair was highly impressed with the number of actions that have been achieved since the previous meeting. They acknowledge that their voices were heard, and that the AEP team delivered high quality results that should be rolled out across all Departments.

Exmouth Taskforce

Wendy summarised the purpose of the Taskforce, its meeting schedule, members and challenges that they face with the Native Title group Nganhurr Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation (NTGAC). Wendy had acknowledged the genuine engagement and sharing of knowledge as being key achievements with the Taskforce and that this was successful due to the Governments key interest to the Exmouth Gulf.

AWEAG members enquired about the project funding and its impact on success and recommended to use the taskforce as template for future projects. AWEAG members also noted potential conflicts between Aboriginal values and industry interests. AWEAG Co-chair emphasised the budget and to have one point of contact.

The next meeting is scheduled for 27th November 2024.

Mr Alistair Jones

Co-Chairperson

Aboriginal Water and Environmental Advisory Group

Mr Anthony Bellottie

Co-Chairperson

Aboriginal Water and Environmental Advisory Group

Ms Leanne Evans

Co-Chairperson

Aboriginal Water and Environmental Advisory Group

**Confidential agenda items are not included in the Communiqué*