

WIRADJURI REGION NEWS

A monthly newsletter from Leeanne Hampton, Councillor Wiradjuri Region

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

20-09-2022

Top stories in this newsletter



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Photo credit— Parkes Shire Council



Aboriginal Housing Office

Update on AHO issues



Update on consultations



CTG update on funding round

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



At present we have a new Bill that is currently undergoing a Parliamentary Inquiry—ACH 2022 Culture is Identity Bill introduced by Reverend Fred Nile. A link to this Bill can be found in the network messages that have been circulated, see also the following link

[Aboriginal Cultural Heritage \(Culture is Identity\) Bill 2022 \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal-cultural-heritage/culture-is-identity-bill-2022)

This Bill is separate to the 2018 ACH Bill that was being developed by NSW State Govt. There are similar elements to it but as we know, the 2018 Bill did not make it across the line. State Govt then committed to working with Aboriginal communities to develop a new Bill, in which we held numerous workshops on with the network. This Bill has also been put to the backburner with Govt wanting more time to refine it. The window for getting meaningful reforms across the line during this term of Govt is closing fast and what Govt has failed to deliver in the past decade, even though it was promised to us, Rev Fred Nile has taken on with his proposed Bill. You can find more information here;

[Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill Introduced in NSW Parliament - NSW Aboriginal Land Council](#)

Aboriginal Housing Office Update



Aboriginal Housing Office

As people are aware, AHO has decided to cease all Headleases by the end of 2022 and changed the criteria for Housing Providers to be able to receive funding. This may be extended however we are awaiting formal commitment to this extension. What this means for LALCs is a change in management for those currently under headlease arrangements and those that are managed under any other housing provider that is not registered with AHO and wishes to have subsidies available to them. If you wish to manage your own homes you will need to have an approved Community Benefit Scheme in place. Please speak to our Zone Office if you wish to go down this path.

There will be a Round Table event on the 18th Oct in Wagga for Community Housing Providers to pitch their services to your LALC. Hopefully this will assist LALCs in determining a management model for your LALC.

For those under headlease, there is an extra meeting scheduled for you to meet directly with AHO CEO to resolve some issues ahead of the decision to take further legal action.

First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance



The Alliance is working to strengthen and modernise cultural heritage laws and to create industry reforms to ensure Indigenous Cultural Heritage is valued and protected for the future.

It was established as a response to the destruction of Jukaan Gorge and is a consortium of Aboriginal Peak Bodies across Australia that have a desire to see change in current laws pertaining to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage at the national level.

The First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance and the Australian Government have formed a partnership to improve First Nations cultural heritage protections. This is being done by staging consultations around the nation. To find out more about the national level reforms to ACH please click on the following link;

[Cultural Heritage | Cultural Heritage Reform](#)

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Closing The Gap



The NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (NSW CAPO) has been instrumental in the launch of the 2022-2024 NSW Closing the Gap Implementation Plan and a \$15 million Community and Place Grants Program. This program will support Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and groups to deliver tangible local benefits contributing to the Closing the Gap targets.

The closing date is 30th Sept, LALCs are encouraged to apply. The types of activities that can be funded includes the following examples:

Programs -Hosting mental health support meetings in the community to enhance social and emotional wellbeing,

Running networking and mentoring events to empower economic participation and development of Aboriginal people,

Facilitating outreach services to support young people and minimise engagement with the criminal justice system

Infrastructure—Refurbishing or upgrading a shelter that provides support to ensure that Aboriginal families and households are safe

LALCs acquiring land to facilitate Aboriginal communities maintaining a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical, and economic relationship with their land and waters

IT building upgrades to ACCO offices to support internet connectivity and digital inclusion

Equipment and Vehicles— Purchasing study and educational materials for youth centres to support students to achieve their full learning potential

Purchasing equipment for the provision of Aboriginal health services

[Aboriginal Affairs NSW Website](#)

CAPO will also be conducting community information sessions soon to keep everyone informed on the feedback received from the last roundtable discussions had earlier in the year.

Leeanne Hampton, Councillor Wiradjuri Region
leeanne.hampton@alc.org.au
76-78 Main St West Wyalong
NSW 2671