

ISSUE 1 · JAN 2023

NEWSLETTER - CONSULTATION PROCESS ABOUT A NEW ABORIGINAL JOINT MANAGEMENT MODEL

National Parks and Wildlife Service



Yirrayirra Waga-dyi: This artwork has been created for the Aboriginal joint management project by Aboriginal artist Nathan Peckham, who is a proud Tubba-gah man from Wiradjuri Nation. Yirrayirra Waga-dyi means “Bush Dance” in Wiradjuri language. The artwork draws inspiration from the theme of Aboriginal people managing Aboriginal Country and Culture on park reserves in partnership with NPWS. It is a celebration of their connection to the land, sea, waters, and sky.

AJM model consultation commenced

Much has happened since the Minister for Environment James Griffin announced the development of a ground-breaking new model for Aboriginal joint management of NSW national parks on 3 July 2022.

A new Aboriginal Joint Management (AJM) Unit has been established by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to oversee the development of the proposed new model. This model will see the potential handback of title to every national park in NSW to Aboriginal owners, over the next 15-20 years, subject to the land being leased back to the NSW Government for its continued use and management as national park.



NPWS staff members with attendees of the AJM Custodians Workshop, in Dubbo (pic: Katie Boyer)

Online links

For more information about the project, please visit our [WEBSITE](#)

Provide feedback about the project [ONLINE SURVEY](#)

Write to the AJM team at ajm.reform@environment.nsw.gov.au

The process

The consultation process will include targeted regional workshops and broad public consultation, including a request for input on the proposed model. There will be 3 broad phases of consultation:

- Stage 1 – will focus on understanding aspirations and issues
- Stage 2 – will invite comments on a draft model developed based on feedback from Stage 1
- Stage 3 – a proposed model will be refined following Stage 2 and released for public comment

To assist with the consultation NPWS has engaged Thirriwirri, an Aboriginal company, who specialise in independent facilitation, to lead the Regional Aboriginal Workshops across NSW.



Participants watch a presentation about the Aboriginal joint management model at the Custodians workshop, in Ballina (pic: Richard Brittingham)

Details about the purpose of the Stage 1 consultation are available on NPWS Aboriginal Joint Management [webpage](#) in the form of two introductory videos about the existing joint management types and the proposed elements of a new joint management model.

You are encouraged to participate in the consultation process and spread the word throughout your networks about the following opportunities for contribution:

1) Regional Aboriginal Workshops: The Regional Aboriginal Workshops are an ‘open-house’ facilitation style where participants can speak one-on-one or in small groups with Thirriwirri facilitators. The sessions are open to Aboriginal people only and anyone from the local Aboriginal community is welcome. Sessions commenced in late 2022 and there are workshops throughout February 2023.

Please visit NPWS [website](#) for a list of locations and a link to register your interest.

2) Online Aboriginal Workshops: For those who are unable to attend a workshop in person, Thirriwirri will be hosting two online sessions on Tuesday 14th February and Monday 27th February 2023. These sessions will follow a similar format to the Regional Aboriginal Workshops. Online participants will have the opportunity to answer questions and share their aspirations for joint management in small groups with a facilitator. These sessions are also open only to Aboriginal people. Interested participants can register via our [website](#).

3) Online survey: An [online survey](#) is available for Aboriginal people who wish to provide feedback in their own time. The survey includes the 6 key questions discussed during the Stage 1 workshops. The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete and will close on 3rd March 2023 at 11.59 pm (AEDT). The online survey is open to Aboriginal people only.

The progress

NPWS is half-way through the Stage 1 workshops that commenced in September last year. 10 Regional Aboriginal Workshops and 4 Custodians Workshops were run in 2022. Some workshops were postponed due to local flooding, COVID and Sorry Business. More Stage 1 workshops will be run in February 2023 starting at Armidale



AJM Regional Aboriginal Workshop in progress in Katoomba (pic: David Major)

The workshops in late 2022 were attended by more than 100 participants, who showed genuine interest in the proposed Aboriginal joint management model and provided valuable input regarding their aspirations for, and their views about the model.

Stakeholder Consultative Groups

Two external consultative groups, the **Aboriginal Consultative Group** and the **Stakeholder Consultative Group**, and an **Inter-Agency Reference Group** have been established to advise NPWS in developing this new joint management model.

The stakeholders member representatives include: four current Joint Management Custodians, NSWALC, Native Title Services, NTSCorp, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC), Mutawintji Board of Management, Githabul Management Committee, Narran Lakes Reserve Co-Management Committee, Yala Ngurumbang Yindymarra (Tumut) MOU Advisory Committee, La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, NSW Aboriginal Tourism Operators Council (NATOC), Tourism and Transport Forum, Australian Tourism Export Council, Outdoors NSW and ACT, 4WD NSW & ACT INC, NSW Farmers Association, National Parks Association of NSW, NSW Nature Conservation Council and agencies across relevant areas of NSW government.

Workshops progress update

Total number of workshops delivered: 14

Custodians workshops

Number of workshops delivered

4



Number of attendees

61



Regional Aboriginal workshops

Number of workshops delivered

10

Number of attendees

99

Upcoming workshops

Custodians workshops

Number of workshops planned for February/March 2023

9



Regional Aboriginal workshops

Number of workshops planned for February 2023

7



Number of workshops postponed: 7

(Due to Sorry Business, flooding, illnesses)



Workshop schedule

Completed

- 24 September 2022 – Narrabri
- 15 October 2022 – Dubbo
- 1 November 2022 – Ballina
- 10 November 2022 – Katoomba (RAW)
- 14 November 2022 – Newcastle (RAW)
- 15 November 2022 – Bulahdelah (RAW)
- 21 November 2022 – Grafton (RAW)
- 21 November 2022 – Nowra (RAW)
- 22 November 2022 – Narooma (RAW)
- 1 December 2022 – Redfern (RAW)
- 2 December 2022 – Kempsey (RAW)
- 7 December 2022 – Bulahdelah
- 8 December 2022 – Dubbo (RAW)
- 9 December 2022 – Online (RAW)

Upcoming

- 1 February 2023 – Armidale (RAW)
- 2 February 2023 – Coffs Harbour
- 7 February 2023 – Broken Hill
- 8 February 2023 – Broken Hill (RAW)
- 10 February 2023 – Bourke
- 13 February 2023 – Campbelltown (RAW)
- 15 February 2023 – Narooma
- 21 February 2023 – Wagga Wagga (RAW)
- 21 February 2023 – Griffith
- 22 February 2023 – Griffith (RAW)
- 23 February 2023 – Moama
- 27 February 2023 – Online (RAW)
- 2 March 2023 – Jindabyne
- 7 March 2023 – Katoomba
- 9 March 2023 – Online



Thank you for your support. A regular newsletter will be sent to keep you updated with the progress on the AJM project. Please spread the word about this project by sharing the AJM newsletter with your networks.

For more information about the project, please visit our [website](#)

If you have any questions or want to discuss further about this project, please feel free to reach out to the AJM team at ajm.reform@environment.nsw.gov.au