

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CENTRAL WEST CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP

Vision Statement

To achieve substantive implementation of the Catchment Action Plan as it relate to Aboriginal people in a manner that is culturally respectful and appropriate.

Mission Statement

To ensure that CWCMA is given guidance and advice regarding the means of consulting with the various Aboriginal communities within the Catchment in order that the catchment targets and management targets are achieved.

Area of Operation

The area of operation of the CWCMA ARG is the Central West Catchment.

Context

The Central West ARG was developed by the Central West CMA, in consultation with various Aboriginal people and organisations throughout the Central West area. The Central West ARG will allow the Central West CMA to engage with, and seek advice, comment and recommendations on natural resource management and Aboriginal cultural heritage issues from those Aboriginal communities affected by its operations.

Objectives

The Central West ARG has the following objectives:

- To maximise the participation of Aboriginal people in all levels of natural resource management within the Central West area.
- To maximise the protection and maintenance of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- To maximise opportunities for relevant skills development and capacity building in natural resource management.
- To maximise the opportunities for Aboriginal economic development in natural resource management.

- To maintain and enhance the integrity of Aboriginal intellectual property in traditional ecological knowledge and cultural and spiritual knowledge.

Functions and Responsibilities

The Central West ARG has the following functions and responsibilities

- To provide advice and guidance to the Central West CMA in respect of the development and implementation of the Central West plans and strategies and in particular with respect to the Central West Catchment Action Plan.
- To provide advice and guidance to the Central West CMA about the most respectful and efficient means to engage with the various Aboriginal communities within the Central West Area.
- To provide and advice and guidance to the Central West CMA regarding the needs of the Central West ARG in respect of capacity development.
- To provide advice and guidance to the Central West CMA as to the means of most effectively maximising appropriate Aboriginal participation in the planning, design, development and delivery of projects meeting the objectives of the Central West Catchment Action Plan and the Investment Strategy.
- To provide advice and guidance as to the most effective means of developing and maintaining partnerships between the Central West CMA and the Aboriginal communities and organisations in the Central West area.
- To provide feedback to the Central West CMA in respect of the natural resources management projects impacting on Aboriginal communities and organisations.
- To provide a regular progress report to the Central West CMA Board through the CMA Operations Report.

Membership

Members of the Central West ARG will be appointed by the Central West CMA Board with the concurrence of the Central West ARG. The Central West CMA Board will be notified in writing of changes in membership of the Central West ARG.

Membership of the committee will be determined by reference to the communities represented on the committee and the need for gender equity, but shall be no greater than 30 people in number.

Members shall be automatically removed from the committee if they fail to attend 3 or more consecutive meetings, without prior notice.

Chairperson

The Central West ARG shall have a Chairperson who shall be elected from the members.

Meeting Procedure

The Central West ARG shall meet at least once per month in the first year of operation and at such frequency as may be agreed between the parties to conduct the business.

The meetings shall be called by the Chairperson of the Central West ARG after consultation with the Central West CMA.

The meetings shall be open to attendance by all members of the Central West ARG.

Central West CMA Board members, Officers, and staff may attend meetings where appropriate and upon request.

The order of business at each meeting shall be:

1. Opening of meeting
2. Welcome to Country
3. One Minute of Silence
4. Apologies
5. Minutes of Previous Meeting
6. Business arising from previous minutes
7. Correspondence
8. Tabling of financial statements
9. Report on previous recommendations
10. Tabling consideration and response to briefs from Central West CMA
11. General Business - Other advice, comment or recommendations from the Central West ARG to the Central West CMA

Fees and Allowances

Members of the Central West ARG will be paid sitting fees and travel allowance in respect of Central West ARG and any Local ARG meetings they attend at rates as specified by the Premiers Department Guidelines for NSW Board and Committee Members: Appointments and Remuneration.