

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT PROTOCOLS

CENTRAL WEST CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

INTRODUCTION

The lands and waters identified in the map attached at "A" are the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri, Gamilaroi, Weilwan, Wongaibon, Dharug and Darkinung people.

The Central West Catchment Management Authority (Central West CMA) is a statutory authority created by the New South Wales Government pursuant to the Catchment Management Authority Act 2003.

The statutory function of the Central West CMA are, in general terms, to be the decision making body in respect of natural resource planning and management in the Central West catchment of New South Wales.

To fulfil those objectives the Central West CMA must act in partnership with the various Aboriginal communities who are the traditional owners of those lands.

These protocols set out an agreed form of communication and engagement between the Aboriginal peoples of the Central West Catchment and the Central West CMA.

STRUCTURE

The Central West CMA will support and resource a two tier structure of engagement with the Aboriginal communities of the Central West Catchment.

Central West Aboriginal Reference Group (Central West ARG)

The Central West ARG will be created according to agreed terms of reference. The membership of the Central West ARG will be broadly representative of the Aboriginal affiliations and interests in the region. The Central West ARG will provide advice and guidance to the Central West CMA in respect of Catchment wide planning matters and projects.

Local Aboriginal Reference Groups

The Central West CMA will create 15 Local Aboriginal Reference Groups of which membership will not be fixed, but open to all interested Aboriginal people.

PROTOCOLS

Pre-Meeting Protocols

The Central West CMA will ensure that when it wishes meet with any part of the Aboriginal community it shall set the meeting dates as early as possible but at least two weeks in advance.

Meeting dates shall not be set down for a location without first ensuring the suitability of such date with the Central West ARG members having links with or representative of that area.

In the event of a funeral occurring in the area where the meeting is to be held, the Chairperson of the Central West ARG may advise the Central West CMA that the meeting is postponed.

If the meeting is a meeting of a Local Aboriginal Reference Group or open to all Aboriginal people, then an advertisement should be placed in the Koori Mail, the National Indigenous Times and such local newspaper as may exist.

In respect of meetings with the Central West ARG the Central West CMA shall

- Deliver briefing papers to each of the members of the Central West ARG at least seven days prior to the meeting, or such other period as may be specified.

Meeting Protocols

Each meeting shall be commenced with a "Welcome to Country" by an appropriate Aboriginal person from that Country.

Following the welcome to Country there shall be one minute of silence as a mark of respect.

Meetings shall be chaired by an Aboriginal person nominated by the Aboriginal attendees present at the meeting, or in the case of the Central West ARG, by the Chairperson.

Minutes of each meeting shall be taken by the Central West CMA. Within 14 days of any meeting of the Central West ARG, the Central West CMA shall circulate draft minutes to each of the members for ratification.

In the case of a Local ARG meeting, within 14 days of the meeting the CMA shall circulate draft minutes to the ARG members who were present at the meeting for ratification.

Meetings should not be attended by any Central West CMA Board or staff member who has not completed a CMA or other cultural awareness program

relevant to the communicating with Aboriginal people of the Central West Catchment (except where such person is an Aboriginal person from the Central West Catchment). If such a person is invited to attend by the Central West ARG, they should disclose that they have not undertaken an appropriate cultural awareness program.

At each meeting the Central West CMA shall report back in writing to the meeting in relation to each advice, comment or recommendation from the previous meeting advising of the adoption and/or implementation which has occurred, or the reasons for not wholly adopting and or implementing the advice comment or recommendations.

All documents produced by the Central West CMA for the information or consideration of Aboriginal people at the meeting shall be in plain English.

Any or all non-Aboriginal people may be requested to leave any meeting for such period of time as required to allow private discussion of matters.

Coffee, tea, fruit juice and water shall be provided by the Central West CMA for each meeting.

Where the meeting is scheduled for two hours or more, refreshments shall be provided by the Central West CMA, including refreshments appropriate for diabetics.

Where the meeting is scheduled for three hours or more, lunch shall be provided, including lunch appropriate for diabetics.

No meeting session should be longer than 90 minutes.

Fees and Allowances

Members of the Central West ARG will be paid a sitting fee and travel allowance in respect of Central West ARG and any Local ARG meetings they attend at such rates as are specified in the Terms of Reference.

Sitting fees and travel allowance will be paid into the member's bank account 24 hours prior to the meeting.

In the event that a member of the ARG does not attend the whole scheduled meeting, all monies received must be repaid to the CMA within 14 days. Failure to repay the money will result in future payments being withheld.