

November 2022

## Benefits of the draft Caring for Country Strategy for local Aboriginal businesses



This fact sheet identifies actions in the draft strategy that may be most relevant to local Aboriginal businesses, and how you can have your say in finalisation of the strategy.

As part of the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (the CPCP), the Department of Planning and Environment (the department) has co-developed a draft Caring for Country Strategy (the strategy) with the Aboriginal communities of Western Sydney.

The implementation of the strategy helps deliver our goal to

- support economic participation for Aboriginal peoples
- promote Aboriginal culture and knowledge
- help enable Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal peoples maintain distinctive relationships with the land, waters, and sky in Western Sydney including supporting ongoing and genuine access to Country
- improve the health and wellbeing of Country.

The strategy identifies 4 themes and 15 proposed actions, highlighting opportunities for future partnerships, business and employment, Caring for Country, and culture and heritage.

The department would like to hear from you or your organisation how we can work with you to implement these actions. To provide feedback, please visit [hyperlink] for more information.

### How have the Aboriginal businesses been engaged?

The department engaged extensively with Western Sydney's Aboriginal communities since 2018 to prepare the CPCP. These engagements were followed up by discussions with the Aboriginal communities between March and October 2021 to understand the priorities and opportunities for the strategy. The department met with a range of Aboriginal communities including organisations working with Aboriginal businesses to draft themes and actions for the strategy. The department is

also working with Yarpa NSW Indigenous Business and Employment Hub (Yarpa) to co-develop a business development grants program for the Aboriginal businesses in the area.

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## Benefits of the draft Caring for Strategy for Aboriginal businesses

The following actions may be most relevant to Aboriginal businesses. This is not an exhaustive list. For more information about these and other actions in the strategy, you can review the [draft Caring for Country strategy](#).

### **Partner with Western Sydney's Aboriginal communities**

The department will partner with Western Sydney's Aboriginal communities, including organisations working with Aboriginal businesses, to deliver the strategy based on the principles of genuine partnerships and co-design. The department also wants to build partnerships to deliver the CPCP's conservation program more broadly which comprises of 26 commitments and 132 actions. Partnerships would enable communities to provide input, advice and support the delivery of the strategy and the CPCP.

For example, the department has partnered with Yarpa to support new and existing Aboriginal businesses by developing a Caring for Country business development grants program. The program has an overall budget of \$700,000 to distribute grants to eligible businesses.

### **Develop opportunities for joint management of new conservation areas with Aboriginal community members under the CPCP**

The department will fund NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to investigate and deliver Aboriginal joint management of new reserves or parks established under the CPCP starting with the Georges River Koala Reserve. The joint management model is likely to provide additional opportunities for Aboriginal businesses to provide land management services.

### **Provide funding, training, and support to build capacity in Aboriginal businesses so that minimum 5% of expenditure is awarded to Aboriginal owned businesses**

The support will be designed to help Aboriginal businesses to be ready for the tendering opportunities arising from the implementation of the CPCP over its lifespan of three decades. The department will develop a program to help existing Aboriginal owned businesses expand, and to get new Aboriginal businesses off the ground in the environmental sector. The support is intended to benefit the businesses and their growth so that they will be able to hire more Aboriginal employees and benefit not only the businesses but broader Aboriginal employment as well.

As part of the early implementation actions of the strategy the department is releasing a Caring for Country business development grants program with Yarpa.

## Investigate and fund initiatives that support Aboriginal employment and training pathways in the environmental sector

The department proposes to leverage existing training and employment providers to provide support for job seekers to overcome barriers to long term employment. Actions could include funding for courses and degrees to support employment in the environmental sector, and additional support to strengthen training pathways into employment opportunities, such as in-workforce training, coaching, mentoring, internships, and secondment opportunities.

## Utilise the full extent of the procurement framework in the implementation of the CPCP to encourage Aboriginal businesses taking part in tendering

The department plans to strengthen tendering processes to support Aboriginal businesses to take part in tendering for work under the CPCP. Improvements will be in line with the NSW Government's Aboriginal Procurement Policy.



Figure 1: A panoramic view of Ropes Creek corridor

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## How can I find out more?

The draft Caring for Country strategy will go on public exhibition from 10 November 2022 to 24 February 2023. A copy the [draft Caring for Country strategy](#) is available on our website.

The department welcomes community feedback submissions. If you require support to submit feedback, the department is providing a submission support service. You can call 02 9585 6060 or email [CPCP@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CPCP@planning.nsw.gov.au) and staff will assist you with your submission.

If English is not your first language, please call 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in your language and then ask to be connected to 02 9585 6060.