

November 2022

## Benefits of the draft Caring for Country Strategy for Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs)



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

### Have your say on the Caring for Country 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 LALCs 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 Local Aboriginal

Land Councils (LALCs). The department has also collaborated with NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) to develop a grants program for the LALCs in the CPCP area.

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## Benefits of the draft Caring for Country Strategy for LALCs

The following actions may be most relevant to LALCs in the CPCP area. 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 [\[hyperlink\]](#).

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

The department is seeking to partner with Western Sydney's Aboriginal communities to deliver the strategy and the broader CPCP based on the principles of genuine partnerships and co-design. The department will continue to co-develop actions with Western Sydney's LALCs to build steps towards the desired outcomes as defined by Aboriginal communities.

For example, in 2020, the NSWALC and the department partnered together to establish the \$1 million NSWALC Cumberland Plain Grant Program. The program aims to support LALCs to assess and manage biodiversity, culture, and heritage on Aboriginal-owned lands, empower LALCs to deliver cultural and conservation outcomes on their land and build capacity within the LALCs to deliver natural resource management services.

### **Fund the upfront costs and support to establish biodiversity stewardship sites on Aboriginal land**

The department is seeking to develop a program to support LALCs and other Aboriginal landholders if interested in establishing biodiversity stewardship sites. A stewardship site can provide an ongoing funding source for LALCs to protect biodiversity values through weed and pest management, fencing and ecological restoration.

### **Develop and fund Aboriginal ranger positions to support the ongoing management of new jointly managed conservation areas under the CPCP**

The program aims to provide Aboriginal peoples an opportunity to use their knowledges and connections to Country to contribute to managing and restoring in new conservation reserves established under the CPCP. The department will engage with Aboriginal communities including LALCs to consider and determine the best way to deliver an Aboriginal ranger program in Western Sydney.

### **Support the speedy resolution of Aboriginal land claims under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 in the CPCP area to achieve cultural and biodiversity outcomes**

The speedy resolution of the land claims will allow land to be returned to LALCs to support economic and cultural outcomes. LALCs could use this opportunity to protect biodiversity and cultural values by establishing biodiversity stewardship agreements on this land. The department is seeking to provide funding to identify, discuss and support the resolution of Aboriginal Crown Land claims in collaboration with LALCs.

## Fund projects for Western Sydney's Aboriginal communities to recognise and protect Aboriginal culture and heritage

The department is seeking to fund projects for Western Sydney's Aboriginal communities to recognise and promote Aboriginal culture and heritage. The department will fund a competitive grants program delivered in partnership with an Aboriginal organisation. Grant funding would be available to Aboriginal groups and organisations in Western Sydney such as LALCs.



Figure 1. Local Aboriginal artist

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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.