

November 2022

## Benefits of the draft Caring for Country Strategy for members of Aboriginal communities



This fact sheet identifies actions in the draft strategy that may be most relevant to members of Aboriginal communities, 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 our [website](#) for more information.

### How have the Aboriginal communities 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. To draft the themes and actions for the strategy in total the department had 32

meetings and contacted over 250 community members. The department also engaged with Aboriginal communities through the distribution of a project newsletter and a community survey.

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The following actions may be most relevant to members of Aboriginal communities. 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](#).

### **Establish a youth panel to embed young Aboriginal voices in the implementation of the Strategy and the CPCP**

Sitting under the department's CPCP Aboriginal knowledge sharing panel, the department will establish a youth panel to disseminate project information and provide advice to inform the delivery of the strategy and CPCP more broadly. Membership will be determined through an expression of interest and clear terms of reference and will provide mentorship opportunities through Knowledge Sharing panel members.

### **Engage with Aboriginal communities to consider culturally appropriate names of conservation lands**

The department will investigate establishing a Cultural Reference Group that will engage with Western Sydney's Aboriginal communities when naming a conservation land or feature using Aboriginal languages or an original Aboriginal name.

### **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 types of projects would include protecting important sites on Country, protecting, enhancing, and promoting biodiversity or cultural values, cultural mapping and planning of Country, cultural tourism opportunities, public art and signage and language and other cultural programs.

### **Fund projects to extend existing education programs in Western Sydney including education officers to provide cultural competency activities at schools and in the community**

The department will fund the provision of education officers to support and extend new education programs or develop new programs under the CPCP. Additionally, programs could also include culture and history training for organisations, tours and school excursions, and community outreach programs. The program will educate the broader public of the Aboriginal culture, knowledge, and history while also strengthening the connection to Country and culture for Aboriginal peoples.



## 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.



**Figure 1: A family in The Australian Botanic Garden. Mount Annan, Sydney, NSW.**

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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.