



New South Wales

Aboriginal Languages Bill 2017

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The objects of this Bill are:

- (a) to acknowledge that Aboriginal languages are part of the culture and identity of Aboriginal people, and
- (b) to establish an Aboriginal Languages Trust governed by Aboriginal people that will facilitate and support Aboriginal language activities to reawaken, nurture and grow Aboriginal languages, and
- (c) to require the development of a strategic plan for the growth and nurturing of Aboriginal languages.

Outline of provisions

Part 1 Preliminary

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

Clause 3 defines certain words and expressions used in the proposed Act, including *Aboriginal language activity*, which is defined as meaning an activity intended to reawaken, grow, nurture, promote or raise awareness of Aboriginal languages.

Part 2 Aboriginal Languages Trust

Clause 4 constitutes the Aboriginal Languages Trust (the *Trust*) as a NSW Government agency and provides that the affairs of the Trust are to be conducted on a not-for-profit basis.

Clause 5 provides that the objective of the Trust is to provide a focused, coordinated and sustained effort in relation to Aboriginal language activities at local, regional and State levels.

Clause 6 sets out the functions of the Trust, including the bringing together of persons with knowledge of Aboriginal languages and experts on languages to provide advice and direction on Aboriginal language activities in the State and to foster the wider use and appreciation of Aboriginal languages.

Clause 7 provides for the appointment of a Board of the Trust to manage the affairs of the Trust.

Clause 8 provides for the appointment of Aboriginal persons as members of the Board of the Trust and for other qualifications for appointment.

Clause 9 requires the Trust to conduct its activities in accordance with the Aboriginal languages strategic plan and any published directions of the Minister.

Clause 10 provides for the employment of persons to enable the Trust to exercise its functions.

Clause 11 authorises the Trust to establish committees to assist in the exercise of its functions.

Clause 12 allows the Trust to delegate functions under the proposed Act.

Part 3 Aboriginal languages strategic plan

Clause 13 requires the Trust to prepare, and have approved by the Minister, a strategic plan for the growth and nurturing of Aboriginal languages.

Clause 14 requires the Trust to prepare reports on the Trust's implementation of the strategic plan and requires the Minister to cause a copy of any such report to be tabled in both Houses of Parliament.

Part 4 Miscellaneous

Clause 15 provides for the Trust to accept gifts.

Clause 16 enables any annual report of the Trust to be included in the annual report of the relevant Public Service agency in which the staff of the Trust are employed.

Clause 17 enables the Governor to make regulations for the purposes of the proposed Act.

Schedule 1 Members and procedure of Board

Schedule 1 makes provision with respect to the members and procedure of the Board of the Trust.