

7 April 2025

Anna Tran
Committee Manager
Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning
Parliament of New South Wales
environmentplanning@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Miss Tran,

I am writing in response to your correspondence of 28 March 2025 relating to my attendance at the recent hearing on 17 March 2025 for the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning inquiry into the electricity outages affecting Far West NSW in October 2024.

I thank the Committee for inviting me to attend and provide evidence on this matter. My responses to the Committee's supplementary questions are below.

QUESTION:

1. In the hearing, the importance of local emergency services organisations being aware of the discrete Aboriginal communities in their region was emphasised.
 - a. How could this local knowledge be embedded in the training of local emergency services organisations?

ANSWER:

Training and ongoing relationship building between LMECs and LALCs are critical to ensuring local knowledge of Aboriginal communities are embedded in training of local emergency services organisations.

Aboriginal Affairs in partnership with Premiers Department are piloting a training program consisting of 10 workshops across the state commencing in May 2025 that brings together the local Emergency Management Committee members and the Local Aboriginal Land Councils for a day on country.

QUESTION:

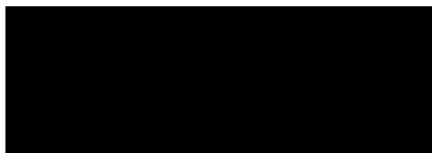
1. In the hearing, the importance of local emergency services organisations being aware of the discrete Aboriginal communities in their region was emphasised.
 - b. Should there be a structure for local Aboriginal leaders and ACCOs to advise emergency management committees and emergency services organisations?

ANSWER:

Yes. LALCs are now mandated members of the LEMCs. Community Working Parties (CWP) should be involved and consulted when LALCs are not available to attend LMECs and there are 16 across the Far West NSW region. ACCOs can be consulted when no LALC or CWP is present or available to participate in the LMECs. ACCOs should be considered as approved providers during recovery phase

in addition to mainstream NGOs, as they can offer culturally safe services (Maari Ma Health, Maranguka, Barkindji Native Title).

Sincerely,



Shane Hamilton
Deputy Secretary, Aboriginal Affairs NSW