
Objections - Page 11

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: How many objections are you getting from those regions where you've got people who are getting significant—for instance, things that have been raised with me: somebody who has got land that is earmarked for Sydney Water in terms of the water needs in the aerotropolis, but Sydney Water hasn't made any acquisition at the moment. They've had, for instance, large land valuation increases for their land tax. What sort of objections are you getting in those regards from some of those landholders?

STEWART MCLACHLAN: I'm not aware of us—

SALLY DALE: We'd have to take that on notice.

STEWART MCLACHLAN: Yes, we'd take it on notice. But I'm not aware of a significant increase in objections, particularly in Western Sydney in comparison to other areas when we look across the regions. But the other thing I would say is there are certain provisions under the Just Terms Act for those people—provisions that we don't oversee—around hardship applications that they may be able to pursue with wider government.

Answer:

Value NSW (VNSW) received 401 objections in the South West Sydney Region during the 2023-24 financial year. On the above basis, VNSW has not observed a significant increase of objections in this area, with objections representing 0.166% of all land values issued in the region, compared to a statewide average of 0.181%.

The South West Sydney Region encompasses lands surrounding the Western Sydney Aerotropolis, encompassing Camden Council, Campbelltown City Council, Liverpool City Council and Penrith City Council.

Val IQ expected cost savings - Page 13

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect to that, what sort of savings do you expect to see from the full implementation of Val IQ? Are there any cost savings you expect?

STEWART MCLACHLAN: There are savings in the business case. I'm not sure whether that's Cabinet in confidence. We would need to take it on notice, but there are certainly savings that occur through Val IQ.

Answer:

Val IQ is expected to deliver approximately \$22 million in savings over 10 years.

Permission to publish council GVAL presentation – Page 16

The CHAIR: Very good. The Committee would like to know whether this document that was sent—Value NSW and the valuation list 2024 to 2034—is something we can publish, or would you like to come back to us when it's ready?

STEWART MCLACHLAN: The list is definitely on our website already.

The CHAIR: Okay, great.

STEWART MCLACHLAN: That list is definitely on our website and has been communicated to all councils.

The CHAIR: Perfect. Then what about this one, that little—

STEWART MCLACHLAN: From memory, that information should be fine. I just might need to—

The CHAIR: It looks like it's straight from your website.

STEWART MCLACHLAN: I think that's a presentation we may have given councils, from memory. If we could be afforded the opportunity to double-check it outside of this hearing and come back, that would be great. But certainly the list can be published.

Answer:

The Valuer General and VNSW are happy for the Committee to publish a copy of the presentation provided to councils on the redistribution of the general valuation delivery schedule. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Workforce diversity – Page 18

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT: On workforce again—I've just been thinking what the question should be. It's good that you've got such a good balance of diversity of men and women. What about ethnic diversity? Have you considered that at this stage in your workforce and what it is?

STEWART MCLACHLAN: We wouldn't be keeping specific measures.

SALLY DALE: We definitely have ethnic diversity, I would say. But, yes, we haven't got the figures on that.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT: Can I ask you to look at that and report back?

SALLY DALE: Yes, sure.

Answer:

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure encourages staff to provide diversity information to ensure it has accurate information about its workforce. As part of the Department's workforce diversity survey, staff are asked:

Are you from a racial, ethnic or ethno-religious group which is a minority in Australian society?

VNSW staff have provided the following responses as at 31 March 2025:

- 5.8% answered yes
- 47.3% answered no
- 46.9% did not respond.

We note that as participation in the survey is voluntary, the results do not fully represent the ethnic diversity of VNSW staff.

Consultation on cultural loss determinations – Page 20

The CHAIR: It's a long time ago, but I'm thinking of Hindmarsh and other historical examples of where you can't put a price. There are multiple layers. For example, there are often conflicting views. There are limits in terms of documented history. Sometimes it will even be that if it's a women's site, in the case of Hindmarsh, that it should only be women engaging with them. I guess the question we have is around how many—like, who are your go-tos in terms of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in this space? As soon as you go to just terms, it's brutal because that's a metric that doesn't—I think you've written an excellent policy, but I just wonder about the practicality.

SALLY DALE: Going back to the policy, I think it's really important that there was engagement with native title landowners, Aboriginal groups and the Aboriginal Land Council on putting that policy together, and there was a feedback mechanism there. As part of our process, again, we are involving experts in regard to anthropology and ecology—

The CHAIR: As in Aboriginal experts?

STEWART MCLACHLAN: There have been Aboriginal experts involved in the development of the policy and guidelines as well. I think the former Valuer General may have—certainly they have been engaged and has had input into those.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT: Do you have full-time employees from the Indigenous community that do some of this work?

STEWART MCLACHLAN: No, we would rely on experts to engage, but certainly we can at times. If required, the wider department has a significant team that does certain things, but the requirement for us to be independent is first and foremost. Where we need external expertise, we would engage that.

The CHAIR: So there's 17, but I understand that we can't really get a lot of the detail. I think, as an oversight committee, I feel a little bit nervous that we've got no real lens on, say, for example,

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that all the experts that were relied on in a particular matter were non-Aboriginal. I guess I'm seeking some reassurance around that. Even if you were to take out the specific details, but give us a bit of a sense of—pick your best news story, if you like, just to see. Because I feel very concerned at what I've seen—and this is just a personal thing—in terms of my own region, where you had an Aboriginal community completely displaced in the floods, for example. Government was engaging with a particular group, but it was extremely problematic what took place. If the institute itself is deciding who to consult with, that's problematic. I just flag that I think this is something we would like to know more about. Did you want to add anything?

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT: No, that's fine.

The CHAIR: I wouldn't mind putting that as a supplementary question. If you can't give us the details, even if you just—a flow chart of consultation around cultural loss. Because you can't put a figure on cultural loss, you really can't. I know you have to, but—

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT: They do. That's the thing: You do. Why don't you go on—sorry, Stewart, you go on, then I'll ask my question.

STEWART MCLACHLAN: I was just going to say that in the Timber Creek case, they do have an established parameter of how a figure should be derived, without at all undermining that statement.

SALLY DALE: I think they do around the freehold value, because obviously—this is talking to cultural loss, but when native title land is acquired, there's the freehold proportion and then the cultural loss proportion. I'm happy to take a proposal from the Committee, if we can do it. It will just depend on—

The CHAIR: To be frank, it's not the money component for me; it's more right back at the beginning.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT: With that process, isn't it?

The CHAIR: Exactly.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT: Yes, the process.

The CHAIR: It's how are Aboriginal perspectives being—because institutions, as I say, are not well placed to decide who contributes around, for example, midden remains and the cultural significance of an area. Because that is a huge part of being heard and listened to and having a voice for Aboriginal people. It's that part that I'd be quite interested in.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT: For those 20 cases—because it's 20 more, so it's 20 cases now—a summary of who was consulted in the process that was gone through for the final determination, is that what you're looking at?

The CHAIR: Yes, or even if it was just a portion of them. What's your process? That's all.

SALLY DALE: Sure.

STEWART MCLACHLAN: Sure, happy to.

Answer:

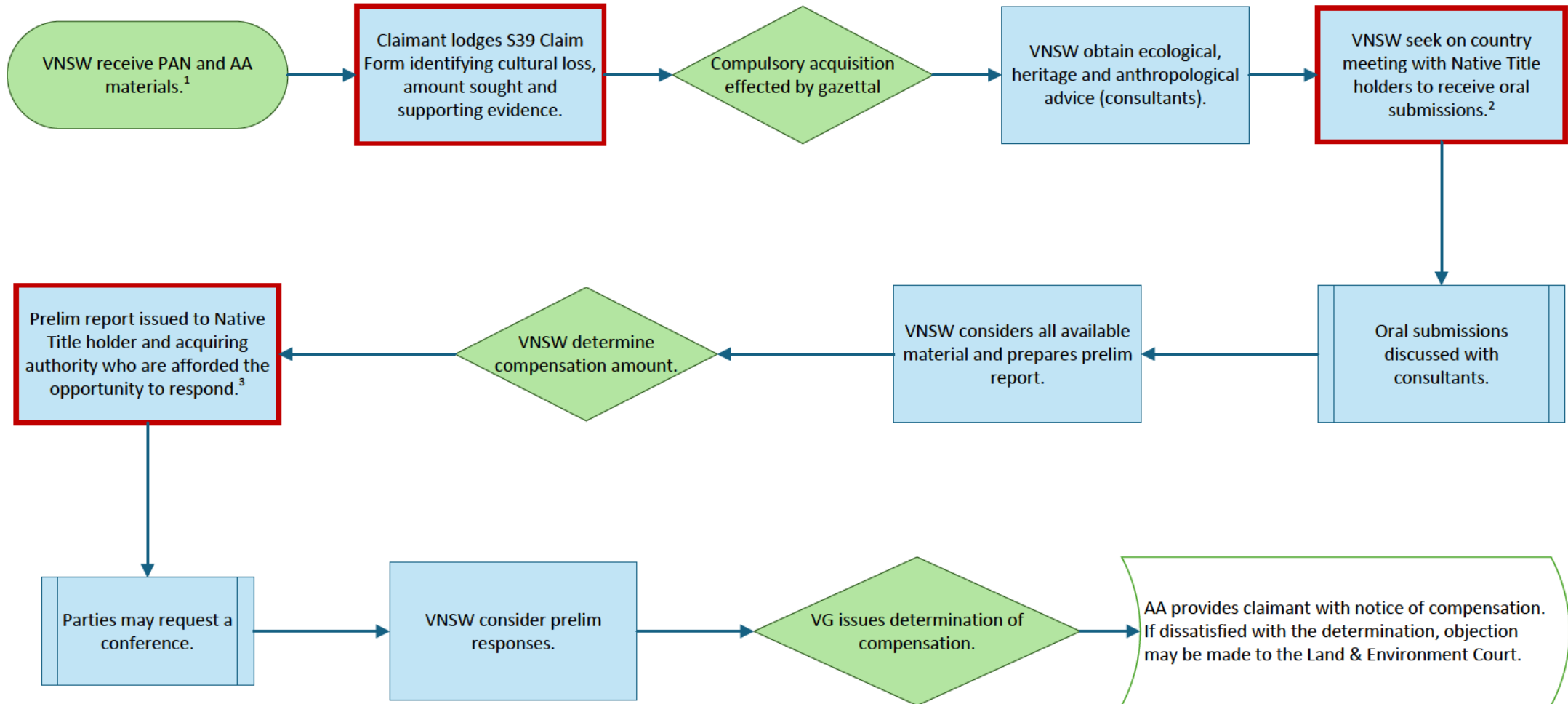
The VG and VNSW are committed to ensuring indigenous perspectives are heard and strongly considered when determining compensation for cultural loss.

To ensure appropriate, fair and just compensation, the VG's determination process begins with the claim by the dispossessed party. VNSW always seeks an on country visit to receive oral submissions from the Native Title holder. To ensure procedural fairness, VNSW issue a preliminary report with the opportunity for feedback afforded.

The VG/VNSW may also rely on suitably experienced specialist experts and indigenous advisors in making a determination. A high-level flow chart is attached which highlights the points throughout the process whereby consultation with indigenous stakeholders occurs.

Attachment A – Value NSW consultation process for cultural loss compensation determinations

Value NSW (VNSW) consultation process for cultural loss compensation determinations



Note:

1. Acquiring Authority (AA) and claimant may continue to negotiate settlement after the Proposed Acquisition Notice (PAN), typically for 90 days.
2. Parties generally provide sworn affidavits around this time, if not provided as part of the initial claim.
3. Parties typically have 60 days to respond to a Prelim report, which may be extended to 90 days on request.