SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY

A Local Aboriginal Land Council Initiative

Sustainable Lands Strategy

- A Local Aboriginal Land Council initiative for an integrated approach to improved land management, at State level, through better cooperation between the Aboriginal community and key Government Departments.

- Through the Aboriginal Land Claims process under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, Local Aboriginal Land Council's are, or are likely to become, the single largest private landowners in any Local Government Area.

- As key landowners, Local Aboriginal Land Council's provide real opportunity to deliver strategic and regional planning outcomes in partnership with Government.

- Through good and proper management of land, Local Aboriginal Land Council's are able to deliver tangible benefits to its community.

Statement of Fact

- Land in the State of NSW was traditionally owned and occupied by Aboriginal people.
- Land in the State of NSW is of Spiritual, Social, Cultural and Economic importance to Aboriginal people.
- It is fitting to acknowledge the importance which land in the State of NSW has for Aboriginal people and the need of Aboriginal people for land in the State of NSW.
- It is NOT accepted that as a result of past Government decisions the amount of land set aside in the State of NSW for Aboriginal people has been progressively reduced without compensation.

Our Guiding Principles

- A Local Aboriginal Land Council is a Body Corporate and as such are autonomous bodies.
- Participation by Local Aboriginal Land Councils in the Sustainable Lands Strategy is on an opt-in basis.
- We aim to improve, protect and foster the best interest of all Aboriginal persons within our boundaries and other persons who are members of our Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- We will actively seek to learn from each other and share our experiences both good and bad to improve outcomes for our communities.
- We will collaboratively work together in an open, transparent and honest manner respecting each Local Aboriginal Land Council's autonomy.
- We accept our positions as the largest private land owners within our Regions and as such accept our ability to make significant contributions to future planning and development of the Region for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

The current problem

- Inefficient approach to proper land management (State level)
  ~ Not all stakeholders are at the table

- Various stakeholders, with often varying and competing interests

  E.g. Conservation v Resources v Urban outcomes

- 26,000 unresolved Aboriginal Land Claims across NSW

~ Estimated cost to Government to process	=	$260M - $530M
~ 500 claims settled per year	=	52yrs backlog
~ Economic, Environmental and Cultural	=	Missed opportunities

- Uncertainty in the delivery of planning outcomes locally, regionally and at a State level.

Discussions to date

Ministers

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
~ Hon Brad Hazzard
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
~ Hon Victor Dominello
Minister for Primary Industries
~ Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson
Minister for the Central Coast
~ Hon Chris Hartcher
Minister For Environment and Heritage
~ Hon Robyn Parker

LALC's

Awabakal
Bahtabah
Biraban
Darkinjung
Karuah
Mindaribba
Wanaruah
Worimi

Local Members
Mr Chris Holstein MP
Mr Chris Hartcher MP
Mr Darren Webber MP
Mr Garry Edwards MP

Local Government
Gosford City Council
Wyong Shire Council
Cessnock City Council
Maitland City Council
Lake Macquarie City Council
Newcastle City Council

Government Agencies

Dept of Aboriginal Affairs - Jason Ardler, General Manager
UrbanGrowth NSW - Greg South, Chief Operating Officer
NSW Aboriginal Land Council - Lila De Souza, Principal Legal Advisor
Office of the Registrar - Stephen Wright, Registrar
Primary Industries - Ms Renata Brooks, Deputy Director General, Catchments and Lands

Goals & opportunities

For the Local Aboriginal Land Council's

- Endorsement of a strategy that will provide, for current and future generations;
  ~ Economic independence
  ~ Social outcomes
  ~ Cultural & Heritage preservation
  ~ Environmental corridors and opportunity for sustainable land management

For Government

- Regional planning outcomes
  ~ Urban land release and supply
  ~ Environmental corridors at regional landscape level
- Cost saving to Government through
  ~ reduction in unresolved Aboriginal Land Claims
  ~ providing the economic independence to foster and develop programs
- Strengthening Aboriginal partnerships that will benefit the State of NSW

Current Initiatives

Local Aboriginal Land Councils

In response to Planning reforms Local Aboriginal Land Council's have formed an alliance to address improved land management.

Government

Department of Premiers & Cabinet (Central Coast) has established an ***inter-agency taskforce*** to review Darkinjung LALC lands on the Central Coast of NSW comprising:

- Dept of Planning
- Office of Environment & Heritage
- Trade & Investment
- Regional Development Corporation.
- Wyong Shire Council
- Gosford City Council

The Central Coast taskforce has had a positive impact for Darkinjung and the region by bringing all related parties together to develop to high level strategies to overcome land use matters.

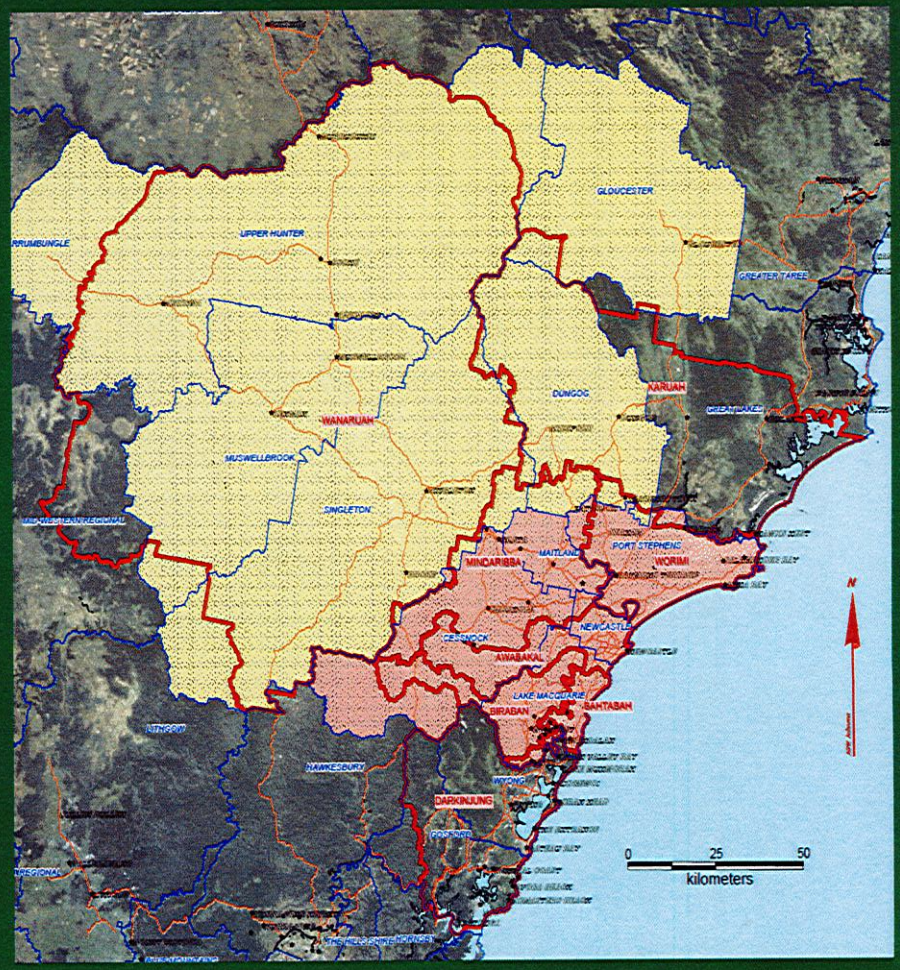
The Region

There is currently 2100 undetermined land claims across the collective region.

Collectively the Local Aboriginal Land Council's cover an area of 24534 km^2 as shown on the adjoining plan. The region includes the Lower Hunter, Upper Hunter, Port Stephens, Great Lakes and the Central Coast.

Together this collaboration of landowners has the ability to accelerate Government plans, and deliver joint strategic outcomes through overarching planning across the entire region.

At the same time, as representatives of discrete communities, individual Local Aboriginal Land Council's have a unique appreciation of the needs of varying communities, their needs and aspirations.



Moving Forward

1. Premier's recognition and continued endorsement of a localised initiative which has the potential to revolutionise the strategic management and use of land for all people of the State of NSW.

2. Continuation of the *inter-agency taskforce with a view of* expansion into the Hunter in partnership with opt-in Local Aboriginal Land Council's with potential for roll-out across the State.

3. Appointment of UrbanGrowth NSW to facilitate development of the model with sufficient funds to provide 'proof of concept' (including the completion of mapping of Local Aboriginal Land Council land claim interests not already identified or mapped).

4. High level planning by UrbanGrowth to identify strategic development lands for potential commercial joint venture opportunities with Local Aboriginal Land Council's.

The Model

LEAD

Department of Premier & Cabinet

DELIVERY PARTNERS

UrbanGrowth NSW & 8 LALC's of Hunter & Central Coast

STAKEHOLDERS

Government

Planning & Infrastructure
Office of Environment & Heritage
Trade & Investment
Resource & Energy
Primary Industry
Aboriginal Affairs

Non-Government

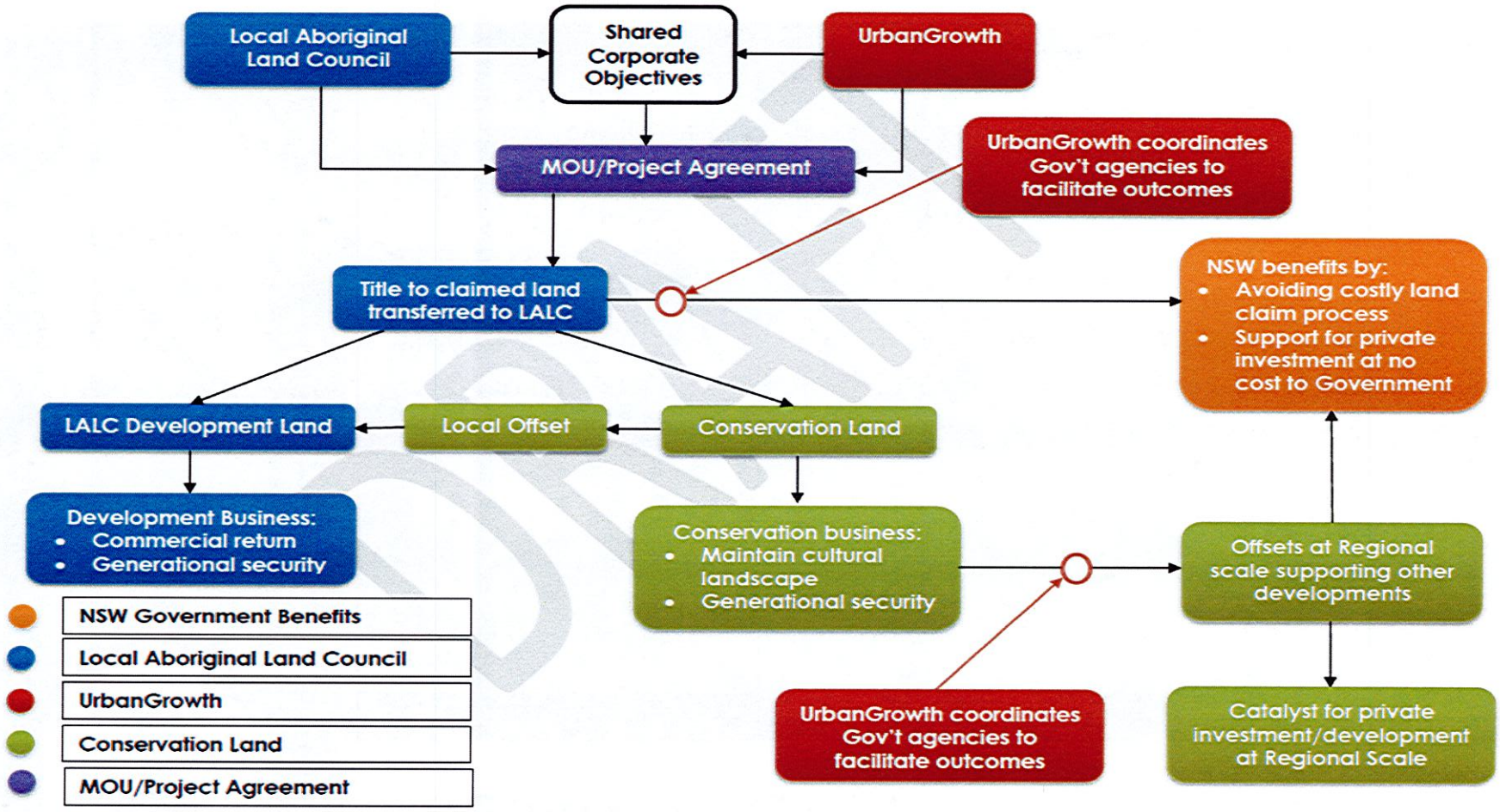
NSW Aboriginal Land Council
Registrar of Aboriginal Land Rights Act

Industry

Professional Bodies (UDIA, Property Council)
Private landowners & Developers
Construction industry & suppliers
Regional Development Corp

• Awabakal • Bahtabah • Biraban • Darkinjung • Karuah • Mindaribba • Wanaruah • Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Councils

Strategic Partnership Model



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An opportunity for

realising sustainable outcomes