

# INQUIRY INTO PLANNING SYSTEM AND THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES

**Organization: Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council (GLALC)**

Mr. David Rodwell

Parliament of New South Wales

6 Macquarie St

Sydney NSW 2000,

Submitted via email: [PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr. Rodwell,

**Re: Submission on 'Inquiry into the planning system and the impact of climate**

I am writing in relation to the NSW Legislative Council's inquiry into the planning system and the impact of climate change on the environment and communities, undertaken by Portfolio Committee No. 7 Planning and Environment.

Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) commends state government's vision to increase GDP and raise HDI through the SEPP 2011 – 2056 Tri-Metropolitan Plan, and, as the Culture and Heritage custodians in 6 LGAs within the metropolitan area, have within our Community Land and Business Plan programs of works to "Care for Country" which is synchronous with climate change targets as per signed international treaties. In our daily affairs, GLALC grapples with the criteria within your document entitled "Terms of Reference".

This document contains a cover letter, a background and a 3-minute summary which will be presented to the council. It will be supported by separate copies of the following relevant documentation:

- Portfolio 7 – GLALC detailed evidence Final 6
- A set of supporting maps

Should you wish to discuss this in further detail, please contact the Strini Pillai on behalf of the CEO, Dr. Melissa Williams.

Your sincerely,

Strini Pillai

Program Manager: Heritage, Ecology and Land Management

## Background Information

Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council (GLALC) has statutory authority over 6 LGA's; Liverpool, Fairfield, Canterbury-Bankstown, Parramatta, Cumberland, and the Sutherland Shire, and an obligation (or remit) to protect "the spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance of land to the state's Aboriginal peoples" (ALRA, 1983).

Melissa Williams took the position of CEO 5 years ago. Dr. Williams has established the Heritage, Ecology and Land Management division in 2022 to support Culture and Heritage to address the "Caring for Country" vision which resonates Australia's challenge to meet the Paris 2050 global targets viz.:

At GLALC, "Country" means the land (and its form), the waterbodies, the soil, flora, and fauna, and the abiotic process that not only sustained and shaped First Culture, but also shapes the Australian Way of Life for the 278 ethnicities today. Australia is one of 7 continents each uniquely forged by the natural environment, wildlife, and with unique equally important Anthropologies including traditional and other cultures. GLALC's "act local, think global" governance manifests itself in our "Caring for Country" Campaign that includes (but not limited to) a traditional interdependent value: "Healthy Country, Healthy people". In doing so, GLALC contributes to the state's effort to meet the NSW component of Australia's Sustainability Development Goals 2030 targets.

In gist, since "Australia's environment is a vital part of our natural identity, our First Nations heritage and our economy" (DCCEEW, 2024), our understanding is that government is aware that the preservation of its natural identity is also the key to Climate Change. GLALC offers its unequivocal support for state and national objectives.

## Key points and recommendations

Good day to all present and my acknowledgement to the Dharawal People and pay my respect to the Elders past and present. Custodians of the land. Dr. Melissa Williams, the CEO, conveys her apologies for her absence due to personal reasons.

GLALC is a statutory custodian over 6 LGA's. In 5 overdeveloped LGAs, GLALC struggles with consent authorities that approve developments on critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland fragments and yet they ironically publicize the endangered status on their websites. The recommendations are:

- 1) Stop all riparian developments.
- 2) Build in residential clusters and reforest land in between clusters with animal corridors.
- 3) Modify existing stormwater outlets to increase groundwater recharge
- 4) Build roads with land bridges over and under
- 5) Include Anthropological assessments in developments.
- 6) Legislate native lower mid story vegetation in residential gardens.
- 7) Chip and track all domestic pets.

In the 6th LGA, Sutherland, GLALC struggles to protect 1161 ha of carbon sequestering vegetation in Heathcote from development dumping. We are 13 years into 45 years of development to the Tri-Metropolitan 2056 Plan, however, there is no development waste management plan. An estimated 1200 tons of development waste threatens the green heart of Sydney's future Tri Metro area. Heathcote houses a precious genetic metapopulation of Koala. For First People, its a blessing just to see the unique identity of Australia preserved which is not for sale.

The recommendations from the Sutherland example are:

- 1) Mobilize a state-driven regional multi-stakeholder program of works to clean up development waste especially Heathcote Ridge, the target of illegal dumping.
- 2) Develop a robust statewide development waste plan.
- 3) Stipulate an Environmental Impact Assessment prior to transfer of Crown lands to LALC's and ensure least 5 annual cycles of restoration.
- 4) Create a statewide campaign to inform and educate NSW's residents about National Asset protection (including Anthropology)
- 5) Increase regulatory powers and resources to rangers and police to protect all National Assets on Australian soils.

State considerations include:

- 1) Recognize First Peoples and their knowledge systems which hold unique information about environmental changes over time and are well placed to inform environmental solutions and demonstrate it by directly investing in Ranger stations and Eco-Depots on open bushland.

- 2) Assist our Climate Change program. Fund the GLALC Keeping Place and Koala sanctuary at Heathcote to protect and preserve culture and heritage.
- 3) Fund cocreated Anthropological research projects with First Peoples, LALC's and Universities.
- 4) Climate Change The "dynamic imbalanced" supersystem is a circular system that development ought to mimic. State has ignored natural laws in the 45 years of planned development