

Parliamentary Inquiry into Regional planning processes in NSW

Post hearing responses

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: I note you represent the NSW Aboriginal Land Council as well. Do you see any implications for land and planning issues for them regionally to enable them to unlock their economic opportunities? You do not need to answer that right now but take that on note. Are you happy with that?

Ms DENNIS: Yes.

Mr McBRIDE: We will take that on board.

LGNSW acknowledges the need to better engage ALCs in local and regional planning processes. LGNSW supports the positions put forward by the NSWALC:

1. Regional planning instruments must include a set of mandatory requirements for planning authorities to consult and engage with Aboriginal people at a best practice standard;
2. Regional planning processes and plans should broadly integrate the objectives of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act*; including facilitating the social, cultural and economic development of Aboriginal communities. This could be achieved through Amendments to Part 3B Strategic Planning of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*;
3. Land Councils should have specific appeal mechanisms for adverse zoning decisions which affect the economic development potential of their lands.
4. Regional planning laws must include a mechanism to allow decisions to be made against development proposals on the grounds of existing Aboriginal culture and heritage values in that area.