

**Discussion  
paper  
response -  
Submission  
No 46**

## **INQUIRY INTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES**

**Organisation:** Tamworth Regional Council

**Date received:** 17/08/2016

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## **Inquiry into economic development in Aboriginal communities – response from Tamworth Regional Council**

### **Question 1**

*Is there an urgent need for the NSW Government to adopt a whole of government approach to ensure a coordinated and targeted response to address the critical issues within Aboriginal communities?*

There is a need for the NSW Government to prioritise and appropriately fund a coordinated and targeted response to address all issues within the Aboriginal community.

### **Question 2**

*What are the options for the governance of Aboriginal affairs in New South Wales given the complexities, history, stakeholders, the need for accountability and transparency, and the need to engage the private sector?*

Any process needs to be transparent, accountable, and outcome driven ensuring that funding and resources are appropriately allocated and monitored.

### **Question 3**

*What can the NSW Government do to improve coordination in the area of economic development in Aboriginal communities?*

Encourage greater engagement between relevant agencies, NGOs, business and industry.

### **Question 4**

*What specific actions should the NSW Government take to further strengthen Industry Based Agreements (IBAs), encourage private sector participation in improving economic development within Aboriginal communities, and how should it evaluate the efficacy of these responses*

Specific actions would include ongoing consultation with relevant parties to provide guidance on how greater participation and successful outcomes be achieved.

### **Question 5**

*What actions or decisions should the NSW Government take to ensure that place-based approaches are embedded as a key component of the development and implementation of initiatives to drive Aboriginal economic development?*

### **Question 6**

*Should the NSW Government continue to facilitate Opportunity Hubs or is it preferable for the government to support existing organisations that specialise in this space? Why?*

*What specific actions or decisions should the NSW Government take to increase the number of Aboriginal people engaged in vocational education and training?*

*What actions can be taken to better incorporate community-specific culture into the education curriculum?*

The government should support and facilitate the organisations and initiatives which deliver the best outcomes

Continue to fund vocational, education and training opportunities with a plan which attracts greater participation

Recording of local Aboriginal stories, local Aboriginal history, local identities and local languages could be incorporated into the education curriculum.

### **Question 7**

*What actions can the NSW Government take to deliver programs that target Aboriginal girls and young women in schools and in vocational education and training?*

*Is there a role for the mentoring of young Aboriginal women by female Aboriginal elders, and if so how could the government develop and support these relationships?*

Employing Aboriginal Elders in schools could assist engagement with members of local communities.

The Clontarf and Opportunity Hub models could be applied to mentor girls and young women to access education and become leaders themselves

### **Question 8**

*What actions should the NSW Government take to develop stronger pathways between vocational education and training and meaningful employment opportunities for Aboriginal People?*

**Question 9:**

*Should there be targeted, centralised investment to stabilise and enhance capacity building and development for Aboriginal organisations? If so, what would this entail?*

The NSW Government could provide incentives for the private sector to develop partnerships with Aboriginal organisations or Aboriginal businesses.

**Question 10**

*What is your view on whether the compliance requirements in Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 are unduly burdensome on local Aboriginal land councils?  
Would the compliance requirements applicable to corporations under the Corporations Act 2001 be more appropriate for local Aboriginal land councils?*

**Question 11**

*What training or other services could be provided to enhance the governance capacity of Aboriginal organisations? Who should provide the training and other services?*

**Question 12**

*What can be done about the potential conflicts of interest when local Aboriginal land council board members are both the managers and the tenants of housing on land council property?*

**Question 13**

*What action can the NSW Government take to improve the business and financial capacity of local Aboriginal land councils and other Aboriginal corporations?*

Fund accredited training courses in business administration and finance for staff

**Question 14**

*What action can the NSW Government take to incorporate more 'wrap around services' to support the establishment of Aboriginal enterprises such as initial feasibility assessments, business planning, mentoring and access to capital, marketing, training and infrastructure?*

Any additional support that provides mentoring, assessment, guidance and sound business administration principles would be desirable.

**Question 15**

*Should enterprise assistance centres for Aboriginal-owned businesses be established?*

Assistance for Aboriginal owned businesses would be desirable. Who best to deliver these services should be determined after thorough investigation

#### **Question 16**

*How can the NSW Government encourage Indigenous Business Australia, the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce and the Indigenous Land Corporation to facilitate capacity development for Aboriginal organisations and better support Aboriginal economic enterprise?*

The NSW Government could encourage Indigenous Business Australia, the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce and the Indigenous Land Corporation through ongoing engagement and collaboration, and through the use of practical strategic plans

#### **Question 17**

*What actions should the NSW Government take to address the backlog of land claims yet to be assessed?*

Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) supports the pilot crown land transfer process, currently being trialled with TRC, as a possible solution

#### **Question 18**

*What actions should the NSW Government take to address the backlog of land claims that have been assessed but where the land has not yet transferred to local Aboriginal land councils?*

Limited and qualified title can be developed and conveyed. Status quo should remain with the opportunity to put forward a case of hardship.

#### **Question 19**

*What actions could the NSW Government (or others) take to provide the necessary support to local Aboriginal land councils holding 'limited title' land to realise its economic potential?*

#### **Question 20**

*Do the issues raised with respect to zoning of land transferred to Aboriginal land councils warrant a change to current planning processes?*

*If so, what options are available to address the issue(s) identified?*

*Should the NSW Government consider the introduction of a State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) that would apply to land owned by Aboriginal land councils, and if so what considerations and provisions should it include?*

The planning process does not need to be changed. There is flexibility in the current process

### **Question 21**

*What are the potential benefits and disadvantages of the proposal that local Aboriginal land Councils partner with local government to identify and realise economic growth from land owned by land councils?*

### **Question 22**

*What should the NSW Government do to support partnerships between local Aboriginal land councils and other organisations, whether they are local government or private enterprises, to realise economic growth from land owned by land councils?*

*How can Aboriginal communities leverage economic opportunities from their cultural connection to water? What actions can the NSW Government take to facilitate this?*