

**INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND A
GLOBAL SYDNEY**

Name: New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council

Date received: 16 June 2017

The Director
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000



New South Wales
Aboriginal Land Council

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Inquiry into Regional Development and a Global Sydney

The NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the *Inquiry into Regional Development and a Global Sydney*.

NSWALC is the peak body representing Aboriginal peoples in NSW and with over 23,000 members, is the largest Aboriginal member based organisation in Australia. The Aboriginal land rights network has unique, first-hand knowledge and experience of the challenges facing Aboriginal peoples in regards to regional development. The Land Rights Network has developed, and continues to develop a range of innovative opportunities and solutions for overcoming these barriers.

Investing in Aboriginal communities and the Aboriginal Land Rights network provides the greatest opportunity for achieving meaningful regional development in NSW. NSWALC and the Land Rights Network are committed to working in partnership with Government, industry and others to deliver long term economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and the broader NSW economy.

Recommendations of the recent *Inquiry into Economic Development in Aboriginal Communities* and the NSW Government's response recognises the importance of investing in the Aboriginal Land Rights Network and Aboriginal peoples to realise economic development aspirations and lift economic outcomes for the broader community. However, more work can be done to build on the success stories to date. Dynamic, coordinated and success orientated approaches developed and implemented in partnership with Aboriginal communities can deliver meaningful, lasting outcomes.

The enclosed submission provides specific comment in response to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, and makes suggestions for improvements in related areas.

We sincerely thank the Committee for its time and efforts in examining these issues and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to build on the successes to date. The economic, social and outcomes of Aboriginal Land Rights extends beyond the state's Aboriginal communities to enrich and benefit the entire community of NSW, economically, socially and culturally.

Should you require further information regarding the content of this submission, please contact the Policy and Programs Unit on

Yours sincerely,

James Christian PSM
Chief Executive Officer
NSW Aboriginal Land Council

16/6/17

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New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council submission

Inquiry into Regional Development and a Global Sydney

June 2017

Summary of recommendations

Recommendation 1: That the NSW Government invest in Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal enterprises and the Aboriginal Land Rights Network to drive regional economic development.

Recommendation 2: That the NSW Government work in collaboration with NSWALC and key industry, government and non-government partners to develop and implement strategies to support Aboriginal peoples employment and economic aspirations.

Recommendation 3: That the NSW Government, in partnership with Aboriginal peoples and Aboriginal enterprises, invest in developing, delivering and promoting comprehensive Aboriginal tourism strategies.

Recommendation 4: That the NSW Government invest in infrastructure and transport services.

Recommendation 5: That the NSW Government work with peak Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal peoples to: Develop more comprehensive targets relating to Aboriginal employment, training and education than those currently outlined in the *Growing NSW's First Economy* OCHRE Plan; and that the NSW Government provide proper investment to achieve those initiatives.

Recommendation 6: That the NSW Government provides additional ongoing funding and resources for the *Driving Change Program* and the *Driver Licensing Access Program* to allow for these Programs to be rolled out across all Aboriginal communities particularly in regional and remote parts of NSW where driving is often the only option for travel.

Recommendation 7: That the NSW Government consider whole-of-government opportunities to support a range of Aboriginal businesses and LALCs to achieve their economic potential, including promoting genuinely Aboriginal owned businesses, goods and services.

Recommendation 8: That that NSW Government work with NSWALC, peak Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal peoples to: Develop more comprehensive targets relating to Aboriginal economic development and Aboriginal business than those currently outlined in the *Growing NSW's First Economy* OCHRE Plan; and that the NSW Government provide proper investment to achieve those initiatives.

The Aboriginal Land Rights Network in NSW

NSWALC is a self-funded statutory corporation under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALRA)*, with a legislative objective to improve, protect and foster the best interests of Aboriginal peoples in NSW. NSWALC provides support to the state-wide network of 120 autonomous Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) many of which cover areas in regional or remote parts of NSW and which could benefit from opportunities created by Sydney's position as a global city.

LALCs have similar statutory objectives to NSWALC in regards to their local communities. LALCs are community organisations that undertake a diverse range of community, land management, business and cultural activities in line with their functions under the ALRA and in accordance with their Community Land and Business Plan (CLBP). LALCs are governed by a democratically elected Board every 4 years and hold land and other assets for the economic, social and cultural benefit of all Aboriginal people living within their boundaries.

The Aboriginal Land Rights Network provides a key framework for coordinating and driving investment in areas such as training and education, land management and small to medium enterprises to promote regional development opportunities.

The Aboriginal population in NSW

It is estimated that there were 631,757 Aboriginal people in Australia at the 2011 Census.¹ Of these, 202,674 people were living in NSW. This represents more than 32 per cent of the total Aboriginal population and the largest count for any state or territory in Australia. Results from the 2011 Census show that in NSW the median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 21 years compared to 38 years for the non-Aboriginal population. In addition, more than 36 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in NSW were under 15 years of age. The 2011 Census data also shows that a much higher proportion of the Aboriginal population is aged 24 years or less than is the case for the non-Aboriginal population.

Given these demographics, the Aboriginal population is projected to grow in the future. Aboriginal peoples are often one of the key demographics in many regional and remote areas. Realising the economic and employment potential of Aboriginal communities living in those areas will unlock a range of benefits. Furthermore, the economic significance of the land vested in LALCs will increase, particularly in regional NSW where LALCs are often one of the largest land holders in a local Shire/Council area.

Investing in the Aboriginal Land Council Network

NSWALC is committed to investing \$16 million into the Aboriginal Land Rights network over a 5 year period to realise key economic development aspirations. Working in partnership with the State and Federal Governments, industry partners and others offers significant opportunities to deliver lasting outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and the broader NSW economy.

NSWALC is continuing to roll out its plan for investment in the Land Rights Network. This includes:

1. **Facilitating LALC business enterprise** including:
 - a. Capacity building through targeted training, business and entrepreneurship skills development,
 - b. Supporting business development initiatives generated by the Network,
 - c. Supporting improved property asset management strategies,
 - d. Providing enterprise development funding including business development funding and early stage investment via low or no interest loans, and equity investment.
2. **Facilitation of Aboriginal employment** through facilitating and coordinating existing program and service providers, capacity development, promoting new Aboriginal employment strategies and promoting Aboriginal procurement initiatives conjunction with partners.

NSWALC acknowledges that the NSW Government has made a number of commitments to supporting Aboriginal businesses, Aboriginal employment and Aboriginal economic development initiatives.ⁱⁱ However, more must be done to foster and invest in Aboriginal economic prosperity in NSW.

NSWALC is of the view that there are strong opportunities to work together to build on the economic base of the Aboriginal Land Rights network to deliver economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and NSW more broadly. The Aboriginal Land Rights network is a key vehicle to drive economic growth and development – as significant land owners, enterprise and business operators and employers.

Working in partnership with the Land Rights Network can ensure strategic and coordinated approaches to delivering lasting economic outcomes. Such an approach is in line with key recommendations made by the NSW Ombudsman regarding the need to coordinate existing and future efforts to strengthen Aboriginal economic prosperity by the government, private and non-government sectors.ⁱⁱⁱ

In addition to the below comments, NSWALC has made a number of recommendations to both the NSW and Federal Government to achieve economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples. We would be happy to provide further details or submissions on request.

Recommendation 1: That the NSW Government invest in Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal enterprises and the Aboriginal Land Rights Network to drive regional economic development.

Recommendation 2: That the NSW Government work in collaboration with NSWALC and key industry, government and non-government partners to develop and implement strategies to support Aboriginal peoples employment and economic aspirations.

Specific comments on terms of reference

(a) ensuring the regions benefit from the expansion of international trade, infrastructure, employment, tourism, innovation and research in the greater Sydney region

Tourism

Sydney's prominence as global city attracts many domestic and international tourists. This offers a key opportunity for Sydney to act as a gateway to regional tourism experiences run by Aboriginal owned and operated businesses.

According to Destination NSW:

"In the year ending September 2016, visitors to New South Wales who engaged in an Aboriginal experience spent a total of \$1.141 billion during their time in the State. A total of 394,000 domestic and international visitors participated in an Aboriginal cultural tourism experience in New South Wales an increase of 50 per cent on the previous year..."

"From a tourism industry perspective, the best way for visitors to ensure authenticity, is to use products that are Aboriginal-owned and-guided or have substantial Aboriginal control and involvement."^{iv}

As identified in the NSW Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2013-2016, the potential for market opportunities and growth in Aboriginal cultural and tourist experiences, both within Sydney as well as in regional and remote areas is significant.^v Significant opportunities exist to partner with LALCs and Aboriginal tourism operators to increase the market in this growing area, including through supporting

existing genuinely Aboriginal owned and operated tourism businesses to expand and investing in opportunities for new and emerging businesses.

Promotion of NSW based Aboriginal festivals, events, markets, dance and sporting also offers a key opportunity to promote Aboriginal cultural experiences to both domestic and international tourists. In addition, promotion of Sydney based and regional Aboriginal arts events, galleries, cultural centres and keeping places offers an important gateway into supporting regional economies including by supporting Aboriginal artists. In addition, many LALCs operate cultural centres, museums and keeping places that could be promoted as part of a regional NSW showcase or tourism route.^{vi}

Other initiatives to promote Aboriginal owned and run tourism businesses, including LALCs, in regional areas could include:

- Showcasing Aboriginal businesses at interstate and international trade events,
- Road shows,
- Trade training initiatives for Aboriginal business,
- Online marketing,
- Promotion of Aboriginal cultural tourism routes,
- Print marketing at key tourism destinations and focal points,
- Other marketing initiatives and incentives to promote regional Aboriginal owned and operated destinations and attractions to tourists outside Sydney,
- Tourism operators and hotels (particularly the larger hotel chains with 'sister' hotels across regional NSW) could play a more prominent role in promoting Aboriginal tourism in regional areas.

Recommendation 3: That the NSW Government, in partnership with Aboriginal peoples and Aboriginal enterprises, invest in developing, delivering and promoting comprehensive Aboriginal tourism strategies.

Infrastructure and Transport in Regional NSW

One of the fundamental aspects to ensuring that regional areas of the State can share in development opportunities, wealth and job creation is to enhance connectivity to regional NSW through improved physical and technological infrastructure. Currently, NSW's existing development is not adequately spreading the job opportunities, benefits and wealth evenly across the State. Indeed this issue of regional income inequality is not confined to NSW and has been recently highlighted in 2015 in key finding in a report entitled '*Inequality in Australia*' published by the Australian Council of Social Services:

There is an urban and regional pattern to income inequality, with people in capital cities more likely to be in the top 20%, while those outside capital cities are more likely to be in the bottom 20%.^{vii}

With the rapid increase in the digital economy over the last decade it is clear that poor technological infrastructure leading to unreliable and inconsistent internet and mobile phone services, coupled with slow internet speeds act as a deterrent for many small businesses, sole traders and communities seeking to work in regional NSW.

In addition to technological infrastructure, improvement to physical infrastructure particularly public transport including train and bus networks, roads and air services would improve connectivity and in so doing help to provide additional development opportunities small businesses and the broader community. NSWALC notes that the NSW Government is investing in improving transport infrastructure in regional areas including \$70 million to upgrade 27 regional airports yet more investment is needed particularly to the bus and train networks across regional NSW.

Improvements to transport and infrastructure in regional areas are key to regional tourism in NSW as they increase both the likelihood and capacity for visitors to venture outside of the Sydney area and spend time and money in regional parts of the State. This, in turn allows regional businesses to obtain a share of their spending and also creates job opportunities in regional areas.

Furthermore, poor transport links have a disproportionate impact on Aboriginal communities in NSW's regional and remote communities. This can be an additional barrier for Aboriginal communities seeking to benefit from the opportunities which Sydney's global position might create. Data from the Productivity Commission's report *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: key indicators 2016* show that in 2014-15 the median weekly household income for Aboriginal households in NSW was \$550 compared to \$850 for non-Aboriginal households. Given these lower levels of disposable income and the fact that, as outlined further below, less Aboriginal families have access to a motor vehicle than non-Aboriginal families, many Aboriginal people across NSW rely on the public transport system as their primary or indeed only mode of transport. This situation can create significant barriers to obtaining employment and indeed accessing essential government services such as medical and education services.

Recommendation 4: That the NSW Government invest in infrastructure and transport services.

Investing in Aboriginal employment and education

The Aboriginal population of NSW is relatively young in comparison to the wider population^{viii}. Investment in human capital, particularly in the younger generations, by way of appropriate education and training is key element to ensuring the future economic development and empowerment of Aboriginal peoples in NSW. According to Deloitte Access Economics modelling, an improvement of \$7.4 billion to the NSW economy is forecast if the gap in Aboriginal employment outcomes was overcome^{ix}. A long-term vision which invests in programs and services to support Aboriginal people's participation in the economy is needed.

In line with international standards and best practice models, NSWALC recommends that the Aboriginal community controlled sector be supported so that it is appropriately funded to support training, mentoring and professional development of Aboriginal peoples. This has the potential to contribute to the number of skilled Aboriginal workers.

Investment in the 120 Aboriginal Land Councils across NSW can offer significant employment and education opportunities, particularly for regional economies. Aboriginal Land Councils are diverse, community orientated organisations that provide a focal point for investing in many sectors of the regional economy. Many LALCs already undertake a diverse range of economic activity from tourism ventures, retail businesses, agricultural and land based enterprises, the operation of cultural centres and museums, property development, medical services, transport services, cultural heritage protection and promotion initiatives, housing services, and early childhood centres.* Investing in LALC enterprises provides a key mechanism to enhance the economic, educational and employment outcomes for Aboriginal peoples in regional areas.

In relation to private transport, the cost of learning to drive, including paying for driving lessons and completing the requisite number of hours, is also difficult for lower income communities. Indeed issues regarding barriers Aboriginal people in NSW face in relation to obtain driving licences was raised recently in May 2017 by the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT), the NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS) and the Law Society of NSW in a joint media release^x. This joint media release included important statistics illustrating this issue including:

- *Less than half of eligible Aboriginal people hold a driver licence compared to 70 per cent of the non-Aboriginal population;*

- Only 51% of Aboriginal families have access to a motor vehicle compared to over 85% of non-Aboriginal families.

NSWALC welcomes the existence of current programs across NSW such as the *Driving Change Program* the *Driver Licensing Access Program* which aim to help Aboriginal people both obtain and retain a driving licence however the programs need to be expanded across the State and their ongoing funding guaranteed. To this end, NSWALC supports the NCOSS, ALS (NSW/ACT) and the Law Society of NSW view that '*there must be properly-resourced programs that are accessible to Indigenous people, including those in rural and remote areas.*'^{xii}

Other key areas where Aboriginal employment and educational outcomes could be improved to support regional development includes:

- Capacity development programs for Aboriginal peoples in financial literacy,
- Increased access to business advisors, networks and information on emerging industries for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and businesses outside of major cities and regional centres, and
- Capability development of Aboriginal entrepreneurs and business including investment literacy, mentoring and networking.

Recommendation 5: That the NSW Government work with peak Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal peoples to: Develop more comprehensive targets relating to Aboriginal employment, training and education than those currently outlined in the *Growing NSW's First Economy* OCHRE Plan; and that the NSW Government provide proper investment to achieve those initiatives.

Recommendation 6: That the NSW Government provides additional ongoing funding and resources for the *Driving Change Program* and the *Driver Licensing Access Program* to allow for these Programs to be rolled out across all Aboriginal communities particularly in regional and remote parts of NSW where driving is often the only option for travel.

(b) identify the sectors of the economy that can provide the greatest opportunities for regional development, including forecasts for jobs growth

As identified above, investing in the Aboriginal sector, including building on the Aboriginal Land Rights Network and supporting Aboriginal owned enterprises, provides is a key mechanism for promoting regional development.

Aboriginal Land Councils are diverse, community orientated organisations that provide a platform for investing in many sectors of the economy. Building on the investments made into the Land Rights Network over the last 35 years, and building on the expertise and knowledge of LALCs as land owners and managers provides significant opportunities for regional development and jobs growth.

LALCs offer existing platforms to build such regional approaches, and to varying extents there are both formal regional alliances and organisations established within the Land Rights network as well as more informal information sharing, networking and support opportunities that can be further build on.

Creating innovative Aboriginal enterprise opportunities in sectors such as tourism, arts, the green economy, land management and development, innovative agriculture and aquaculture, retail opportunities, and other small to medium enterprise opportunities are all important to the mix of regional growth initiatives needed.

Another example of opportunities for growth in Aboriginal business is in authentic Aboriginal souvenirs. Currently it is estimated that up to 80% of items being sold as legitimate Aboriginal artworks in tourist shops around Australia are actually inauthentic, many imported from overseas. This is a huge

lost market opportunity for Aboriginal peoples and the broader economy, in addition to misappropriating Aboriginal culture.^{xiii}

Recommendation 7: That the NSW Government consider whole-of-government opportunities to support a range of Aboriginal businesses and LALCs to achieve their economic potential, including promoting genuinely Aboriginal owned businesses, goods and services.

Recommendation 8: That that NSW Government work with NSWALC, peak Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal peoples to: Develop more comprehensive targets relating to Aboriginal economic development and Aboriginal business than those currently outlined in the *Growing NSW's First Economy* OCHRE Plan; and that the NSW Government provide proper investment to achieve those initiatives.

c. how collaboration between levels of government, non-government and private sectors can assist the regions to benefit from Sydney's global position, and

The NSW Ombudsman's special report to the NSW Parliament into *Fostering Economic Development Opportunities for Aboriginal peoples in NSW* provides useful guidance for the development of strong place based approaches. Some important suggestions for collaboration to support economic outcomes includes:

- *"Identifying – with Aboriginal communities – the unique potential, capacities and assets, as well as constraints and risks, they and their physical location hold. This requires government, non-government and private sector partners to foster respectful relationships and deeper understanding of individual communities.*
- *Whole-of-community or regional planning between relevant government agencies (at the local, state and federal level, Aboriginal representative bodies such as LDM Regional Alliances, Aboriginal Community Working Parties and Local Aboriginal Land Councils, industry leaders and educational institutions to scope future growth industries and regions, forecast potential skills and supply shortages and prepare Aboriginal stakeholders to exploit these.*
- *Exploring other ways in which local economies can be grown so that Aboriginal people are central actors – for example, by fostering local Aboriginal businesses to provide the goods and services consumed by their community."*^{xiv}

Building on such as model, as well as working with key industry, Government and other bodies, such as the Indigenous Land Corporation, Indigenous Business Australia, and the Federal government, can maximise and leverage investment in Aboriginal communities.

In addition, NSWALC notes that there are instances of collaboration between different levels of Government and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) which seek to benefit regional areas that are currently underway. Work being progressed under the *Far West Initiative* where the NSW Government, local councils in the far west of State, and NGOs are working 'to develop solutions for the unique challenges faced by communities in Far West NSW'^{xv} is one example. An independent review of the outcomes of the *Far West Initiative* and engagement with LALCs and Aboriginal peoples in this process, may be useful to further consider in terms of whether it could be a successful model for delivering regional outcomes.

Increasing Aboriginal employment targets

NSWALC acknowledges that the NSW Government is taking steps on economic development in Aboriginal communities, including the work currently being progressed under its Aboriginal Affairs'

Plan, OCHRE, and, in particular, work under the *Growing NSW's first economy* framework. However there is still a troubling gap between the employment levels for Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people across NSW which needs to be addressed, particularly in regional parts of the State where fewer job opportunities exist. In relation to the targets/commitment included in the *Growing NSW's first economy* one of the commitments relating to employment in the NSW Government is that: 'Aboriginal employment in all clusters and salary bands to reach 1.8% by 2021' however this figure is still lower than the percentage of people who are Aboriginal in NSW which in 2016 was estimated at 3%.^{xvi}

As well as the State Government, the local level of Government can also play a larger role in relation to regional development by increasing Aboriginal employment in regional NSW as local councils are significant employers in regional areas, and in some cases, may be the largest employer in the region. The current approach that each local council takes to Aboriginal employment is very much left to the council itself which has resulted in an inconsistent approach to Aboriginal employment across local councils in NSW. Some local councils in regional NSW have made significant progress towards increasing their numbers of Aboriginal employees. Conversely, however, there are other local councils where the number of Aboriginal employees is still extremely low and not reflective of the local community they serve. This is often particularly apparent in the western and far western parts of NSW where the Aboriginal population comprises a significant proportion of the population and thus one might expect the workforce of the local council to comprise a significant proportion of Aboriginal employees but this is generally not the case.

Improving planning processes

NSWALC submits that improving planning processes will facilitate both the objectives of the ALRA and the economic development of LALCs as well as local and regional economies. Current planning processes, particularly inadequate provisions requiring consultation with Aboriginal landowners, may also contribute to the sometimes strained relationships between local councils and LALCs, which hinder the basis of fruitful working relationships between these organisations.

Central to addressing these issues is taking a multi-pronged approach which recognise the entrenched nature of these barriers. This involves:

- **Law, policy and regulation changes:** Amending planning processes to ensure that local government and planning authorities take into account the statutory functions of LALCs and the presence of land claims when planning instruments are being drafted;
- **Administrative and technical changes:** Ensuring that planners and local government are able to access up-to-date information regarding determined and pending land claims for the purpose of drafting planning instruments;
- **Capacity-building and education:** To improve the awareness and understanding of local government and planning authorities regarding the ALRA and the statutory responsibilities of LALCs, as well as the capacity of LALCs to engage in planning processes.

We understand that the NSW Government have undertaken some initial steps to develop solutions which will require a combination of short and medium-to-long-term implementation as well as resourcing and capacity building. However, further commitments are needed. Improvements to the planning system will have flow on effects not only for Aboriginal economic development but for regional economies in general. If LALCs are able to more easily facilitate economic development from their landholdings, they will be able to contribute greatly to their local and regional economies

Aboriginal Land Rights as a key vehicle for regional development

In presenting the ALRA to the NSW Parliament on March 24, 1983, the Hon. Frank Walker, the then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs asserted that the Government '*had made a clear, unequivocal decision that land rights for Aboriginal people is the most fundamental initiative to be taken for the*

regeneration of Aboriginal culture, and at the same time laying the basis for a self-reliant and more secure economic future for our continent's Aboriginal custodians.'^{xvii}

The land claim process in the ALRA is the cornerstone for Aboriginal peoples' realising the land justice and economic outcomes envisaged by the ALRA and is the primary mechanism for giving effect to the purposes set out in section 3 of the ALRA.^{xviii}

However, currently there is a backlog of more than 32,000 outstanding Aboriginal land claims across the State awaiting Ministerial determination and the vast tracts of Crown land envisaged by the Parliament have amounted to the transferal of less than 0.4% of the Crown estate.^{xix}

While the return of land to Aboriginal peoples is not fulfilled, the intent of Parliament for a self-reliant and secure economic future for Aboriginal peoples will remain undelivered. This creates further missed opportunities and barriers to the key goals of achieving economic, social and cultural outcomes, not just for Aboriginal peoples, but for the whole of NSW.

In recognition of the short coming of the land claims process in practice, an alternative mechanism for negotiating land, land claims and other possible outcomes was proposed as part of the most recent ALRA review. This proposal was supported by NSWALC and found form in the ALA mechanism of section 36AA of the ALRA that commenced in July 2015.

The mechanism is seen by NSWALC as a real opportunity to deliver the long overdue land justice outcomes for Aboriginal peoples intended by the ALRA. To date, initial steps have been made towards the full realisation of this mechanisms potential to finally deliver the much needed economic, social and cultural opportunities promised by the ALRA.

As outlined in the NSW Government's response to the Inquiry into *Economic Development in Aboriginal communities*, we note the Government's recent decision to provide some resourcing for Aboriginal Land Agreements over an initial four year period, including undertaking capacity building initiatives, potential secondment programs, and an expression of interest process for additional LALCs to take part in the program, beyond the initial pilot LALCs.^{xx} NSWALC is committed to working with Government to ensure the success and wider roll out of this program.

Conclusion

It is clear that regional development initiatives are, and will continue to be, of fundamental importance to the Aboriginal Land Council Network and Sydney's position as a global city provides an important platform for driving regional development including development opportunities for Aboriginal communities across the State. Accordingly, NSWALC is committed to working with the NSW Government and other stakeholders to facilitate and advance regional development for Aboriginal peoples across NSW.

ⁱ N. Biddle 'The Aboriginal population of NSW: Analysis of the 2011 Census' pg10: http://www.alc.org.au/media/86737/The%20Aboriginal%20population%20of%20NSW_Analysis%20of%20the%202011%20Census.pdf accessed on 9/10/15

ⁱⁱ For example, as outlined in the NSW Government's response to the Inquiry into economic development in Aboriginal communities at: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/DBAssets/InquiryReport/GovernmentResponse/6076/Government%20response%20-%20received%201%20May%202017.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ NSW Ombudsman, Special Report to NSW Parliament, *Fostering Economic Development for Aboriginal People in NSW* 2016, page 32 https://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/34138/Fostering-economic-development-for-Aboriginal-people-in-NSW_May-2016.pdf

- ^{iv} Destination NSW, 2017, NSW Aboriginal Tourism Toolkit <http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/nsw-aboriginal-product-toolkit.pdf>
- ^v Destination NSW, Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2013 -2016, accessed: http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Aboriginal_Tourism_Action_Plan.pdf
- ^{vi} See NSWALC publications *Success Stories in Aboriginal Land Rights* and *Our Story, Our Rights, Our Future* booklets available at: <http://alc.org.au/publications/other-publications.aspx>
- ^{vii} P. 10 of 'Inequality in Australia', 2015. 'Inequality in Australia' is based on research conducted by Peter Saunders, Bruce Bradbury and Melissa Wong at the Social Policy Research Centre of the University of New South Wales and supplemented with data and analysis from other sources. It was prepared by ACOSS Staff: Ro Evans, Jacqueline Phillips, Peter Davidson, Penny Dorsch, and Equity Economics & Development Partners Pty Ltd. http://www.acoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Inequality_in_Australia_FINAL.pdf accessed on 5/6/2017.
- ^{viii} Biddle. N, The Aboriginal Population of NSW: Analysis of the 2011 Census, Figure 1. p. 11 http://www.alc.org.au/media/86737/The%20Aboriginal%20population%20of%20NSW_Analysis%20of%20the%202011%20Census.pdf
- ^{ix} Deloitte Access Economics, 2014, *Economic benefits of closing the gap in Indigenous employment*, Report for Reconciliation Australia.
- ^x For examples, see *Success Stories*, http://alc.org.au/media/91160/alc%20success%20stories_web.pdf
- ^{xi} https://www.ncoss.org.au/sites/default/files/public/news/MEDIA%20RELEASE_ABORIGINAL%20PEOPLE%20FACING%20BARRIERS%20IN%20OBTAINING%20AND%20HOLDING%20A%20DRIVER%27S%20LICENCE_22%20MAY%202017..pdf
- ^{xii} https://www.ncoss.org.au/sites/default/files/public/news/MEDIA%20RELEASE_ABORIGINAL%20PEOPLE%20FACING%20BARRIERS%20IN%20OBTAINING%20AND%20HOLDING%20A%20DRIVER%27S%20LICENCE_22%20MAY%202017..pdf
- ^{xiii} For further analysis of this issue see: https://www.artslaw.com.au/images/uploads/Fake_Art_discussion_paper_response_to_R_Katter_Private_Members_Bill_Final.pdf
- ^{xiv} Page 7 https://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/34138/Fostering-economic-development-for-Aboriginal-people-in-NSW_May-2016.pdf
- ^{xv} Office of Local Government website accessed 30/5/2017 <http://www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au/far-west-initiative>
- ^{xvi} Australian Bureau of statistics. (2014). *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026*. retrieved from <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3238.0201%20to%202026?OpenDocument>
- ^{xvii} Preamble of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 statement by Minister Walker 24 March 1983: Office of the Registrar of the ALRA <http://www.oralra.nsw.gov.au/alrareviewpreamble.html> accessed on 30/09/2015
- ^{xviii} *NSW Aboriginal Land Council v Minister Administering the Crown Lands Act* (2007) 157 LGERA 18 per Mason P (with whom Tobias JA agreed) at [20].
- ^{xix} Based on figures in *Facilitation to Enable not Frustration to Disable*, Aboriginal Land Rights Review 2012, Report of Findings and Recommendations for the Working Group, p.22 <http://www.oralra.nsw.gov.au/review/pdfreview/Working%20Groups%20Final%20Report%20ALRA%20Review%2011%20Oct%202012.pdf>
- ^{xx} Page 9, NSW Government response to Economic Development in Aboriginal Communities Final Report: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/DBAssets/InquiryReport/GovernmentResponse/6076/Government%20response%20-%20received%201%20May%202017.pdf>