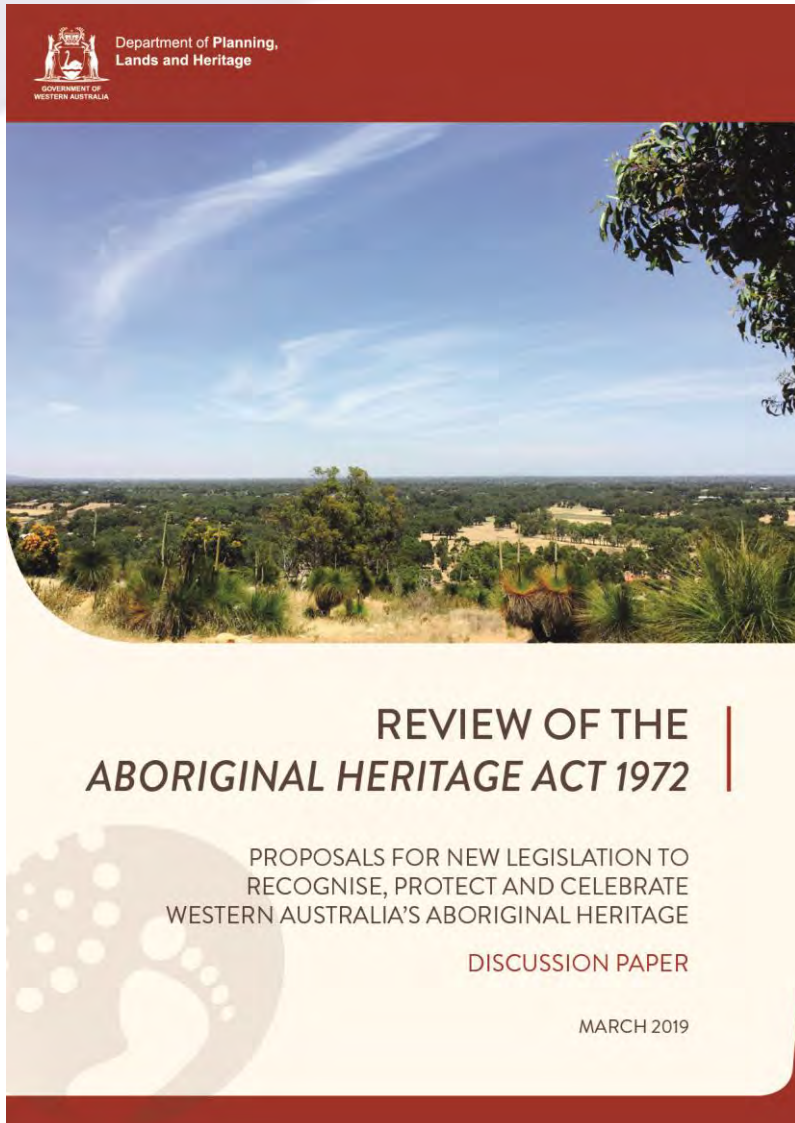




Department of Planning,
Lands and Heritage



AHA REVIEW PHASE 2 WORKSHOPS
BUSSELTON - 7 MAY 2019
Facilitator Report

Report on Stage Two Consultations

Review of The Aboriginal Heritage Act

Busselton 7 May 2019

Attendees

Community

Number of Attendees: 6

DPLH Staff

Glenn Shaw
Harley Coyne
Jeremy Elliott

Facilitator

Robert Reynolds

Consultations were based on a PowerPoint presentation prepared by DPLH staff to ensure consistent presentations were made across the state. This draws on, and summarises information from the March 2019 Consultation Paper which was handed out to all participants in the workshop. The order of proposals differed from the document but all Desired Outcomes / Proposals listed in the Consultation paper were covered.

Issues raised by participants were written down on large sheets of paper displayed on the walls of the venue for the whole length of the consultation where they were checked by participants. These are the official records of the meeting and will be published on the DPLH website. They are also attached at the end of this report.

This was an active group which included some keys elders and senior members of the community with extensive experience involvement with heritage in the region. There was also a representative of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and a non-Aboriginal member of the public with knowledge and interest in Aboriginal Heritage who had also attended the previous round of consultations. As a result the discussions around the proposed changes were often put in the context of extensive experience and issues surrounding management and Heritage protection in the local area. This included references to occasions when the existing AHA had failed to live up to their expectations. This resulted in very active participation in the discussions and well thought out comments on the proposals for new Aboriginal heritage legislation.

Details of all the discussions are not covered here as the formal responses of the group are those put up around the meeting room and are to be uploaded on the DPLH AHA review website. However, the following general points that underlay the responses to a range of the proposals and came up several times are noted below.

- Overall the group were supportive of proposals which were seen as a significant improvement on the existing legislation which was seen to have let them down in the past.

- Strong view that Aboriginal cultural values and heritage needs to be better promoted to the broader community.
- Public needs to be made aware of new Act if it passed – the idea of car stickers was raised.
- Act needs to be flexible to meet the needs of the future. To still be relevant in 10 / 20 year's time.
- Need to be opportunities for younger members of the Noongar community to be involved, and receive the training necessary to take an active role in heritage.
- Employment needed for Aboriginal people in all aspects of Aboriginal Heritage work.
- Processes need to work around community politics and self interest of some groups and individuals.
- Idea of Local Heritage Services is strongly supported but need to be provided with sufficient support.
- Sites that had been deregistered need to be reassessed to reflect community views of significance, especially in relation to rivers.

Other Issues

Inevitably issues beyond the scope of the AHA review were raised during the meeting. These acted as real issues on which broader discussions of effective heritage legislation could focus.

However, unless they had direct relevance to the working of revised heritage legislation these were parked and those raising them were asked to bring them up during the break with DPLH Staff. They were written These were noted down at the time and staff also followed them up if they were not raised. These form a valuable part of ongoing engagement between DPLH Aboriginal heritage section and local community members.

Issues raised at the Busselton meeting included

- Conflict within the community and the way that negatively impacts on all aspects of Aboriginal affairs.
- Past examples where AHA has failed the Noongar community and did not protect sites of importance.

General follow up

As per attendees' request, copies of the presentation and notes recorded to be e-mailed to all attendees whose e-mail addresses provided.

Robert Reynolds
10/5/19

BUTCHER'S PAPER NOTES – BUSSELTON WORKSHOP

Busselton 9/5/19 (1)

Proposal 1&2 NEW ACT & SCOPE

- Important to promote the value of Aboriginal heritage to the broader community.
- The Act must be 'user friendly'

Busselton 9/5/19 (2)

Proposal 3A Local Aboriginal Heritage Service

- Support the proposal.
- Mechanism for Aboriginal people to be directly involved in Aboriginal heritage protection
- How do you resolve disputes
- LAHS play a bigger role in building knowledge and capacity of community through "on country" programs.

Busselton

9/5/19

(3)

Proposal 3B

Aboriginal Heritage
Council

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Busselton

9/5/19

(4)

Proposal 5

Land Use Assessments.

- How are the public to be made aware of the charges to the law.
- Should not place a financial burden on the Land User, for reporting & initial advice

Busseton

9/5/19

(5)

Proposal 4

Aboriginal Heritage Register

- Culturally sensitive information should remain restricted
- Sites on the old register should be transferred across
- Sites that have been removed should be re-assessed.
- LAHS should be encouraged to update the Register to reflect community views.
- Important to see songlines & other intangible places mapped and on the Register

Busseton

9/5/19

(6)

Proposal 3E

Directory of Heritage Professionals

- Should be the ability for Aboriginal to be included & not limited to technical experts

Busselton

9/5/19

(7)

Proposal 3C Minister's Role

-

Busselton

9/5/19

(8)

Proposal 6 Agreements

- Benefits derived from Agreements should be seen as "communal empowerment" rather than personal benefit
-

Busselton

9/5/19

(9)

Proposal 7

Transparency & Appeals

- Early mediation is preferable to going to appeal.

Busselton

9/5/19

(10)

Proposal 8

Enforcement

- Desecration should be included as an offence
-

Busseton 9/5/19 (11)

Proposal 3D Department's Role

- [Faint handwritten text]

Proposal 9 PROTECTED AREAS

- Support the Concept.

