

**Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972) Review:
Phase 1 Consultation Workshops:
April – May 2018:
Facilitator Report:**

Workshop Name: My Heritage, My Voice:

Date: Tuesday 1st May 2018:

Town / Venue: Northam:

Facilitator: Lee Harper Penman:

Number of Attendees: 2:

Any logistical / venue related issues: N/A

Summary of Key Issues raised:

- Lack of trust by the community regarding Government related initiatives and projects.
- Limited belief regarding transparency in Government and external organisation consultation.

Summary of key ideas for amended legislation:

- Acknowledgment and the formulization of Eldership led forms that inform Government.
- Inclusion of younger adults within Ranger programs which could support and assist to implement Government legislation.
- Kinship recognition – Balladong Country, Balladong led involvement.

Points of contention:

- The perception that community do not want to get involved, they do, the Government just do not know how to engage, they use the wrong people who do not know community.
- The support of local established elders, who are not only Balladong, but also who actually live and come from Northam.
- Want the current facilitator and DPLH to come back and re – engage.

- The community do not know what these workshops are about, do not understand the subject matter, you need to knock on people’s doors.

Overall effectiveness of workshop:

Although only two attendees, the workshop was productive in the sense that it not only started the process, but allowed the time and space for a traditional owner to get their questions answered and to gain clarification, so they can go back to members of the community and start those discussions, interest for when the team return.

Very vocal in thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

Any other observations:

The attendees gave the impression that community engagement in Northam has to be pushed up a gear, in others words you have to be seen within the community to engage the community, if this is not achieved then the Balladong community will dis - engage before they re - engage.

Seems that the reputation of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is not taken seriously for the community to engaged based on past experience, this also being The Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council are seen and perceived as a toothless tiger and are not trusted.

Any suggestions for next phase of consultation:

- More time on the ground needed for the location to drum up the interest.
- Use information gained to generate more discussion, thoughts, and ideas.
- Workshops to be run morning to afternoon and then afternoon to evening on the same day.
- Day 1 strategic out reach.
- Day 2 delivery of workshop consultation process.