

Aboriginal Heritage Act (AHA) Review Consultation Meeting

My Heritage My Voice

Cannington

21 May 2018

1. ATTENDANCE

There were 3 attendees at the My Heritage My Voice meeting in Cannington.

2. MEETING PROCESS

- Welcome by the facilitator
- Introduction of Facilitator and Staff
- Powerpoint presentation provided to the meeting
- Attendees worked through the five topics of discussion

3. FACILITATOR AND STAFF

Facilitator: Graham Castledine

Staff: Jeremy Elliott, Glenn Shaw

4. DISCUSSIONS

Graham progressed discussion with a focus on getting responses to the 5 topics for discussion.

5. KEY ISSUES RAISED

A common theme related to the role of Elders in the Aboriginal heritage process

Topic 1: WHAT NEEDS LEGISLATION TO PROTECT IT?

- Significant Sites and Artefacts
- Ongoing ceremonial significance
- Stories and other objects that tell us about traditional living
- Massacre sites
- Accidental finds (following excavation etc.)
- Any new sites found e.g. Artefact Scatters
- Areas for teaching culture – Bush Medicine, Bush Tucker
- Trading Routes, Walking Tracks
- Preamble to the Act should refer to ‘the oldest living culture in the world worth protecting’

TOPIC 2: WHAT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE NEEDED?

- Monitors involved in excavation works
- Elders Committees need to be more involved
- Full members of the ACMC must be Aboriginal
- Ex Officio include Archaeologist, Anthropologist
- Minister to consult with Elders as well as advice from ACMC
- Aboriginal people should have a right to appeal Ministers decision
- Decision making should be transparent
- Aboriginal consultants should be given access to locked areas

TOPIC 3: **WHO SHOULD BE CONSULTED AND HOW?**

- Elders group for different areas
- Land and Sea Councils
- Department database, Land and Sea Council and PBC databases to identify right people
- Consultants, Archaeologists, Anthropologists
- NOTE: Importance of passing on knowledge
- Important sites need to be documented with sensitive information protected

TOPIC 4: **WHAT ACTIONS REQUIRE APPROVAL?**

- The Act should not be watered down

TOPIC 5: **WHAT PENALTIES ARE NEEDED?**

- Money (from penalties) to go to Aboriginal community for education
- Penalties to be increased
- Provision for compensating Aboriginal people for site damage
- Orders for Remediation, Mitigation and Recognition

1. WHAT NEEDS LEGISLATION TO PROTECT IT?

- SIGNIFICANT SITES & ARTEFACTS.
- ONGOING CEREMONIAL SIGNIFICANCE.
- STONES & OTHER OBJECT THAT TELL US ABOUT TRADITIONAL LIVING.
- MASSACRE SITES.
- ACCIDENTAL FINDS
 - (following excavation etc.)
- ANY NEW SITES FOUND e.g. ARTEFACT SCATTERS.
- AREAS FOR TEACHING CULTURE
 - BUSH MEDICINE, BUSH TUCKER
- TRADING ROUTES, WALKING TRAILS.
- PREAMBLE TO THE ACT SHOULD REFER TO THE OLDEST LIVING CULTURES IN THE WORLD WORTH PROTECTING

2. WHAT ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES ARE NEEDED?

- MONITORS INVOLVED IN EXCAVATION WORKS!
- ELDERS COMMITTEES NEED TO BE MORE INVOLVED.
- FULL MEMBERS ^{OF THE ACMC} MUST BE ABORIGINAL
- EX-OFFICIO INCLUDE ARCHAEOLOGIST & ANTHROPOLOGIST
- MINISTER TO CONSULT WITH ELDERS AS WELL AS ADVICE FROM ACMC
- INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL - NOT MINISTER TO MAKE DECISION
- ABORIGINAL PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT OF APPEAL - MINISTER'S DECISION
- DECISION MAKING SHOULD BE TRANSPARENT
- ABORIGINAL CONSULTANTS SHOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS TO LOCKED UP AREAS.

3. WHO SHOULD BE CONSULTED & HOW?

- ELDERS GROUP FOR DIFFERENT AREAS
- LAND & SEA COUNCILS
- DEPT DATABASE & LAND COUNCIL,
THE DATABASE TO IDENTIFY RIGHT PEOPLE.
- CONSULTANTS, ANTHROPOLOGISTS & ARCHAEOLOGISTS.
- * NOTE: IMPORTANCE OF PASSING ON KNOWLEDGE.
- IMPORTANT SITES NEED TO BE DOCUMENTED WITH SENSITIVE INFORMATION PROTECTED.

4. WHAT ACTIONS REQUIRE APPROVAL?

- THE ACT SHOULD NOT BE WATERED DOWN.
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5. WHAT PENALTIES ARE NEEDED?

- MONEY TO GO TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FOR EDUCATION ETC.
- PENALTIES TO BE INCREASED
- PROVISION FOR COMPENSATING ABORIGINAL PEOPLE FOR SITE DAMAGE
- ORDERS FOR, REMEDIATION, MITIGATION & RECOGNITION
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