



Interested in helping to guide cultural heritage activities in the south coast region? Nominate to be a community representatives on our Aboriginal Reference Group.

Regional Context

Sustainable and responsible management of natural resources can only be achieved through acknowledgement and understanding of the region's cultural heritage. Aboriginal cultural heritage exists throughout the lands and water of our region and all aspects of the landscape are important to Aboriginal people. There are over 600 registered sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the region. The effective protection and conservation of this heritage is important for maintaining our Australian identity and the health and well being of Aboriginal people. This is achieved by supporting Aboriginal people within the region to care for country and protect sites of significance. The integration of cultural heritage within all NRM projects will ensure that activities are culturally appropriate and that the learnings of traditional ecological knowledge is applied.

What does a Reference Group do?

Reference Groups provide a critical link between our work and our community by identifying local community issues, concerns and activities related to cultural heritage, biodiversity, water, coastal marine and sustainable agriculture.

South Coast NRM utilises Reference Groups to provide recommendations and advice to Program Areas and the Board on the development, implementation and review of programs contributing to the South Coast Regional Strategy for natural resource management (Southern Prospects 2019 – 2024).

What are the goals of the Aboriginal Reference Group?

The Aboriginal Reference Group will guide the development, implementation and review of programs contributing to the Cultural Heritage outcomes of Southern Prospects 2019 – 2024, the regional strategy for the south coast. The reference group will focus on the recognition and respect of cultural heritage to ensure Aboriginal practices, spiritual and cultural values are incorporated across all NRM themes to support the conservation and protection of our natural environment.

How will the Aboriginal Reference Group achieve this?

This group will play an important role in providing technical and strategic recommendations in the following areas:

- * Supporting the retention and application of traditional ecological knowledge
- * Reducing the impact of climate change on cultural sites
- * Protecting cultural heritage places
- * Supporting sustainable Aboriginal enterprises based on NRM
- * Improving Aboriginal community capacity to be actively involved in NRM
- * Improving awareness and education
- * Developing agreed protocols

What's involved?

Reference Groups are made up of 5 to 10 members, and will meet at least 3 times per year to:

- * Provide technical advice on new and existing projects, and suggest innovative and efficient approaches to delivery;
- * Provide a community perspective;
- * Develop activities for funding by the NRM Investment Plan (aligned to Southern Prospects 2019-2024);
- * Help review and monitor program activities; and
- * Provide strategic direction and insight to our Board.

Membership is for two years, and sitting fees are paid for each meeting attended. Each group will elect a Chair who will work with our team to organise and prepare for each meeting, including designing the agenda and disseminating and relevant reports to members prior to the meeting. If you are unable to attend a meeting you can nominate a proxy, and from time to time your feedback on certain items might be sought out of session.

Who can apply to be part of a Reference Group?

Anyone in our local Aboriginal community who has an understanding and knowledge that they can contribute to the Aboriginal Reference Group. Membership is also open to representatives from Aboriginal corporations, staff from any relevant agency, authority, commission or non-government organisation that can bring expertise to the group. As a reference group member, you should bring an understanding of the social, ecological and economic complexities to cultural heritage management.

We are currently holding an expression of interest process closing Sunday 17th February 2019.

For information on how to apply to be a part of the South Coast NRM Aboriginal Reference Group, head to our website:

<https://southcoastnrm.com.au/who-we-are/vacancies>

For further information about this Reference Group or the expression of interest process, please contact:

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