

NATIONAL FIRST PEOPLES GATHERING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Communique from the fifth Steering Committee meeting

22 June 2020

The National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change (NFPGCC) aims to celebrate, learn from and enhance First Peoples-led climate change action.

It will build on earlier meetings held in 2012 and 2018 hosted by Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation on their Country. The report from the 2018 meeting is available on the [Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub website](#).

The NFPGCC Steering Committee held its fifth meeting online on 22 June 2020 to continue making arrangements for the NFPGCC to be held sometime in early 2021.

Attendees

Steering Committee members in attendance were Damian Morgan-Bulled (meeting chair), Bianca McNeair, Djarra Delaney, Samarla Deshong, Jamie Graham and Jason Wilson.

Apologies were received from Hilda Mosby, Kelvin Flugge, Djungan Neal, Luke Trevorrow and Josh Gilbert.

Mandy Hopkins, Rowena Bullio, Marian Sheppard, Ro Hill and Karen Pearce from the Organising Committee were in attendance, along with Taha Cowen as an observer from the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

Steering Committee membership

The Organising Committee has had preliminary discussions with the Indigenous Desert Alliance and the IDA, 10 Deserts Project about their possible involvement in the NFPGCC. The Steering Committee is supportive of this involvement. The Organising Committee will have further conversations with IDA, 10 Deserts and the Central Land Council to progress this.

Location

In light of ongoing COVID-19 disruptions and border closures and the absence of a Steering Committee member on the ground, it was decided that Northam in Western Australia is no longer a suitable location for the Gathering.

With COVID-related challenges and other logistical requirements it was determined that it would be important going forward to have a Steering Committee member on the ground at the Gathering location.

Potential alternative locations in Tasmania and New South Wales were discussed, and the Steering Committee will seek more information about these options to determine if they are viable locations for the Gathering.

Format

The intended face-to-face format of the Gathering will be heavily dependent on border and travel restrictions that are in place. The Steering Committee is considering a smaller on-the-ground event with videoconference access.

Next meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on 20 July 2020, via videoconference.

The National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change is being supported through the Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub of the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program.

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