

NATIONAL FIRST PEOPLES GATHERING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

# Communique from the first Interim Steering Committee Meeting

21 November 2019



## About this meeting

The Interim Steering Committee of the National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change met for the first time in Cairns on 19–21 November 2019.

The purpose of this meeting was to set the terms of reference and make key logistical decisions for a National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change to be held in November 2020.

The Gathering 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 at <http://nespclimate.com.au/supporting-a-national-dialogue-on-the-climate-change-science-needs-of-indigenous-communities/>

## Participants

The Interim Steering Committee was formed by Traditional Owners following the 2018 event and a forum on Indigenous climate change knowledge session held at the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society conference in Darwin in June 2019. Additional members were identified to ensure broad coverage, geographically and culturally.

Steering Committee participants in attendance were:

- Djungan Paul Neal (Qld)
- Samarla Deshong (Qld)
- Kelvin Flugge (WA)
- Bianca McNeair (WA)
- Damian Morgan-Bulled (Vic)
- Jason Wilson (NSW)
- Jess Puntoreiro (NT)
- Jamie Graham (Lutruwita/Tas)
- Hilda Mosby (Torres Strait)

The Interim Steering Committee is supported by an Organising Committee, through the National Environmental Science Program's Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub. Members are Mandy Hopkins, Rowena Bullio, Marian Sheppard, Ro Hill, Zarif Raman and Karen Pearce.

## Visit to Yarrabah

A highlight of the meeting was the opportunity to meet at Yarrabah, where the Interim Steering Committee was warmly welcomed by Uncle Bryce Barlow.

As well as meeting each other and discussing expectations for the Interim Steering Committee meeting, the group was taken on a guided tour of the rainforest boardwalk, a bus ride around Yarrabah and a tour of the art centre where we saw

local stories being translated into paintings – a real highlight. Before leaving the community, the Interim Steering Committee was joined by Yarrabah Mayor Ross Andrews who accompanied the group on a visit to the local Menmyny Museum.

Our thanks to Interim Steering Committee member Djungan Neal and the Yarrabah community for making this visit possible.



Photos from Yarrabah: Top – the rainforest boardwalk. Middle – Yarning at Yarrabah. Bottom – Yarrabah Mayor Ross Andrews (left) with the Steering Committee and Organising Committee.

## Progress on the 2020 Gathering

Comprehensive Draft Terms of Reference for the Interim Steering Committee were developed following presentations and discussion on co-design and intellectual property.

The Interim Steering Committee determined that the Gathering will include:

- sharing tools and approaches
- presentations from selected Indigenous-led case studies
- western science learnings about climate change, both in the case studies and through climate change literacy presentations
- a proposal for governance of a First Peoples-led climate action plan
- a session on the NESP ESCC Hub's role going forward
- identification of opportunities to deliver joint presentations through roadshows to government departments and others.

## Next meeting/next steps

- **11–13 December 2019** Organising Committee to meet with Central Land Council
- **30 January 2020** Interim Steering Committee meeting (via Zoom)
- **March 2020** Interim Steering Committee meeting (end of the month, date TBA) (via Zoom)
- **22–26 June 2020** Interim Steering Committee meeting (face-to-face), Nipaluna/Hobart
- **August 2020** Interim Steering Committee meeting (end of the month, date TBA) (via Zoom)
- **October 2020** Interim Steering Committee meeting (end of the month, date TBA) (via Zoom)
- **November 2020** National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change.

The 2020 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.

For more information about the Gathering, contact Mandy Hopkins on 03 9239 4649 or [mandy.hopkins@csiro.au](mailto:mandy.hopkins@csiro.au)