



NATIONAL FIRST PEOPLES GATHERING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Steering Committee meeting #12 communiqué

2 February 2021

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

The theme of this event is 'Catastrophic extreme weather events: a changing world'.

The twelfth meeting of the NFPGCC Steering Committee was held online on 2 February 2021.

Attendees

Steering Committee members in attendance were Damian Morgan-Bulled (Chair), Bianca McNear, Djungan Neal.

Rowie Bullio, Ro Hill, Mandy Hopkins, Sophie Schmidt, Marian Sheppard from the Organising Committee were in attendance.

Apologies were received from, Josh Gilbert, Jamie Graham, Tammy Hunter, Jason Wilson, Djarra Delaney, Samarla Deshong, Hilda Mosby.

Update from the organising committee

The Organising Committee has contacted potential Steering Committee members in the NT and SA but these contacts were not available. At this stage of preparations for the Gathering, no new Steering Committee members will be added.

Representatives from the Larrakia Nation (NT) and the Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA), which includes South Australia, will attend the Gathering. Discussions will be held with these representatives about how they contribute to the co-development of sessions in the program.

Participants

Nominations received to date are mostly from north-east Australia. The Organising Committee and Steering Committee will work together to follow-up on responses to the initial invitations sent, identify gaps in Country represented in the nominations so far and consider how to include representatives from these regions.

Contingencies in case of COVID restrictions

The event funds have been channelled into one central event in Cairns. The venue and accommodation have been confirmed and additional funding is no longer available to hold multiple regional events if COVID restrictions re-emerge.

The venue has videoconferencing and contingencies will be considered to provide access to presentations for participants prevented from travelling due to COVID restrictions. Presenters unable to travel will have the option to pre-record their presentations.

Information on COVID travel requirements for all States and Territories will included the Participant Information pack

Session co-design

The scientists nominated to co-design the thematic sessions with Traditional Owners have been confirmed. The scientists and Traditional Owners will meet regular over the coming weeks to develop the thematic sessions on marine heat waves, bushfires, heatwaves on land, cyclones, sea level rise (storm surges, king tides) and extreme water events (dry/wet).

Face-to-face meeting

The Steering Committee had previously agreed to a face-to-face meeting early in the 2021, due to a number of reasons this meeting will not be able to go ahead. Instead, the Steering Committee and scientists participating in the co-design of the thematic sessions in the program will arrive in Cairns 2-3 days earlier to complete final preparations.

Next meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on 22 February 2021, 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. **For more information contact Mandy Hopkins on 03 9239 4649 or mandy.hopkins@csiro.au**

Artwork: Layers of Country by Keisha Leon. – "Building upon the knowledge and history of the Country, both its people and environment, from land and sea, to work towards creating a sustainable future."

