

Steering Committee meeting #7 communiqué

17 August 2020

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 seventh meeting of the NFPGCC Steering Committee was held online on 17 August 2020.

Attendees

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

Mandy Hopkins, Marian Sheppard, Ro Hill and Karen Pearce from the Organising Committee were also in attendance.

Apologies were received from Steering Committee members Kelvin Flugge, Jason Wilson and Djungan Neal; Organising Committee member Rowena Bullio; and Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources observer Taha Cowen.

Co-design principles

The co-design principles to guide the delivery of the Gathering that were drafted at the last Steering Committee meeting were refined and finalised. The principles have been included in the Steering Committee Terms of Reference. They will also be

followed by the Organising Committee and other participants in the Gathering working as a collective.

In summary, the principles are:

- First Peoples-led.
- Understanding that there are many peoples, many cultures.
- Including Traditional Owners from the start (and all the way through).
- Building (and being prepared to maintain) trusted relationships.
- Appreciating different timelines.
- Ensuring free, prior and informed consent.
- Respecting the provision and ownership of traditional knowledge and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP).
- Identifying benefits to country and community.
- Ensuring we are giving as well as taking.
- Remembering that connection to Country is forever
- Reflective learning.

Gathering location and format

Three submissions were received from Steering Committee members for possible locations: Dubbo (NSW), Cairns/Yarrabah (Qld) and Mackay (Qld). All met the criteria identified at the last Steering Committee meeting; however, concerns were raised about the impact of COVID-related border closures

and travel restrictions on the event. It was agreed that the event may have to be delivered largely online or in a mixed delivery model featuring both online and in-person components, but for smaller groups around the country. These smaller regional meetings would be hosted by a Steering Committee member in each state in one of the two possible alternative formats identified at the July Steering Committee meeting, namely:

- A national Gathering, predominantly at one location, with videoconferencing access to other locations if needed.
- A network of concurrent regional meetings, with local activities on the ground and national discussion via videoconference.

The Steering Committee asked the Organising Committee to prepare a checklist of items that would be needed at regional meetings as well as an indicative budget, so decisions on locations can be made.

Communication planning

The communication sub-committee will meet before the next Steering Committee meeting to identify key messages, strategies and timing for the audiences identified at the last Steering Committee meeting. The resulting draft communication plan will be circulated to the Steering Committee for comment and input prior to the September Steering Committee meeting, where it will be finalised so implementation can begin.

Invitation process

The Steering Committee discussed how many people would be able to attend the Gathering as well as criteria for selection of participants; however, it was decided that the format and locations needed to be determined first as this would set parameters (e.g. venue size) that would determine who would be eligible to attend. This discussion will be revisited when the Gathering format and host location/s is/are determined.

Gathering agenda

The National Indigenous Dialogue on Climate Change held in 2018 identified three types of activities that the agenda of any subsequent event should cater to. Updated to make reference to the Gathering theme, these activities are:

- Providing opportunities for Traditional Owners to discuss and share with each other about how climate change is affecting extreme weather events
- Bringing scientific information – about the drivers of climate change and its impact on

extreme weather events – in a suitable format that is visual and useful to Traditional Owners

- Identifying options for policy responding to these drivers of climate change and the drivers of climate impacts on extreme weather events, based on common understanding of the evidence from Traditional Owners and scientists.

The Steering Committee decided to form a sub-committee to begin planning the agenda. Volunteers for the sub-committee include Damian Morgan-Bulled, Samarla Deshong, Bianca McNear, Djarra Delany and Jamie Graham, as well as Organising Committee members. A climate scientist will also be invited to join and contribute to the agenda development. With little time left at the meeting to give the agenda due consideration, it was decided to have an extra meeting to focus solely on developing an agenda for the Gathering.

Steering Committee membership

Larrakia Nation has nominated Lorraine Williams to replace Jess Puntoreiro on the Steering Committee. Tammy Hunter, the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Community Engagement Coordinator at the Bureau of Meteorology, will also be invited to join the Steering Committee.

Congratulations to Steering Committee co-chair Damian Morgan-Bulled who has been named as a lead author on the Australian Government's State of the Environment report.

Next meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on 14 September 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. **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."



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