

NATIONAL FIRST PEOPLES PLATFORM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

## Inaugural Steering Committee meeting

25-27 October 2022

**The National First Peoples Platform on Climate Change (NFPPCC) met for the first time on Ngarupai (Horn Island) Torres Strait Islands. The NFPPCC builds on the success of the [National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change](#), and will lead the planning for future national Gatherings in association with the [Climate Systems Hub](#).**

The National First Peoples Platform on Climate Change were welcomed to Country by local Kaurereg elder Enid Tom. Enid shared her observations of climate change impacts on Ngarupai (Horn Island) and Muralug (Price of Wales Island), such as increased erosion due to sea level rise.

### Learnings from the National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change

The Steering Committee reviewed the governance processes, protocols and tools used in the NFPGCC. The Steering Committee recognised and agreed to continue the use of intellectual property resulting from the Indigenous-led co-design of protocol and governance documents by the NFPGCC.

The Steering Committee reviewed and updated the Terms of Reference and agreed to processes for electing co-chairs.



*Karareg lands – Ngarupai Horn Island from Thursday Island.*

### National First Peoples Platform on Climate Change participants

The Climate Systems Hub identified appointees to participate in this Steering Committee based on continuing trusted relationships developed with the NESP phase 1 Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub. All participants are recognised as proactive in, and having unique expertise and understanding, of climate impacts on Country and cultural protocols. The Steering Committee builds on the strengths and experience of former members of the NFPGCC Steering Committee and improves regional representation with new members from South Australia, ACT and Northern Territory.

*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.”*

Meeting participants were:

- Samarla Deshong (Qld)
- Bianca McNeair (WA)
- Damian Morgan-Bulled (Vic)
- Djarra Delaney (Youth member)
- Glen Wingfield (SA)
- Hilda Mosby (Torres Strait Islands)
- Learna Langworthy (Iutruwita/Tas)
- Mavis Kerinauia (NT)

Participants Tyrone Bell (ACT), Jason Wilson (NSW) and Peter Murray (WA) were unable to attend. The Steering Committee is supported by a Secretariate, through the National Environmental Science Program's Climate Systems Hub. Members are Rowena Bullio, Simon Marsland, Sarah Boulter, Amelia Tandy, Marian Sheppard and Tahnee Burgess.

### Field trip and community engagement on Thursday Island

A highlight of the meeting was a field trip to Thursday Island and meeting with senior community leaders from Torres Strait Regional Authority, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, and the Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council (GBK). The Steering Committee heard of climate impacts underway in Torres Strait Islands and shared their own stories of climate impacts on their Country as well as actions to protect community, culture and Country, like joint land management, transplanting seagrass to repair damage caused by marine heatwaves. The community leaders emphasised the importance of First Nations Peoples coming together to listen and learn from each other, and the impact of bringing these stories together – echoing a key learning of the National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change.



*Front row (left to right) Simon Marsland, Hilda Mosby (TSRA/TSIRC Member for Masig), Ama Abigail Harry (Elder/Community Leader), Sarah Boulter, Mayor Yen Loban (Torres Shire Council), Mr Sereako Stephen (TSRA Member for TRAWQ).*

*Back row (left to right) Damian Morgan-Bulled, Learna Langworthy, Samarla Deshong, Djarra Delaney, Bianca McNeair, Rowena Bullio, Glen Wingfield, Mavis Kerinauia.*

Our special thanks to Steering Committee member Hilda Mosby for helping to facilitate the meeting and community engagement.

### Next steps

An election process will be run by email for election of co-Chairs prior to the next meeting, scheduled for 30 January 2023 via videoconference.

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

For more information contact Rowena Bullio on 0438 272 292 or [rowena.bullio@anu.edu.au](mailto:rowena.bullio@anu.edu.au)



National Environmental Science Program