



NATIONAL FIRST PEOPLES PLATFORM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

## Communique of the second Steering Committee meeting

### About the Platform

***The National First Peoples Platform on Climate Change (NFPPCC) builds on the success of the [National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change](#), held on Gimuy Walubarra Yidinji and Yirraganydji Country in 2021, and earlier meetings on Yorta Yorta Country in 2012 and 2018. The Platform will lead the planning for future national Gatherings in association with the [Climate Systems Hub](#).***

### About this meeting

The NFPPCC Steering Committee held its second meeting online on 30 January 2023. The meeting introduced two Co-Chairs for the Platform Steering Committee, finalised the Terms of Reference and agreed on an Expression of Interest process to select the location for the next national Gathering. Meeting participants included: Glen Wingfield (meeting Chair), Samarla Deshong (Co-Chair), Damian Morgan-Bulled, Learna Langworthy. Secretariate present were: Rowie Bullio, Simon Marsland, Amelia Tandy, Tahnee Burgess and Marian Sheppard. Tyrone Bell, participant from ACT, tendered his resignation prior to the meeting owing to competing demands.

### Co-Chairs

The Steering Committee welcomed two Co-Chairs, Samarla Deshong and Glen Wingfield. Glen introduced himself as a Kokatha man, who grew up around Port Augusta and the northern SA/ southern NT region where he learned cultural duties from Elders. He has extensive experience working with cultural heritage and is currently a board member of the SA Aboriginal Land Trust and current Chair of the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement. Samarla is from Sea Country with Kabi Kabi, Butchulla and Koinmerburra ancestry. She also has extensive experience working with cultural heritage, and building capacity of heritage for her and neighbouring Traditional Owner groups. She is currently a representative on the Great Barrier Reef Foundation Water Quality Traditional Owner advisory group. She identified climate adaptation as a key focus after a project about 10 years ago on worst case scenario sea level rise showed much of Koinmerburra Country would be lost.

The Steering Committee and Secretariate thanked the outgoing Co-Chairs of the National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change, Damian Morgan-Bulled and Bianca McNear, recognising their invaluable contributions that guided the success of the 2021 Gathering. Damian and the Secretariate thanked Glen and Samarla for taking up the role as Co-Chairs.

## Governance

### *Conflict of interest processes*

The Steering Committee agreed on a process to notify of conflict of interests whereby participants will email the Secretariate with any conflicts of interest, these details will be recorded in a register which would be circulated as part of the meeting papers.

### *Terms of Reference*

The Steering Committee revisited the Terms of Reference. The resignation of the ACT participant and other vacant positions prompted the Steering Committee to consider the number of members. The Terms of Reference was updated to represent membership more strategically as 'Maximum membership will be up to 11 members covering a range of regions in Australia'. The length of Co-Chair role was also confirmed to align to the timing of Gatherings to ensure continuity in preparations for the Gathering.

### *Endorsement process*

The Steering Committee reconfirmed members appointments and that they are participating as an individual, and as such do not need to seek endorsement from their Traditional Owner Group. Some members have indicated that they have a preference to be endorsed by their Traditional Owner Group and will voluntarily seek endorsement.

## Progress toward the next national Gathering

### *Location*

The Steering Committee agreed on an Expression of Interest process to decide the location of next national Gathering. The Committee recognised the importance of having a Steering Committee on the ground to facilitate engagement with local community and logistics. Therefore, the first step will be to request Expression of Interest from Steering Committee members to hold the Gathering on their Country based on an established set of criteria. If no Eols meeting the criteria are received, the Eol distribution will be broadened.

### *Theme*

The Steering Committee agreed to an overarching theme of 'Adaptation' for the next Gathering. This recognises Torres Strait Islands needs for adaptation science and tools, meets feedback raised at the NFPGCC for a 'focus on solutions' and would provide an opportunity for the host community to demonstrate on-ground management.

### **Next steps**

The Committee will run an Expression of Interest process for the location of the next Gathering. The Eols will be reviewed at the next Steering Committee meeting in April.