



NATIONAL FIRST PEOPLES PLATFORM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Communique of the third 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

Samarla Deshong chaired the third meeting of the NFPPCC Steering Committee, held online on 5 April 2023. The meeting finalised the Terms of Reference and discussed the Expression of Interest received for the next national Gathering. Meeting participants included: Samarla Deshong (Chair), Damian Morgan-Bulled and Djarra Delaney. Secretariate present were Rowena Bullio, Sarah Boulter, Tahnee Burgess and Marian Sheppard.

Governance

Terms of Reference

Minor changes were made to the draft Terms of Reference to specify youth participation. The Steering Committee considered the extent of resources and capability needed to hold both the regional and national events and agreed to remove responsibility to deliver regional events from the remit of the NFPPCC. The Climate Systems Hub in partnership with regional communities will have responsibility to hold the regional gatherings. The regional gatherings will follow co-design and ICIP principles established through the National First Peoples Gathering on Climate Change and the NFPPCC.

The Steering Committee discussed participation and contingencies for Steering Committee meeting attendance. An appointment policy was proposed to align to the Terms of Reference and include individual agreements for participation on the Steering Committee.

Progress toward the next national Gathering

Location

During March, the secretariate facilitated an expression of interest process to decide the location of next national Gathering. Two expressions of interest were received: from Dubbo (NSW), and St Lawrence (QLD). Pros and cons were noted for each location. Although the St Lawrence EoI is strongly embedded in culture, the last Gathering was in Queensland and there is a preference to hold the next event in another region, such as southeast Australia. Dubbo was noted as a regional centre with good facilities, including airport

access to facilitate potential international participants. Feedback from participants at the 2021 Gathering highlighted the importance of having cultural activities and on-country experiences. The secretariate will seek more information on opportunities for cultural activities, as well as examples of adaptation and/ or environmental change in the Dubbo region prior to a final decision. It was also noted that expenses for holding the gathering will vary depending on the location, affecting numbers of participants. The secretariate will prepare a living budget to inform future planning.

Partnerships

The Steering Committee considered potential partners to enable larger numbers of participants at the national gathering. It was agreed to establish criteria around potential partnerships to manage expectations and risks, and to ensure the gathering remains an opportunity for First Nations voices.

Other opportunities for the Platform

It was agreed that a proportion of the budget would be set aside to facilitate opportunities for Steering Committee members to present on the Platform at relevant events and conferences. An EoI process will be established to evaluate the opportunities, risks and benefits for the Platform for each proposed event/ conference attendance.

Communication

A simple webpage has been set up for the NFPPCC. The Steering Committee determined that the Platform potentially needed two different webpages, one official and one more easily accessible for communities – this could align to a social media presence. The communication priorities will be further workshopped to establish the goals.

Next steps

The next meeting will be held in person on 24 July 2023 in Adelaide. The meeting will be adjacent to the [Climate Adaptation 2023](#) (25-27 July) and will provide an opportunity for Steering Committee members to attend the Forum and identify potential adaptation activities or networks to align with the Gathering adaptation theme.