

# North Coast Regional Plan 2041

## Aboriginal Engagement Outcomes Report



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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country across the North Coast NSW Region including Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr, Dunghutti, Birpai and Yaegl Githabul Nations. We pay our deepest respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We extend that respect to the broader First Nations communities in the North Coast Region who have obligations for this Country and communities.

We acknowledge the diversity of Country including coastal land, wetlands, rainforests, big scrub, and the mountain ranges within the North Coast Region. We acknowledge the resilience in communities to care for and manage the diverse region for many thousands of years.

It is important to acknowledge that the North Coast Aboriginal communities have vastly different demographics from the broader community. The North Coast Aboriginal communities have much a higher proportion of young people, who have cultural obligations to stay on Country.

## 1. Executive Summary

### Purpose of this report

Zion Engagement and Planning (Zion) in partnership with GHD were contracted by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to undertake engagement with Aboriginal communities across the North Coast to inform the development of the North Coast Regional Plan (NCRP). DPE acknowledges the importance of targeted engagement with Aboriginal communities to ensure that their aspirations and needs are incorporated into the NCRP.

This report summarises the outcomes of engagement with Aboriginal communities across the North Coast and includes recommendations for updates to the NCRP.

### Engagement overview

Our team conducted early engagement in December 2021 to ensure that Aboriginal voices were embedded into the draft NCRP. We engaged a small group of stakeholders across a range of industries and geographic locations to ensure a cross-section of the Aboriginal communities across the North Coast were consulted. Outcomes of this engagement were used to inform the draft NCRP, which was on exhibition from July-August 2022.

During exhibition, our team facilitated seven in person workshops across a variety of locations on the North Coast including, Tweed Heads, Grafton, Casino, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Ballina. One meeting online was also facilitated.

### Summary of key findings

A number of key themes emerged from engagement across the region including:

- Engagement and partnership with Aboriginal communities is vital in the implementation of the NCRP
- Legislation and planning processes hinder autonomy for Aboriginal communities realising their development aspirations and needs
- Cultural tourism is an important economic opportunity that requires coordination across the region
- Planning needs to support Aboriginal young people staying on Country
- The protection of Country and water is a high priority for Aboriginal communities
- Aboriginal housing is beyond crisis point and requires strong policy development and funding
- Cultural infrastructure and places to support cultural practice are needed across the region.

These themes informed a range of recommended updates to the draft NCRP including updates and new strategies, actions and collaborative actions across the NCRP included in this report.



## 2. Introduction

The North Coast Regional Plan 2041 provides an overarching framework to guide subsequent and more detailed land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure funding decisions. It aims to enhance the region's liveability, productivity, and sustainability. The North Coast Regional Plan 2041 (**NCRP**) will identify how the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) can help protect and nurture cultural, spiritual, and emotional connections to place, and understand what Aboriginal communities value about the area, so that Aboriginal aspirations are reflected in the Regional Plan.

Zion Engagement and Planning, in partnership with GHD, were engaged by DPE to undertake Aboriginal engagement to assist with embedding Aboriginal perspectives into the preparation and development of the NCRP. Our team developed and delivered the NCRP Aboriginal engagement program across the North Coast region during exhibition of the draft NCRP 2041. We identified community partners to help us engage key stakeholders to review the draft NCRP and provide feedback during exhibition. This report summarises the outcomes of this engagement program and makes recommendations for DPE to consider integrating into the NCRP.

The objectives of the project include:

- The final North Coast Regional Plan 2041 is culturally appropriate and reflects the land use aspirations of local Aboriginal people on the North Coast
- Meaningful Aboriginal engagement is undertaken during public exhibition
- Northern Region DPE staff will have a greater understanding of local Aboriginal culture on the North Coast and improved cultural competence
- The input of local Aboriginal people on the North Coast is elevated to be embedded into the NCRP
- Empower voices of North Coast Aboriginal communities towards greater self-determination for Aboriginal communities.

### 2.1 Key Messages

The following key messages were developed to summarise the objective and scope of the project and the engagement activities. These messages were used to develop collateral about the project.

- We are engaging Aboriginal communities in the North Coast Region about the North Coast Regional Plan 2041 Review. The North Coast Regional Plan 2041 is a land use and infrastructure implementation plan which sets a vision for the region as it develops and changes. It will enhance the region's liveability, productivity, and sustainability.
- DPE is committed to listening to the voices of Aboriginal communities to inform how the North Coast Regional Plan reflects the priorities of Aboriginal communities in the region. In partnership with DPE, Zion and GHD are engaging Aboriginal communities and stakeholders to help with this process.
- The North Coast Regional Plan 2041 provides an overarching framework to guide subsequent and more detailed land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure funding decisions. We would like to understand what makes this place important to Aboriginal communities that are connected to the North Coast Region and how their aspirations can be captured in the plan.



- Our team conducted early engagement with a small number of Aboriginal stakeholders across the North Coast Region in late 2021 to help inform early recommendations for the draft NCRP. These stakeholders were selected based on geographic location and aligned to the key themes within the draft NCRP whilst having existing relationships with our team given the short timeframe and end of year engagement window.
- Outcomes from early engagement were used to develop a range of recommendations for inclusion within the draft NCRP for exhibition. This round of engagement provides an opportunity to review and refine these recommendations and embed a broader Aboriginal voice across the region.
- The North Coast Regional Plan 2041 will identify how we can help protect and nurture cultural, spiritual, and emotional connections to place, and understand what Aboriginal communities value about the area, so that connection to Country is reflected in the Regional Plan.
- Connecting and designing with Country present an exciting opportunity to celebrate Aboriginal cultures through places and spaces. It will encourage caring for and restoring Country and Aboriginal Culture in the North Coast Region.

## 2.2 Principles of Engagement

Engagement was guided by Zion and GHD's leading practice principles for engagement with Aboriginal communities, including:

**Genuine engagement:** Ensuring the topics to be discussed are presented in an accessible and relevant way, and ensuring the outcomes are meaningfully reflected into the North Coast Regional Plan 2041.

**Inclusive engagement:** A broad approach to engagement to reflect the diverse voices of Aboriginal communities in the North Coast Region.

**Truth-telling:** To create safe spaces that empower Aboriginal voices to be honest about why the area is important to Aboriginal communities, including places of dispossession, massacre and forced relocation. This will be critical to understanding the value of the area to Aboriginal communities now and in the future.

**Collaborative and flexible:** The approach to engagement is tailored to the needs of the community. This will help manage consultation fatigue by allowing Aboriginal communities to direct how they would like to engage with us, and what material they would like to engage with us on.

**Visual engagement tools:** Our team developed visual icons for the early stakeholder engagement process. These icons will be updated to reflect changes to the NCRP and will be used to prompt conversation, storytelling, and sharing. Using visual tools will allow for the engagement to be accessible for diverse participants.





### 3. Project Methodology

Our project methodology consisted of five phases. Throughout these phases our team worked closely with DPE staff to ensure ongoing communication and responsiveness to the broader NCRP project.

#### 3.1 Phase One: Inception and scoping

Our team worked closely with the DPE NCRP project team to review the content of the NCRP 2036. We reviewed current updates to other Regional Plans that allowed us to be informed by current practice and workshop potential recommendations for updates within NCRP. Based on this review, we developed an early engagement strategy to provide key recommendations for the drafting of NCRP 2041 prior to exhibition.

#### 3.2 Phase Two: Early Engagement and Recommendations

We conducted a comprehensive literature review including LALC Community and Land Strategies, Native Title Groups Strategic Plans, NPWS Co Management Plans of Management, Local Government Areas Planning documents, State based agencies planning documents to inform the early recommendations report. Our team engaged with a cross-section of key stakeholders in the region to develop recommendations. Our early recommendations report supported the DPE NCRP Project Team in developing draft NCRP 2041 for exhibition.

#### 3.3 Phase Three: Support draft North Coast Regional Plan

Our team worked with the DPE team in integrating recommendations into Draft NCRP for exhibition. We prepared a comprehensive desktop Aboriginal organisation map of the region which included:

- Aboriginal Local Area Land Council
- Native Title Prescribed Body Corporates
- Aboriginal Housing Office and Providers
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs
- Aboriginal Health Services
- Aboriginal Elders Councils
- Aboriginal Community and Cultural Organisations
- Designated Aboriginal Officers in Peak Organisation
- Aboriginal Transport Workers
- Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Members
- National Parks Co Management
- Aboriginal Employment Organisations
- Aboriginal Local Government Employees and Aboriginal Consultative Committees
- And others refereed through community networks.

#### 3.4 Phase Four: Aboriginal Engagement for Draft North Coast Regional Plan

Our team developed and delivered a NCRP exhibition engagement program across the North Coast region. We held face to face and online meetings with key stakeholders and reviewed the draft NCRP and provided feedback during exhibition. From these meetings our team drafted and finalised this outcomes report for the DPE NCRP project team.





### 3.5 Phase Five: Support finalisation North Coast Regional Plan

Our team will continue to support to DPE NCRP team to implement updates and recommendations from the Aboriginal community feedback for the North Coast Regional Plan 2041.

Figure One below outlined the various parts of the engagement process that provided an opportunity for Aboriginal input.

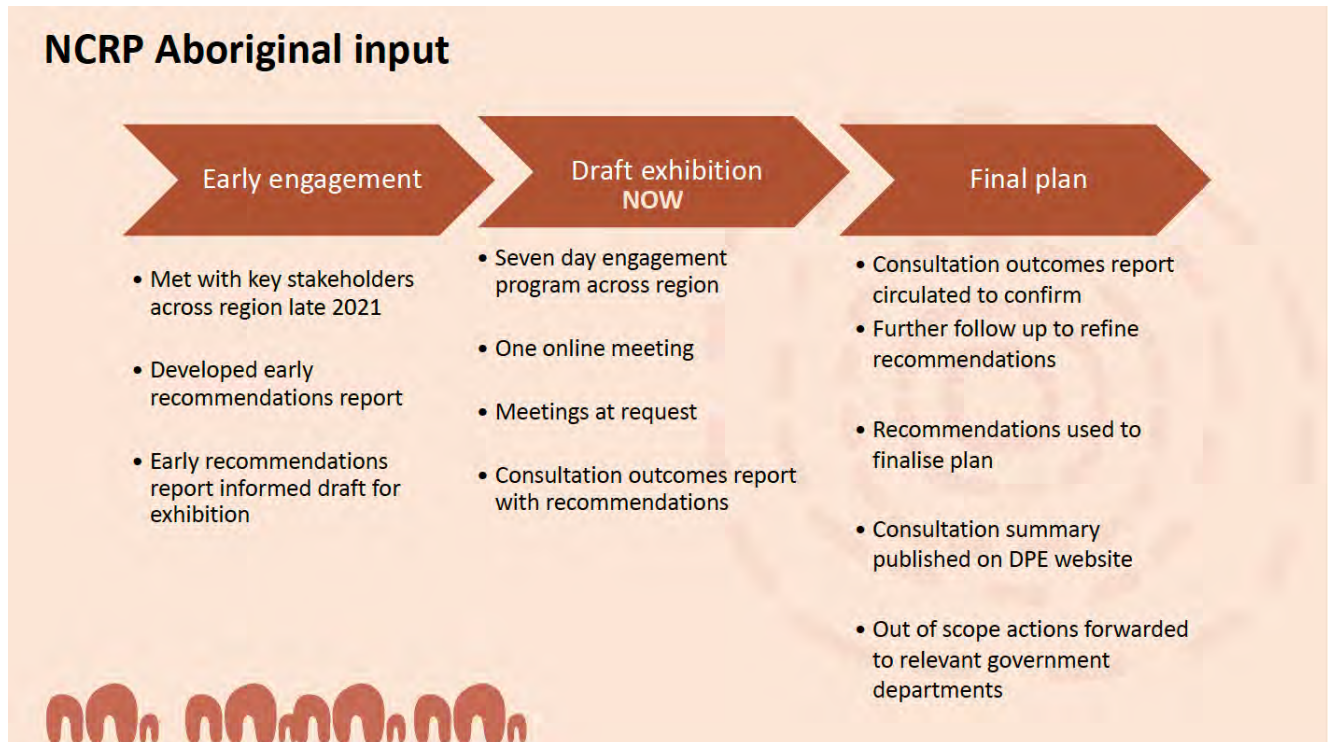


Figure One: Stages of Aboriginal input into the NCRP



## 4. Early Engagement

In December 2021, the team facilitated early engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders across the region to inform the draft NCRP prior to the exhibition phase. This early engagement provided significant opportunities for Aboriginal voices to inform the structure and priorities of the NCRP.

### 4.1 Early Engagement Background

The early draft of the North Coast Regional Plan was divided up into the introduction and guiding principles and four chapters:

- Introduction - Growth, change and opportunity
- 1. Productive and innovative
- 2. Sustainable and resilient
- 3. Housing and place
- 4. Connected and accessible.

### 4.2 Infographic Development

Our team worked with DPE to develop a set of infographics to reflect the chapter themes of the NCRP and present these alongside a summary of the objectives of each chapter in the early engagement phase.

The infographic shown in Figure Two was developed as visual engagement tool, a principle of engagement for the project. The infographic was used to prompt conversation, storytelling, and sharing. Using visual tools enabled engagement to be accessible for diverse participants.



Figure Two: Infographic developed for Early Engagement phase.



### 4.3 Literature Review

Following the early engagement process, we conducted a literature review including available;

- Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) Community and Land Strategies
- Native Title Groups Strategic Plans
- National Parks and Wildlife Service Co-Management Plans of Management
- Planning documents for each Local Government Area (LGA) in the region
- State agency planning documents.

The findings of the literature review are outlined in recommendations table in Appendix 1.

### 4.4 Early Engagement Methodology

Stakeholders for the early engagement reviewed and provided feedback to the draft plan. Stakeholders for this process were identified to represent the regional centres of the North Coast Region as well as the chapters within the NCRP. The stakeholder meetings were conversational to allow the stakeholder to drive the direction of the meeting, to inform the preliminary recommendations to the NCRP.

The early engagement on the NCRP consisted of five Aboriginal stakeholder meetings reflecting voices from the key regional centres and aligned with themes of the NCRP chapters. Our team held meetings between 12 – 17 December 2021 to work through the main sections and chapter headings of the NCRP, referring to the infographic as a reference.

During early engagement we asked key stakeholders for recommendations for community engagement during the exhibition period in 2022. This informed our engagement methodology for targeted feedback during exhibition.

### 4.5 Activities - Early Engagement

Below is a table of the activities that informed the early engagement process.

NCRP Early Aboriginal Engagement Activities				
Number of stakeholders contacted	Number of meetings	Number of participants	Number of face-to-face meetings	Number of online meetings
11	5	5	2	3

### 4.6 Key themes of Early Engagement

Throughout the early recommendations there were numerous key themes that emerged for consideration:

- Cross Government collaboration and developing a strategic approach on working with Aboriginal communities
- Investing into culturally responsive programs to develop the capacity of Aboriginal communities to engage with opportunities
- Need for innovation around breaking away from funding cycle reliance and developing strong communities built on self-determination
- Celebrating Aboriginal knowledge systems and how they can strengthen the region



*North Coast Regional Plan 2041 Aboriginal Engagement Outcomes Report*

- Self-determination for developing land for LALCs to respond to community needs to be supported through cross government collaboration

Based on the literature review and early engagement with key stakeholders across the region, the Aboriginal Stakeholder Early Engagement Recommendations Report (Appendix 1) was developed to inform the draft NCRP updates.



## 5. Input to draft plan

### 5.1 Implementing the Early Aboriginal Engagement Outcomes

On 17 February 2022 our team had a workshop with the DPE Northern Team to discuss the outcomes from the Early Aboriginal Engagement and the changes to the NCRP 2041. The NCRP had been significantly reformatted so there was no longer the five distinct parts or sections of the plan. This was in response to feedback from consultation with councils and Community that DPE to take more a lead in sub regional planning. The content of the NCRP remains in line with the earlier version, the format has been updated. The updated structure of the NCRP is summarised below:

#### Part 1 : Thriving and Sustainable

*Goal 1: Liveable and Resilient*

*Goal 2: Productive and Sustainable*

#### Part 2 : Growth Change and Opportunity

*Goal 3: Planning for Communities*

At this workshop there was a discussion on how to integrate the outcomes from Early Aboriginal Engagement Report into the Draft NCRP 2041 for exhibition.

### 5.2 Overview of the changes in the NCRP from 2017 to 2022

There was significant changes in NCRP since 2017 in targeting specific outcomes for Aboriginal communities. Key themes from draft NCRP with specific Aboriginal outcomes include housing, water management, transport, cultural expression and partnerships. The increase in focus on Aboriginal outcomes represents a commitment from DPE to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people. Some of these updates highlighted during engagement are included in the table below.

Theme	2017 plan	Draft 2022 plan
Housing	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Culturally responsive and intergenerational housing</li> <li>Opportunities for LALCs to identify land</li> </ul>
Water	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnering with local Aboriginal communities to care for Country and waterways</li> </ul>
Transport	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On demand transport opportunities</li> </ul>
Cultural expression	Focus on protecting Aboriginal objects and places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping in partnership with local Aboriginal communities</li> <li>Dual place names</li> <li>Cross government framework (Connecting with Country)</li> </ul>
Partnership	Collaboration during the engagement phase of the planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships instead of input</li> <li>Consider hiring Aboriginal staff within planning teams</li> </ul>

Appendix 2 contains a detailed review of the increase in specific outcomes for Aboriginal communities in the NCRP from 2017 to 2022 presented as part of the NCRP Aboriginal Engagement Workshops.





## 6. Exhibition engagement methodology

### 6.1. Engagement Approach

Through the exhibition engagement process we met with community members and stakeholders from Aboriginal communities of the North Coast Region including Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr, Dunghutti, Biripai, Yaegl and Githabul Nations to identify regional priorities.

Aboriginal organisations, services, peak bodies and stakeholders were invited to the Aboriginal engagement meetings during the NCRP exhibition period including Traditional Custodians, Native Title groups and Local Aboriginal Land Councils, peak Aboriginal organisations in health, housing, education, transport, employment and community services.

### 6.2 Workshop Methodology

Our team delivered a series of half day, location-based workshops across the region inviting key stakeholders to participate in inclusive workshops addressing the holistic needs of communities in the regional context. Meetings were held in Tweed Heads, Grafton, Casino, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, and Ballina.

In addition to the location-based workshops, our team delivered an online workshop in a similar format. Opportunities for one-on-one meetings that are responsive to the needs of community were offered to community.

Prior to the workshops our team contacted all identified stakeholders to provide background information and scope of the project including timeframes, circulated the Draft NCRP and the Aboriginal Early Engagement Recommendations Report, and proposed dates for locations relevant to each stakeholder. We then followed up with stakeholders to discuss the project and confirm availability, establish relationships, discuss the objectives of the project, and outline the process.

At the face-to-face workshops we circulated hard copies of the Draft NCRP and the Aboriginal Early Engagement Recommendations Report.

### 6.3 Workshop Overview

Each community workshop commenced with an Acknowledgement of Country, paying respect to Custodians and elders past present and emerging. Community were offered an opportunity to Acknowledge Country or Welcome the rest of the workshop participants to Country.

Our project team and all workshop participants introduced themselves, and discussed the documents that had been attached to the meeting invites with a slide book for the workshop. Our team worked with the slide book as a reference point for discussion to support the participants to lead the conversation rather than following a presentation (Appendix 2).

We then provided an overview of the workshop. Our team provided an overview to the NCRP background and discussed the key goals and objectives outlined in the NCRP. We presented our work through the early engagement of this project and presented the changes to the NCRP that were included in the draft NCRP 2041.



Our team then focussed on discussion and feedback from the Aboriginal specific objectives and strategies included in the draft NCRP 2041, Objective 4: Understand, celebrate and integrate Aboriginal Culture, and Objective 13: Champion Aboriginal self-determination. We went through an in-depth review of the contents of these objectives and associated strategies and actions as outlined in Figure Three below.

**Aboriginal Specific Objectives and Strategies**

**Objective 4:**  
**Understand, celebrate and integrate Aboriginal culture**  
Strategy 4.1 - Cultural heritage mapping  
Strategy 4.2 - Dual naming

**Objective 13:**  
**Champion Aboriginal self-determination**  
Strategy 13.1 - Using the NSW planning system  
Strategy 13.2 - Process Crown Land claims  
Strategy 13.3 - Partner with Aboriginal communities  
Strategy 13.4 - Aboriginal identified staff

**Additional strategies:**

- Culturally responsive housing
- Embedding cultural knowledge into biodiversity conservation and water management
- Cultural tourism opportunities
- Community transport needs
- Cultural infrastructure

The slide also features six circular icons: a landscape with a river, a lightbulb with a brain inside, a checklist with a green checkmark, a signpost, a village scene, and a group of people with an upward-pointing arrow.

Figure Three: An excerpt from the slide book outlining Aboriginal Specific Objectives and Strategies in the NCRP

We then explained the next steps of the process including how their feedback would be included in the NCRP Aboriginal Engagement Outcomes Report for inclusion in the NCRP. Our team committed to sending the meeting notes from each workshop for their endorsement prior to finalising the recommendations. Workshop participants were encouraged to make their own submissions to the NCRP and the team provided details for how to make a submission to all workshop participants.

### 6.3.1 Flood Response

At the workshops in communities recently affected by flood events, our team discussed the 2022 NSW Flood Inquiry that was undertaken and that recommendations were expected to be released at the end of July 2022. These recommendations will be embedded into the NCRP around risk mitigation into Objective Five. These will be shared responsibilities between DPE and Councils to implement the strategies. Other agencies such as the Office of Environment and Heritage will also be implementing strategies around climate change.

### 6.3.2 Prioritisation Exercise

Workshop participants were then asked to identify the priorities for discussion from the additional strategies with specific Aboriginal identified outcomes. Participants were given two tokens to align with the following additional strategies:

- Culturally responsive housing
- Embedding cultural knowledge into biodiversity conservation and water management



- Cultural tourism opportunities
- Community Transport
- Cultural Infrastructure
- Other

Our team then workshopped a discussion around these additional strategies from the NCRP to test these strategies and identify additional recommendations.

#### 6.4 NCRP Exhibition Aboriginal Engagement Activities

Below is a summary of the data from the activities held as part of the NCRP Aboriginal Engagement.

NCRP Exhibition Aboriginal Engagement Activities				
Number of stakeholders contacted	Number of meetings	Number of participants	Number of face to face meetings	Number of online meetings
124	8	34	7	1

#### 6.5 Limitations and challenges

Our team worked to engage a broad representation of Aboriginal organisations from all the communities across the region. It is important to acknowledge the limitations and challenges to the Aboriginal engagement process for the NCRP.

This is the first time Aboriginal communities across the region have participated in an engagement process for a regional plan and it required additional time to convey key messages on the value of participating in this process.

Our team used the internet to complete a comprehensive desktop mapping process of Aboriginal services and organisations across the region. Drawing on existing networks, knowledge of the region and Aboriginal community we were able to identify over a hundred stakeholders. We also requested the lists of Registered Aboriginal Parties for the region to further inform the process. A limitation of this process was that email and phone contacts were incorrectly listed online. This made engagement in more remote communities in the region very difficult.

The North Coast has recently been impacted by serious flood events, which has adversely affected Aboriginal organisations. Our team applied additional time to engage flood affected communities and shifted workshop dates to address these impacts and provide additional opportunities for these communities to participate.

A number of Aboriginal communities were impacted by Sorry Business, grief and loss throughout the engagement period for the NCRP so were unable to participate in the process.

Timeframes and resources to remunerate Aboriginal community members attending workshops outside of a professional capacity were further barriers to the engagement process.

Aboriginal communities have disengaged with participating in community projects and processes as a result of the COVID pandemic and this included some participation in the engagement of the NCRP.



## 7. Engagement Outcomes

### 7.1 Key themes

Throughout the engagement process across the region some themes emerged. These included:

- Aboriginal communities want to work in partnership with DPE and Councils in land use planning to protect Country and access Country for cultural practice
- Language needed to be strong to ensure action and outcomes, in many instances specific targets proportional to Aboriginal populations were requested
- Engagement with Aboriginal communities on development and land use issues needs to be inclusive of community and reflective of cultural governance structure
- Local Councils are critical in ensuring effective partnerships with local Aboriginal communities
- Aboriginal Organisations need autonomy to be able to develop land for community aspirations
- Cultural tourism is identified as an important economic opportunity and requires a wholistic approach to ensure it is culturally appropriate
- The North Coast Region is occupied by communities of young people that don't want to leave Country. Land use planning needs to provide opportunities for young people to stay on Country
- Aboriginal communities want to work in partnership with government agencies to protect water Country
- Habitat loss due to development pressure is a concern for communities
- Aboriginal Housing is past crisis point and a prioritisation of resourcing is required to ensure Aboriginal people can live on Country
- There is a lack of cultural infrastructure for Aboriginal communities across the region.

Aboriginal communities sought clarification on the implementation and reporting on the outcomes on the recommendations within the NCRP. It was noted that Aboriginal people invest their time, knowledge and good faith in participating in these processes with no clear commitment to implement the outcomes.

There was also feedback on the disparity in timeframes for Aboriginal communities working with government. Government timeframes were described as unworkable for communities to gain traction and deliver outcomes. Land claim timeframes remain unresolved for decades as response times and government timeframes are very short.

Through the NCRP engagement process, Aboriginal communities provided feedback and recommendations that identified gaps in objectives, strategies, and actions. Our team have worked to align these where possible to existing objectives, strategies and actions. These gaps included:

- Health needs and Infrastructure, notably increased demand for Mental Health support and associated infrastructure
- Aged Care facilities are needed for elders to stay on Country and receive the support they require
- Aboriginal Arts and Cultural infrastructure and sector is under represented in planning and is an essential part of self-determination and cultural practice for Aboriginal communities,
- Needs of Aboriginal Young People as a growing demographic within Aboriginal communities across the region,



- Public infrastructure for Aboriginal communities and services.

## 7.2 Community feedback themes

The table below summarises the themes in the discussion heard during the NCRP Aboriginal engagement workshops:

Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
<b>Objective 4:</b> <b>Understand, celebrate and integrate Aboriginal culture</b>	
<b>Strategy 4.1</b> Councils undertake cultural heritage mapping with Aboriginal communities to protect culturally important sites.	<p>Aboriginal communities want to work in partnership with government in caring for Country and setting directions for Country and culture. The current cultural heritage legislation does not protect the intangible cultural values. A formalised mechanism to protect the intangible values is a priority for Aboriginal communities across the region. It is critical to note that Aboriginal culture continues to be practiced and exists in the present.</p> <p>Cultural heritage management plan can be a tool to enable and negotiate around ongoing access for Aboriginal communities. It is important to communities that Caring for Country opportunities are considered as part of the mapping process. Cultural mapping processes need consistent protocols that include remuneration for Aboriginal elders and knowledge holders.</p> <p>Participants highlighted that in the past sites have been destroyed by private landowners to prevent Aboriginal communities from claiming land. Aboriginal communities have concerns that mapping processes could result in more sites being destroyed.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Management Plan must be developed to determine how to follow cultural protocols in the application of the Cultural Heritage mapping layer. Cultural Heritage Management Plans must be developed alongside Cultural Heritage Mapping in partnership with local Aboriginal community. Cultural Intellectual Property remains the property of the Aboriginal Community to ensure information is used appropriately. Cultural heritage mapping layers and management plans to be formalised by integrating into the Local Environmental Plan or other relevant legislative mechanism.</p> <p>Funding is a barrier for local communities to ensure the cultural mapping and management occurs. Funding and resourcing is needed for local governments to undertake cultural heritage mapping including training for local government planning staff on how to use the Cultural Mapping layer.</p> <p>LALCs are currently under resourced to fulfil all of their operational, community and cultural obligations and need to be further funded for cultural heritage management. LALCs can get land back but are unable to use it due to zoning restrictions. Economic independence is</p>





Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
	<p>necessary for self-determination and there is a need for processes that enable communities to realise their aspirations for land and to realise potential. LALCs have no opportunity to profit off land assets and there are significant costs to maintain land assets.</p> <p>Aboriginal communities identified that a process needs to be developed clarifying the triggers to engage with Custodians and knowledge holders over developments. Importance of authority of governance over Country to be given to Traditional Custodians and cultural governance structures.</p> <p>Discussions further raised issues about the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAPs) process. Concerns that not all RAPs in the database are being contacted and that the process is adhoc. In response, RAPs have had to develop localised networks to share information about development, further burdening under resourced organisations.</p> <p>Two-way genuine commitment in approach to cultural heritage management, and reciprocation from government is needed. Aboriginal communities need to be able to negotiate in good faith, and shared concern regarding the perceived underhand tactics of the process. Negotiations need to be on a level playing field, government have access to resources to employ lawyers while LALCs and Native Title PBC do not have resources to be represented in the same way.</p> <p>Aboriginal community members would like to have access and participation to planning processes and decision-making forums such as Regional Planning panels.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 4.2</b> Consider applying dual names to important places, features or local infrastructure</p>	<p>It is critical that local communities lead the prioritisation of dual naming and that Country and Traditional Owners are acknowledged. Aboriginal communities stated the importance of the authority of governance over culture and language to be given to Traditional Custodians and that data sovereignty principles should be embedded in process.</p> <p>Recommend that the Geographical Names Board consider Indigenous names first. Opportunities for signage along the highway, main roads and landmarks highlighting Country and Traditional Owners is an important opportunity in the dual naming process.</p> <p>Consultation with local Aboriginal communities is critical to ensure appropriate cultural names in local language are applied. To support the process of dual naming, prioritise inclusion of interpretative artworks led by local Aboriginal Community to tell the stories. Additional opportunities to share culture could include Aboriginal community led QR coding of additional cultural information.</p> <p>Need for resourced language centres to ensure the protection of Aboriginal languages was also identified.</p>



Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
<p><b>Action 4</b> Finalise Connecting with Country to inform the planning, design and delivery of built environment projects</p>	<p>Participants shared that Cultural Heritage legislation does not enable protection of cultural heritage. Connecting with Country allows at least for Country to be reflected in the outcome. The Connecting with Country framework is an opportunity for the recognition of holistic relationships to Country. This process can acknowledge that Aboriginal culture is alive and continuous, it is not a culture that exists in the past, recognition of the living culture needs to be reflected in the built environment. Country needs to be considered in the scoping phase or projects to enable appropriate budget for Aboriginal communities to meaningfully participate in projects.</p> <p>Each local government area to development an implementation plan of the Connecting to Country framework with local Aboriginal community. Local Connecting to Country frameworks must be Co-designed with Aboriginal communities to reflect Country and cultural values into the built form. Local Governments need to be resourced to deliver these outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 13.1</b> Provide opportunities for the region's LALCs and Native Title holders to utilise the NSW planning system to achieve development aspirations, maximising the flow of benefits generated by land rights to Aboriginal communities through strategic led planning</p>	<p>Leave space in the NCRP to identify different Aboriginal organisations and their interests in strategic planning.</p> <p>Inappropriate zoning of Aboriginal land was identified as a huge barrier to aspirational objectives of Aboriginal communities. Aboriginal communities want to work in partnership with governments to remove caveats and zoning restrictions to develop Aboriginal land. Rezoning of Aboriginal owned land for inclusion in Local Councils Local Environment Plans was identified as a priority.</p> <p>Under resourcing of LALCs and Native Title PBC to fulfil the obligations and requests made by government and industry was identified as a barrier to achieving development aspirations. It was noted that LALCs are referenced in 24 State Government Acts which generates a lot of obligation for LALCs with no resourcing. LALCs need appropriate resourcing to undertake cultural heritage management work and fulfil the obligations of government. Additional barriers raised throughout the region included complexities of legislation, and timeframes of government and industry imposed on under resourced organisations.</p> <p>LALCs are currently the only land holders that cannot determine land use opportunities without government intervention. LALCs own land but can't make decisions on developing lands resulting in perception of LALC land holdings considered by community to be the governments approach to land banking. A review of the Land Rights Act is required, in particular the land dealings and the procedural dimensions of the Act (and regulations) to remove barriers to self-determination. Feedback prioritised the need for LALCs increased control over rezoning for housing for discrete communities.</p>



Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
<b>Objective 13:</b> <b>Champion Aboriginal self-determination</b>	
<p><b>Strategy 13.2</b> Prioritise the processing of unresolved Aboriginal land claims on Crown land.</p>	<p>Prioritisation of the resolution of claims needs to align with strategic economic development opportunity must be led by Aboriginal Communities. LALC20 pilot program was identified as a successful model. Aboriginal communities seek to prioritise access to unencumbered land.</p> <p>Clarification was sought regarding Crown Land - Land Managers Board, including how are these members appointed and if there were designated Aboriginal representatives on these boards.</p> <p>Aboriginal communities identified a need to access land findings reports on Crown Lands and Government property registers.</p> <p>Include a target numbers of land claims to be processed to measure the implementation.</p> <p>Aboriginal communities request that sites with numerous land claims clustered together (Lot/ DP numbers) into one by amalgamating adjacent land claims.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 13.3</b> Partner with Aboriginal communities to align strategic planning and community aspirations including enhanced Aboriginal economic participation, enterprise, and land management.</p>	<p>It is critical that Aboriginal organisations are recognised by the Aboriginal community they operate within.</p> <p>Allocated land to LALC to sit as part of land approval for housing development. Councils currently can be a barrier to rezoning land for housing development.</p> <p>LALCs cannot financially support the development of housing, developments are funded through land sales which causes division within communities.</p> <p>Holistic cultural values of Country with the whole landscape beyond cultural artefacts need to be considered.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 13.4</b> Councils consider engaging Aboriginal identified staff within their planning teams to facilitate strong relationship building between councils, Aboriginal communities, and key stakeholders such as Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local Native Title holders.</p>	<p>Local government are not always reflective or supportive of Aboriginal community aspirations of priorities. Need to develop mechanisms for input to decision making in local government. Aboriginal community identified need to have opportunities to input local decision making, especially around zoning.</p> <p>Aboriginal communities identified that Aboriginal Advisory Committees within local government increases accountability and transparency in decision making. There is a need to establish and resource Aboriginal decision-making bodies, reflective of cultural governance structures to participate in decision making processes, modelled from the success of Aboriginal Education Consultative Group. Local Aboriginal Advisory Committees have an opportunity to be a conduit for all of government to work more effectively with Aboriginal communities.</p>



Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
	<p>Aboriginal communities seek expansion of the terms of reference and capacity of the Aboriginal voice in decision making in government process to become of equal weight to environment, economic etc consideration.</p> <p>It is critical to develop the capacity of local Aboriginal communities to enable meaningful participation in government land management systems and processes. Invest in capacity building in young people in communities to work within the planning system.</p> <p>There is an identified need for designated positions inside government agencies, however there is increasing pressure for these roles to address all issues relating to Aboriginal land management and community needs. These roles are often isolated from community.</p> <p>Local Governments can lead the development of Aboriginal Employment / procurement strategies with measurable outcomes reflective of their Aboriginal populations.</p>
<p><b>Action 6</b>                      The Department of Planning and Environment will work with LALCs, Native Title holders and councils to better reflect LALC and Native Title holders' aspirations in plans by: Meaningfully engaging with LALCs and Native Title holders in the development and review of strategic plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Delivering an interactive mapping tool to enable LALCs to view their landholding information together with relevant planning controls on the NSW Planning Portal</li> <li>•Supporting LALCs and Native Title holders to better understand the planning system</li> <li>•Promoting opportunities for cultural awareness training for all involved in planning</li> <li>•Incorporating Aboriginal knowledge of the region into planning considerations and decisions.</li> </ul>	<p>Limited resourcing and an imbalance in power and authority were identified as a barrier for LALCs, Native Title holders and Aboriginal communities to engage with the planning system. Siloed response of government in working with Aboriginal communities in caring for Country contributes to consultation fatigue in communities. A process of government working together across agencies and with Aboriginal people is needed for a holistic approach to Country</p> <p>Cultural awareness training is mandatory for many government departments. Council staff to have localised cultural awareness or cultural immersion training.</p> <p>Local members need to be available to meet with local Aboriginal communities.</p>



Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
Additional priorities	
<b>Objective 1:</b> Provide well located homes to meet demand	
<p><b>Strategy 1.2</b> Local Council plans are to encourage and facilitate a range of housing options in well located areas. (1.4)</p>	<p>Housing continues to be a barrier for Aboriginal people and in many communities in the region it is past crisis point resulting in extreme overcrowding. Housing market is impacted on by migration of the city. Instability of housing is compounding other social problems, negatively impacting the opportunity for Aboriginal people to participate in education and employment and affecting health and wellbeing. The housing crisis is increasing depression and anxiety in Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Housing need has increased, social housing formula is not reflective of Aboriginal community needs. Number of people living in houses results in increased pressure on housing infrastructure and reduced life span from 20 – 30 years to 3 or 4 years.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 1.4</b> Local housing strategies are to be consistent with the Local Housing Strategy Guideline and the regional plan.</p>	<p>Local Councils need to provide meaningful opportunities for Aboriginal communities to inform updates of Local Housing Strategies.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 1.6</b> Councils and LALCs can partner to identify areas which may be appropriate for rural land sharing on Country.</p>	<p>Include term culturally responsive housing in the glossary of the NCRP.</p> <p>LALCs are often registered as Not-For-Profit organisation and are social housing providers and seek support to have rates and other cost barriers waived by Local Governments to support the provision of Aboriginal Housing. This exemption is in line with Local Government Act.</p> <p>Local Governments to set measurable housing targets for Aboriginal Housing in Local Housing Strategies.</p> <p>Term ‘<i>rural land sharing</i>’ needs to be updated to – ‘<i>that might be appropriate for culturally responsive housing</i>’.</p> <p>Land release for housing development process is currently impacting sensitive areas of Country that is disruptive to natural systems and contributing to natural disaster. For example, urban growth areas in Sheaoak and Ti tree communities that have a critical role on the management of water in Country and important habitat for endangered species in Country. These areas need to be protected. Aboriginal people to be employed to provide advice and in the monitoring of these systems to protect to Country in the housing development process.</p> <p>Very high need for housing of Aboriginal young people across the region. Aboriginal young people have cultural obligations to stay on</p>





Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
	<p>Country and in community. Aspirations for private home ownership is not a reality for Aboriginal young people.</p> <p>Roads to Home program has delivered excellent outcomes. LALCs with missions within their boundary areas, gaps remain for other communities and in other areas of communities.</p> <p>Invest in the infrastructure of Aboriginal housing on Aboriginal land to address the shortfall. This is critical across the region.</p>
<p><b>Objective 2:</b> Provide for more affordable and low-cost housing</p>	
<p><b>Action 3</b> Establish Housing Affordability Roundtables for the Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers subregions with councils, community housing providers, State agencies and the housing development industry to collaborate, build knowledge and identify measures to improve affordability and increase housing diversity.</p>	<p>Aboriginal communities must be included in the planning for affordable housing in the region.</p> <p>Culturally appropriate Aged Care facilities are needed for our people to stay on Country in communities.</p> <p>Aboriginal young people with complex needs require appropriate housing and support.</p> <p>Keeping Aboriginal people on Country and in community is a priority.</p> <p>Short term rentals are impacting the accessibility and affordability of housing for local Aboriginal communities.</p>
<p><b>Objective 3:</b> Protect and enhance important environmental assets</p>	
<p><b>Strategy 3.1</b> Protect, maintain, and restore important environmental assets in strategic planning and local plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focusing land-use intensification away from HEV land and implementing the ‘avoid, minimise and offset’ hierarchy in strategic plans, LEPs and planning proposals.</li> <li>• updating existing biodiversity mapping with new mapping in LEPs where appropriate</li> <li>• identifying HEV land within the rezoning footprint at planning proposal stage through site investigations</li> <li>• applying appropriate mechanisms to protect HEV land within a rezoning footprint</li> <li>• considering climate change risks to HEV land</li> <li>• considering marine environments, water catchment areas and</li> </ul>	<p>Aboriginal communities have long term knowledge of the cycles of Country and this knowledge needs to be respected and valued in Caring for Country. Aboriginal communities want to work with government to promote and fund proactive localised programs that empower cultural frameworks through caring for Country to protect and enhance the environment. Access to Country and zoning is an ongoing barrier to cultural land management practices. Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property of caring for Country knowledge needs to be acknowledged and protected.</p> <p>Aboriginal communities want to explore opportunities through Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements and links to bio banking to resource caring for Country.</p> <p>The resourcing of cultural management programs and innovative programs such as the river ranger programs, cultural burn programs, seed collection and propagation are priorities for Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Barriers currently exist to cultural burns, community organisations currently rely on private cultural practitioners unable to procure indemnity and insurance. Aboriginal community rely on state</p>



Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
groundwater sources to avoid potential development impacts.	<p>government agencies for cultural management strategies which undermines self-determination.</p> <p>Respond to environmental protection to strengthen language to “Stop any loss of species”.</p>
<p><b>Objective 5:</b>  <b>Manage and improve resilience to shocks and stresses, natural hazards, and climate change</b></p>	
<p><b>Strategy 5.4</b>                      Resilience and adaptation plans should consider opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourage sustainable and resilient building design and materials (such as forest products) including the use of renewable energy to displace carbon intensive or fossil fuel intensive options.</li> <li>• promote sustainable land management including Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM).</li> <li>• address urban heat through building design at precinct scale that considers climate change and future climatic conditions to ensure that buildings and public spaces are designed to protect occupants in the event of heatwaves and extreme heat events.</li> <li>• integrate emergency management and recovery needs into new and existing urban areas including evacuation planning, safe access and egress for emergency services personnel, buffer areas, building back better, whole-of-life cycle maintenance and operation costs for critical infrastructure for emergency management</li> <li>• adopt coastal vulnerability area mapping for areas subject to coastal hazards to inform the community of current and emerging risks</li> <li>• promote economic diversity, improved environmental, health and well-being outcomes and</li> </ul>	<p>Aboriginal communities raised concerns about the design of new housing developments and road infrastructure contributing to floods, notably fencing trapping water and restricting drainage.</p> <p>Aboriginal community concerned about monitoring of water infrastructure.</p> <p>Local knowledge of Country seasons and cycles identified as critical in the mitigation and response to increasing extreme weather events. Recent flood events were described as unpredictable as water collected moving outside natural movement patterns due to redirection.</p>



Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
<p>opportunities for cultural and social connections to build more resilient places and communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protect vulnerable infrastructure assets and mitigate potential network failures.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Strategy 5.6</b> Support restoration and promotion of Cultural Land Management practices through knowledge sharing opportunities and policy.</p>	<p>It is critical to acknowledge the changes to Country through the impacts of the decline in cultural land management rights and practice. This has created the need for innovative response that combines traditional cultural land management knowledge and practices with new technology.</p> <p>Fire regime is base line for cultural land management practices. Aboriginal fire practitioners need an industry standard and policy around insurance (indemnity).</p>
<p><b>Objective 6:</b> Create a circular economy</p>	
<p><b>Strategy 6.1</b> Support the development of circular economy, hubs, infrastructure, and activities. Also consider employment opportunities that may arise from circular economies and industries that harness or develop renewable energy technologies and will aspire towards an employment profile that displays a level of economic self-reliance, and resilience to external forces.</p>	<p>Explore ‘Circular Economy Clean Country and Bio Banking’ options for a recycling centre for region to be based in Kempsey. Aboriginal community members assert that Kempsey is a good location for recycling centre, positioned between Sydney and Brisbane.</p> <p>Aboriginal communities want to work with local Councils to allocate land to attract industries that will create employment that contributes to circular clean economies.</p>
<p><b>Objective 9:</b> Sustainably manage and conserve water resources</p>	
<p><b>Strategy 9.3</b> Encourage a whole of catchment approach to land use and water management across the region that considers climate change, water security, sustainable demand and growth, the natural environment and investigate options for water management through innovation.</p>	<p>Aboriginal communities seek recognition and practical acknowledgement of the cultural values of water and cultural rights to water in the protection of waterways from development and industry. This includes ensuring Aboriginal communities voices and cultural knowledge inform future decision making for water infrastructure and water management (including groundwater). Water usage strategy needs to reflect value of Aboriginal cultural knowledge of the North Coast Region.</p> <p>Demand for water on the North Coast is increasing with the pressure of population growth. The North Coast Regional Water Strategy was discussed and transparency about how Aboriginal communities have been included in the development of the strategy was requested. Aboriginal communities seek localised input into the North Coast Regional Water.</p>



Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
	<p>Restoration of waterways following the flood events is required. Local Aboriginal communities to inform restoration of waterways following flood events including funded land care programs to support restorative work on flood impacted waterways. Dredging is suggested in some catchments to release sediment in waterways</p> <p>Aboriginal communities have numerous concerns about the impacts of industry on waterways including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing and other infrastructure impacting the movement of water</li> <li>• Impact on fracking on quality of water and cultural practice</li> <li>• Impacts of treated sewerage in the waterways and ongoing monitoring</li> <li>• Industry contaminating river systems with waste</li> <li>• Run off from increased chemical usage in farming contaminating waterways and ground water systems</li> <li>• Mining operations contaminating waterways and ground water systems</li> <li>• Transparency and impartiality of monitoring of the impacts of industry on waterways and ground water systems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 11:</b> Support cities and centres and coordinate the supply of well-located employment land</p>	
<p><b>Strategy 11.4</b> New employment areas are in accordance with an employment land strategy endorsed by the Department of Planning and Environment.</p> <p>Collaboration Activity 3 Support the development of the Richmond Valley Regional Job Precinct to create a hub focused on high-value agriculture, food processing, manufacturing, distribution, and renewable energy.</p>	<p>There is an identified need for employment opportunities that keep local Aboriginal people on Country and in community.</p>
<p><b>Objective 12:</b> Create a diverse visitor economy</p>	
<p><b>Strategy 12.1</b> Council strategic planning and local plans should consider opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•partner with local Aboriginal communities to support cultural tourism and connect ventures across the region</li> </ul>	<p>Government bureaucracy limits access to crown lands, national parks, local land services travelling stock reserves. Inequity in access to land was identified as a key issue by Aboriginal communities across the region. Access to Country and economic investment were identified as barriers for Aboriginal communities to participate in cultural tourism.</p> <p>Aboriginal communities aspire for opportunities to operate licensed tourism ventures.</p>



Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
	<p>Aboriginal communities identified the need for regulating cultural tourism operators on Country. Cultural tourism represents important opportunities for Aboriginal employment on Country. Numerous examples of culturally inappropriate operations were raised throughout the region. Cultural fraud is identified as a significant issue within this industry. Concerns around the protection of cultural heritage values and sites in the expansion of cultural tourism in the region. Aboriginal community seek a formal process for to have a voice in the approval of process to ensure control of Cultural Intellectual Property. An example was shared of National Parks signage including incorrect and inappropriate cultural stories and incorrect spelling of Aboriginal language.</p> <p>Aboriginal communities identified the need for government investment in funding opportunities to support start-up costs and to build local capacity for cultural tourism. Partnership approach to develop network including for establishing a strategic approach to cultural tourism including North Coast TAFE, destination NSW, NPWS and local Aboriginal communities. Destination NSW identified as a critical partner in the development of cultural tourism opportunities and addressing cultural appropriation.</p> <p>Innovative opportunities for cultural tourism included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public space design to support Aboriginal cultural tourism</li> <li>• Enable access in forestry and national parks</li> <li>• Develop Indigenous Protected Areas with campgrounds for Aboriginal cultural programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 16:</b>  <b>Increase active and public transport usage</b></p>	
	<p>Transport and Access is a big issue as community needs connectivity. Transport needs to flow through planning documents so that it is considered throughout the entire planning process.</p> <p>Transport enables participation in all areas of life (employment, education, health, cultural practice). Community needs a service to fit our people and culture with a model built around Aboriginal transport and access rather than as an add on. Update all language that refers to transport to include access: <b><i>“Transport and Access needs of the Aboriginal Community”</i></b>.</p> <p>Holistic programs to help support Aboriginal young people to access transport including license programs for regional and remote Aboriginal communities.</p>





Community Feedback Themes	
Strategy/ Action	Community Feedback/ Themes
<b>Objective 19:</b> <b>Public spaces and green infrastructure support connected and healthy communities</b>	
<b>Strategy 19.1</b> Councils should aim to undertake public space needs analysis and develop public space infrastructure strategies for improving access and quality of all public space to meet community need for public spaces.	Aboriginal communities identified the need for dedicated multipurposed spaces; for men’s and women’s business, including indoor and outdoor spaces for community for cultural activities and practices. Access to culturally important spaces for continuation of cultural practice.  Need cultural infrastructure and identified areas for repatriation of cultural objects and cultural offsets for the cultural sites that have been lost.  Local Aboriginal Language centres are a priority to restore strength in languages.  Social needs of Aboriginal service organisations require support around infrastructure needs to better support our people.  Public facilities to be culturally safe for local Aboriginal communities.
<b>Strategy 19.3</b> Encourage the use of council owned land for temporary community events and creative practices where appropriate by reviewing development controls.	Aboriginal communities identified need for infrastructure designed to enable a variety of activities and Aboriginal cultural practices with appropriate amenities on council owned land.  Identified need for land to be set aside as a Keeping Place for artefacts, in perseveration and protection of culture for the future generations.



### 7.3 Outcomes of the prioritisation exercise

The two graphs below present the results from the prioritisation of the additional new strategies that reference Aboriginal outcomes within the NCRP across all the community workshops.

The pie graph in Figure Four shows the priorities within the NCRP for Aboriginal communities throughout the NCRP engagement workshops. It highlights that participants thought culturally responsive housing, cultural knowledges in land management and cultural tourism were the most important focus areas for the NCRP.

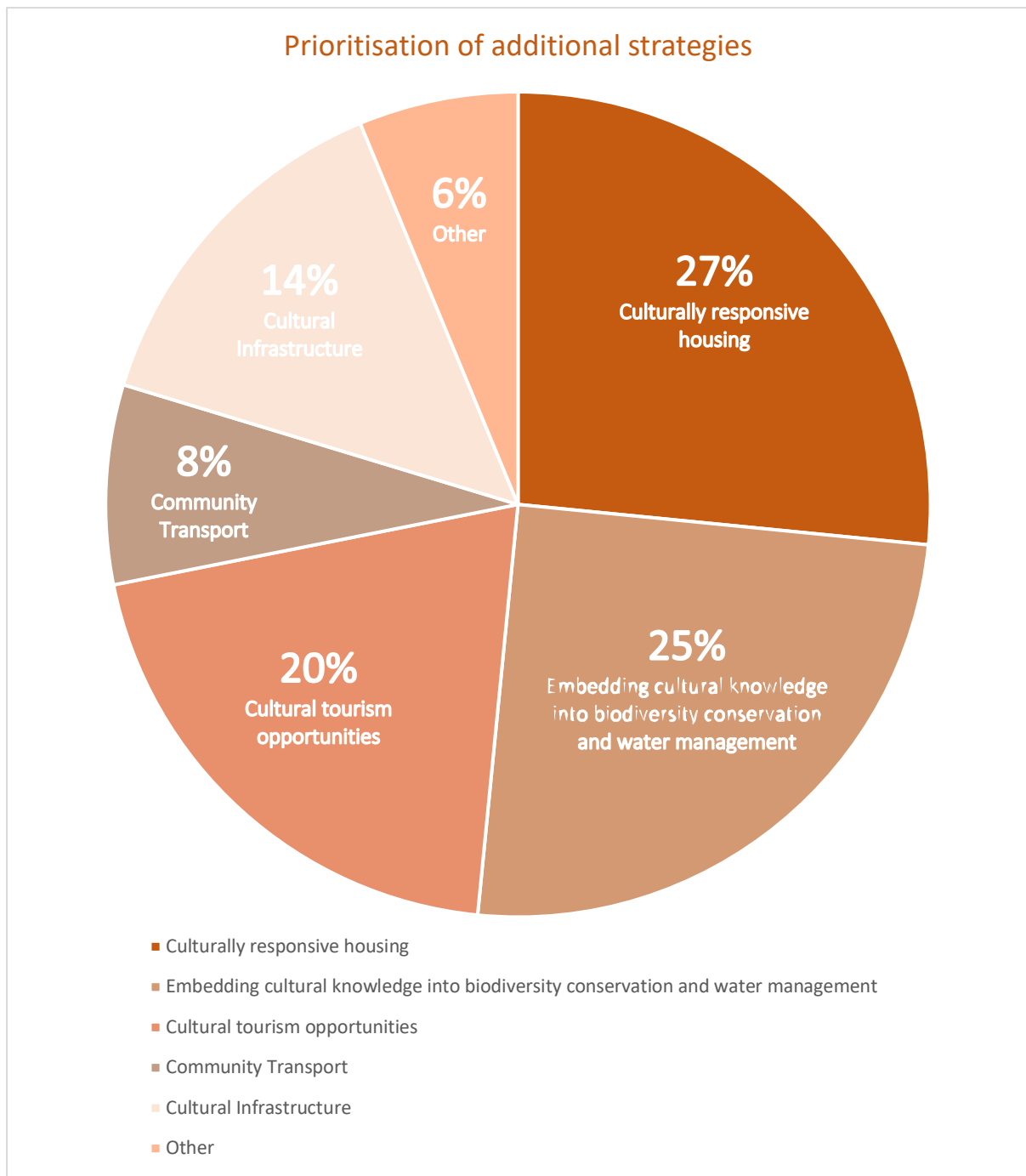


Figure Four: Prioritisation of additional strategies

The graph in Figure Five below outlines the results of the prioritisation exercise by location, which highlights the diversity in needs across the region, with some common themes and alignment.

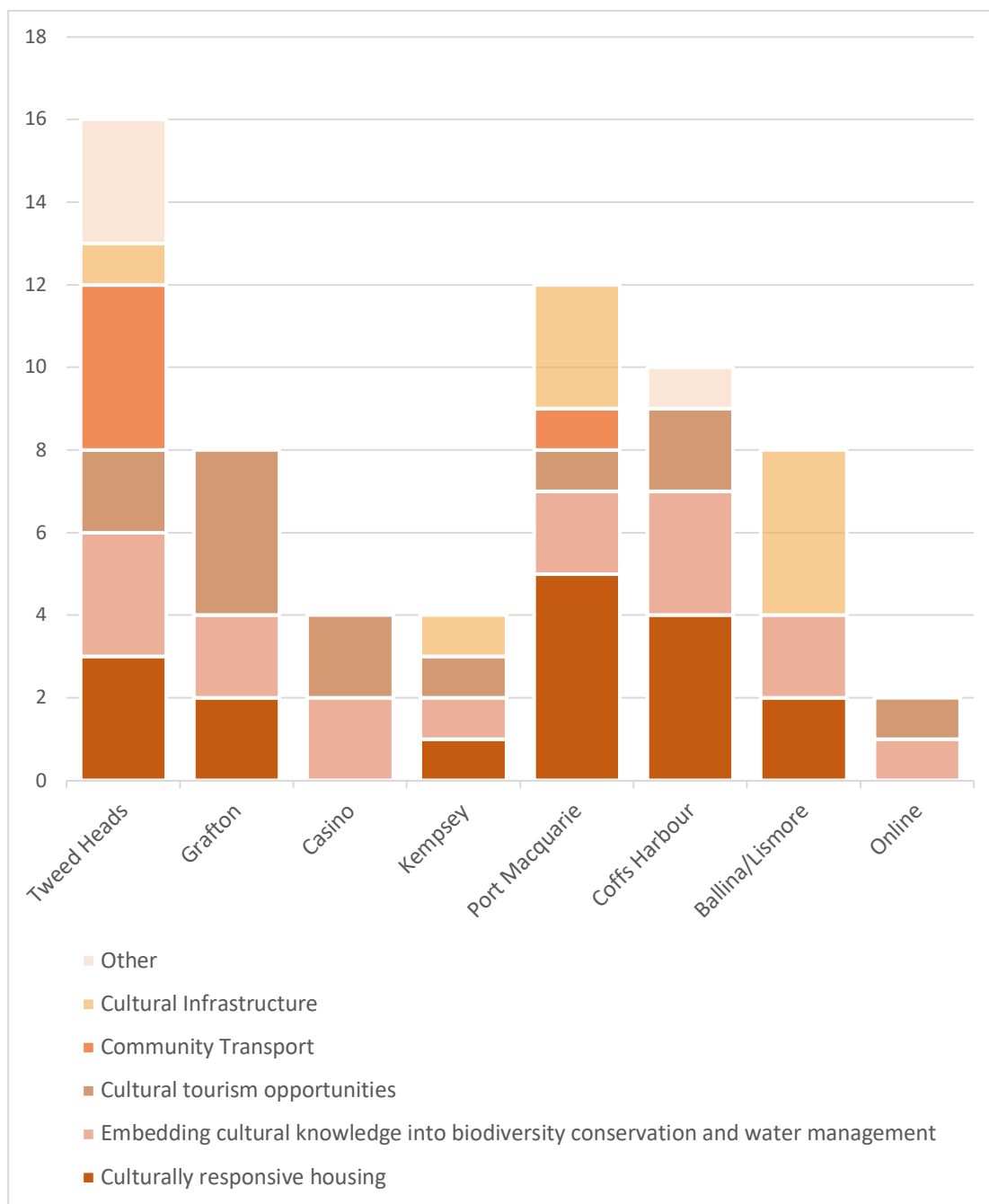


Figure Five: Prioritisation of additional strategies by workshop location

Culturally appropriate housing was a key priority across the region and was discussed at six of the eight workshops across the region. The issue of housing in Aboriginal communities was also raised as part of discussions around self-determination in Objective 13.

Embedding cultural knowledge into biodiversity conservation and management was also a key priority throughout this engagement process and was prioritised across every workshop in the region for discussion. This theme was also discussed in relation to Objective 5 Manage and improve resilience to shocks and stresses, natural hazards, and climate change, and Objective 9 Sustainably manage and conserve water resources.



## 8. Case Studies

Throughout the engagement processes Aboriginal communities identified projects and initiatives throughout the region for inclusion in the NCRP as case studies to showcase successful Aboriginal projects across the North Coast Region.

These included:

- Caring for Country pilots at Baryulgil / Mullubugalma
- Partnership between DPE, the Ministry for Health and Kempsey Council develop a potential case study for circular economy opportunities
- Iluka and Stevens Group, a Civil Construction Company example of Industry champions to create real time examples and opportunities for Aboriginal Communities
- Hastings Birpai Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Plan
- Gumbaynggirr Language School
- Roads to Home project Bowraville
- Tweed Shire Council Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- Tabulum Beef Enterprise
- Jubulum Local Aboriginal Land Council and Kyogle Council
- Arakwal National Park, Byron Bay
- Aboriginal Place: Walk in Ballina, truth telling about the massacre
- Murwillumbah Museum, natural history wall, an oral story of the Tweed
- Tweed Byron Community Transport



## 9. Recommendations

From the in-depth discussions throughout the NCRP engagement process the Aboriginal communities across the region made updates and additions to the recommendations in the NCRP. Below are the recommendations our team is making based on these discussions.

Many of the updates to the recommendations and new recommendations extend on the current narrative within the chapters of the NCRP. These narrative within the NCRP will need to be updated to reflect the additional themes outlined in the engagement process.

Many of the recommendations outlined in the table below will require funding to ensure implementation. Funding for regional plans is determined at the implementation stage and will need to include allocations for the recommendations made by Aboriginal communities across the region. There was a theme across the region for local government to be funded to enable meaningful outcomes for Aboriginal communities and for Country.

Recommendations	
Strategy/ Action	Recommendations
<b>Objective 4:</b> <b>Understand, celebrate and integrate Aboriginal culture</b>	
<b>UPDATE Strategy 4.1</b>	Councils to undertake cultural heritage mapping and Cultural Heritage Management Plan with Aboriginal communities to protect culturally important sites. Aboriginal elders and knowledge holders remunerated for their time and knowledge in the cultural mapping process. Work with local Aboriginal communities to recognise and empower cultural governance decision making structures and processes within appropriate management plans relating to the management of culture and Country.
<b>UPDATE Strategy 4.2</b>	Prioritise applying dual names to important places, features or local infrastructure, in collaboration led by local Aboriginal community in local Aboriginal language. Community reserves such as sports fields to be named after Aboriginal people. Prioritise applying dual names and associated artworks to important places, features or local infrastructure, in collaboration led by local Aboriginal community.
<b>NEW Strategy</b>	Relevant government agencies to work in partnership with local Aboriginal communities to develop and enable community access to culturally significant sites for maintenance of sites and cultural practice. Utilise cultural mapping as a means to increase local Aboriginal community access to significant areas of Country.
<b>NEW Strategy</b>	Councils to work with local Aboriginal communities to identify priorities for Connecting to Country, responsive to the local Cultural Heritage mapping plans, to inform the planning, design and delivery of built environment projects ensuring sea and sky country are included in plans.





Recommendations	
Strategy/ Action	Recommendations
	Councils to apply Connecting with Country framework to larger developments in their LGA for developers to create Connecting to Country plan for projects once the Connecting to Country framework is finalised.
<b>NEW Action</b>	Review and implement changes to DPEs management of Registered Aboriginal Party databases.
<b>NEW Action</b>	Work with government agencies and local Aboriginal communities to enable access to Country for cultural activities.
<b>Objective 13:</b> <b>Champion Self Determination</b>	
<b>UPDATE Strategy 13.1</b>	<p>Provide opportunities for the region's LALCs and Native Title holders and community recognised Aboriginal organisations to utilise the NSW planning system to achieve development aspirations, maximising the flow of benefits generated by land rights to Aboriginal community through strategic led planning</p> <p>Councils to work with LALCs, Native Title Holders, Traditional Owners and Local Aboriginal Organisations to rezone land holdings through standard Council updates in line with local Aboriginal community aspirations.</p>
<b>UPDATE Strategy 13.2</b>	<p>Crown Lands to work with LALCs to prioritise the resolution of unresolved land claims on Crown Land.</p> <p>Investigate opportunities for Co Management of Crown Land by LALCs and Native Title holders and recognised Aboriginal organisations. Work with local LALCs and Native Title holders and recognised Aboriginal organisations in decision making regarding Crown Land developments.</p> <p>Government to work with LALCs to amalgamate adjacent and adjoining land parcels under claim by Aboriginal communities to simplify the process resolution of Aboriginal land claims.</p>
<b>UPDATE Strategy 13.3</b>	Partner with local recognised Aboriginal organisations to align strategic planning and community aspirations including enhanced Aboriginal economic participation, enterprise, and land management.
<b>UPDATE Strategy 13.4</b>	<p>Councils engage Aboriginal identified staff within their planning teams to facilitate strong relationship building between councils, Aboriginal communities, and key stakeholders such as Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local Native Title holders.</p> <p>Council staff to undertake localised Aboriginal cultural training.</p>



Recommendations	
Strategy/ Action	Recommendations
<b>NEW Strategy</b>	Councils in the North Coast Region to develop relationships with local Aboriginal Communities to establish inclusive Aboriginal Advisory Committees for that local government area. Example of the Tweed Shire Councils Aboriginal Advisory Committee.
<b>NEW Strategy</b>	Government agencies to develop Aboriginal procurement policies to support Aboriginal business and enterprises with measurable outcomes reflective of their Aboriginal populations.
<b>UPDATE Action 6</b>	<p>The Department of Planning and Environment will work with LALCs, Native Title holders and councils to better reflect LALC and Native Title holders' aspirations in plans by: Meaningfully engaging with LALCs and Native Title holders in the development and review of strategic plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Delivering an interactive mapping tool to enable LALCs to view their landholding information together with relevant planning controls on the NSW Planning Portal</li> <li>•Supporting LALCs and Native Title holders to better understand the planning system</li> <li>•Promoting opportunities for cultural awareness training for all involved in planning</li> <li>•Incorporating Aboriginal knowledge of the region into planning considerations and decisions.</li> <li>• Develop appropriate remuneration model for working with LALCs and Native Title groups and Aboriginal organisations.</li> <li>• Develop capacity building pathways for Aboriginal communities to participate in the planning system.</li> <li>• Develop community resources for planning skills and capacity for LALCs and Native Title holders to participate in the planning system.</li> <li>• Develop across agency all of government mechanism to work with local Aboriginal communities in a holistic approach to management of Country.</li> <li>• Ensure transparent consultation with Aboriginal communities prior to the granting of land and assets to establish intended and interest in future use by Aboriginal communities and ensuring appropriate zoning for these intended activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional priorities</b>	
<b>Objective 1:</b> <b>Provide well located homes to meet demand</b>	
<b>NEW Action</b>	<p>Develop Aboriginal housing policy to define typology and tenure mechanisms that allow for adaptability and flexibility to be integrated on local housing strategies.</p> <p>Develop a regionally based culturally responsive Local Housing Strategies to include measurable targets for Aboriginal housing provisions. Local Housing Strategy Guidelines to include reference to working with Aboriginal community to develop Aboriginal Housing targets and consult regarding location of growth areas.</p>



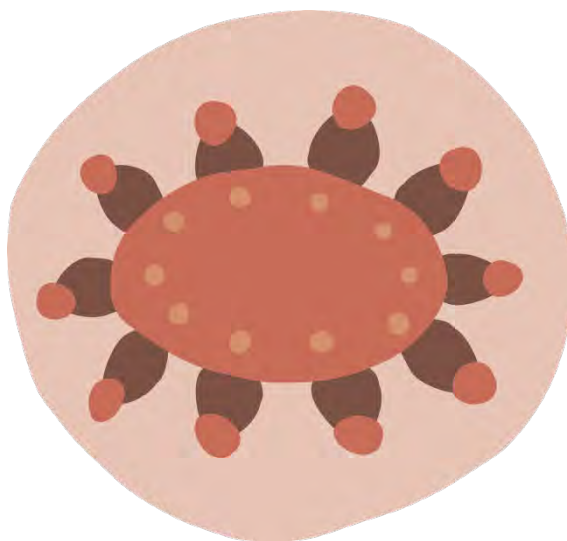
Recommendations	
Strategy/ Action	Recommendations
UPDATE Strategy 1.6	Councils and LALCs to partner in identifying areas which may be appropriate for culturally responsive housing on Country  Partnerships between government and LALCs and Native Title and local Aboriginal Housing bodies to invest in funding housing on Aboriginal land.
<b>Objective 2:</b> Provide for more affordable and low-cost housing	
NEW Strategy	Investigate and support suitable accommodation opportunities for our elders to live on Country with support they required.
NEW Strategy	Investigate and support suitable accommodation opportunities for our Aboriginal young people with complex support needs to live on Country with support they require.
<b>Objective 3:</b> Protect and enhance important environmental assets	
NEW Strategy	Develop proactive localised caring for Country programs to protect and enhance the environment.  Elevate the value of Aboriginal land management practices and knowledge as a specialist technical skill set.
<b>Objective 5:</b> Manage and improve resilience to shocks and stresses, natural hazards, and climate change	
UPDATE Strategy 5.6	Work with local Aboriginal communities to develop land management agreements and policy to support cultural management practices.
NEW strategy	Government agencies to work with local communities to develop emergency response precincts with facilities that are flood and fireproof including consideration of the relocation of fauna during events.
NEW strategy	New infrastructure and developments to carefully consider flood, fire, storm, and drought in design stage.
<b>Objective 6:</b> Create a circular economy	
NEW Strategy	Work with Aboriginal people to develop land to create Circular Economy Clean Country based employment opportunities and self-determination.
<b>Objective 9:</b> Sustainably manage and conserve water resources	
NEW Strategy	Ensure Aboriginal communities voices and cultural knowledge inform future decision making for water infrastructure and water management (including groundwater) including in the development of North Coast Regional Water Strategy. Recognise and respond to



Recommendations	
Strategy/ Action	Recommendations
	Aboriginal community’s cultural values and cultural rights to water in the protection of waterways from industry. Respect and embed Aboriginal cultural knowledge into water management practices.
<b>NEW Action</b>	DPE to develop a caring for Country program in partnership with local Aboriginal communities for waterway restoration from the impact of the floods across the region.  Ensure that the North Coast Regional Water Strategy team receive a copy of the NCRP Aboriginal Engagement Recommendations Report.
<b>Objective 11:</b> <b>Support cities and centres and coordinate the supply of well-located employment land</b>	
<b>UPDATE collaboration activity 3</b>	Support the development of the Richmond Valley Regional Job Precinct to create a hub focused on high-value agriculture, food processing, manufacturing, distribution, and renewable energy.
<b>Objective 12:</b> <b>Create a diverse visitor economy</b>	
<b>NEW collaboration action</b>	Destination NSW to work across government agencies with local Aboriginal cultural tourism providers to enable streamlined processes to access Country for cultural tourism opportunities.  Destination NSW to work with government agencies and local recognised Aboriginal communities to develop protocols to protect sacred and significant sites and cultural values in cultural tourism activities.  Destination NSW to establish a regional Aboriginal Cultural Advisory Committee, with membership of Aboriginal people representing communities across the region, to ensure the development of Aboriginal tourism is culturally appropriate.
<b>Objective 16:</b> <b>Increase active and public transport usage</b>	
<b>UPDATE the narrative for Objective 16</b>	Aboriginal Transport and Access to be considered up front in all areas of planning for North Coast Communities to enable participation for Aboriginal people.
<b>Objective 19:</b> <b>Public spaces and green infrastructure support connected and healthy communities</b>	
<b>NEW strategy</b>	Develop community infrastructure for young people prioritising the needs in rural and remote areas
<b>NEW strategy</b>	Work in partnership with local Aboriginal communities to develop bespoke cultural infrastructure for responding to the needs of Aboriginal communities to continue cultural practices. Prioritise the development of dedicated multipurpose facilities, with men’s and women’s business spaces, with indoor and outdoor spaces for



Recommendations	
Strategy/ Action	Recommendations
	community, for cultural activities and practices for local Aboriginal communities.
<b>NEW strategy</b>	Include areas designated for Aboriginal cultural practice in public space design.
<b>NEW Strategy</b>	Prioritise local Aboriginal organisations in the provision and access of public infrastructure for service delivery and cultural practice.



## 10. Out of Scope Recommendations

During the Aboriginal engagement for the NCRP Aboriginal communities made recommendations that were outside the scope of the plan.

The NCRP relates to land use planning for the region. The following recommendations are considered out of scope as they may not be a land use matter, or may be the responsibility of another government agency or federally. Out of scope recommendations should be considered by other agencies and/or federal government. The below table includes these out of scope recommendations.

Other Recommendations Table	
Theme	Recommendations
Young People	Government agencies to invest in the reengagement of young people in education and all of life activities to address the impacts of COVID.
Regional job pathways	Department of Regional NSW to develop career pathways, including work experience, traineeships, opportunities, and designated positions between local high schools in the regional job precinct for local Aboriginal communities. Department of Regional NSW and Councils to work on expanding career expos including local industry, TAFE, local universities to engage local young people and showcase employment opportunities locally.
Implementation of NCRP	Form a region wide Aboriginal Advisory Group to guide the implementation of the NCRP.  Bipartisan support for the implementation of the NCRP.
Barriers to cultural burns	Identify legal and systemic barriers to cultural burns operations.
Cultural Heritage Legislation	Provide feedback to the Aboriginal community clarifying how is the new Cultural Heritage legislation ensuring the different cultural heritage databases and systems are referring or linking to each other.
Cultural Infrastructure	Work with Aboriginal communities to develop partnerships that enable access to infrastructure for cultural practice.  Councils to develop pathways and opportunities for Aboriginal people in arts and cultural roles to strengthen cultural practice within local government.
Service provision	Work with Aboriginal communities to develop partnerships that enable access to infrastructure for appropriate service delivery.
Social housing rates	Councils to consider removing economic barriers including paying rates for LALCs to provide social housing to Aboriginal communities as part of their Local Housing Strategies.
Short term rentals	State government must regulate short term rentals in coastal communities to minimise impacts on local Aboriginal communities in accessing secure and affordable housing.





# APPENDIX ONE





**North Coast Regional Plan 2041**

**ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER EARLY ENGAGEMENT  
RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT**



## North Coast Regional Plan 2041

### ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER EARLY ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

#### Introduction:

The North Coast Regional Plan 2041 provides an overarching framework to guide subsequent and more detailed land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure funding decisions. It will enhance the region's liveability, productivity and sustainability. The North Coast Regional Plan 2041 will identify how we can help protect and nurture cultural, spiritual, and emotional connections to place, and understand what Aboriginal communities value about the area, so that connection to Country is reflected in the Regional Plan.

Zion Engagement and Planning, in partnership with GHD, were engaged by Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPE) to undertake Aboriginal engagement to assist with embedding Aboriginal perspectives into the preparation and development of the **North Coast Regional Plan 2041 (NCRP)**. Our team is working with the NCRP project team at DPE opportunities to embed Aboriginal voices on regional priorities into the early stages of the development of the NCRP.

The North Coast Regional Plan is divided up into the introduction and guiding principles and four chapters:

- o Introduction - Growth, change and opportunity
- o 1. Productive and innovative
- o 2. Sustainable and resilient
- o 3. Housing and place
- o 4. Connected and accessible.

Stakeholders for early engagement have been identified to represent the regional centres of the North Coast Region as well as the chapters within the North Coast Regional Plan 2041.



## APPROACH

In late 2021, our project team reviewed the preliminary draft NCRP and current updates to other Regional Plans to be informed by current practice and workshop potential recommendations for updates within NCRP.

Our approach to the development NCRP Aboriginal Stakeholders Early Recommendations Report included four phases:

- Literature Review
- Infographic Development
- Early Engagement Stakeholder Meetings
- Consolidating Recommendations

### Literature Review

Following our early engagement process, we conducted a literature review including available;

- Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) Community and Land Strategies
- Native Title Groups Strategic Plans
- National Parks and Wildlife Service Co-Management Plans of Management
- Planning documents for each Local Government Area (LGA) in the region
- State agency planning documents.

The findings of the literature review are outlined in recommendations table below.

### Infographic Development

Our team worked with DPE to develop a set of infographics to reflect the chapter themes of the North Coast Regional Plan 2041 and present these alongside a summary of the objectives of each chapter. The stakeholder meetings were conversational to allow the stakeholder to drive the direction of the meeting, to inform the preliminary recommendations to the North Coast Regional Plan 2041.



# North Coast Regional Plan

## Regional Cities:

Tweed Heads  
Coffs Harbour  
Port Macquarie  
Lismore

## Sub Regions:

Murwillumbah, Mullumbimby, Byron Bay,  
Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle, Casino, Grafton,  
Bellingen, Macksville, Kempsey

## Aboriginal Nations:

Bundjalung, Yaegl,  
Githabul, Gumbaynggirr,  
Dungutti/Thungutti, Biripi



**Growth, change and opportunity**  
Setting principles and values  
for the intention of the plan

Land use | population growth | community  
need | regional economic development



**Sustainable and Resilient**

Biodiversity | water | climate change | circular economy



**Productive and Innovative**

Employment | visitor economy | new industry |  
agriculture | natural resources



**Housing and Place**

Housing | design | need | public spaces | cultural  
infrastructure | local character | cultural values



**Connected and Accessible**

State and regional connectivity | public transport |  
new transport technology



## Early Engagement

The early engagement on the North Coast Regional Plan 2041 consisted of five Aboriginal stakeholder meetings reflecting voices from the key regional centres and aligned with themes of the NCRP chapters. Our team held meetings between 12 – 17 December 2021 to work through the main sections and chapter headings of the NCRP, referring to the infographic as a reference.

We worked with DPE to identify key stakeholders to engage early to discuss recommendations about regional priorities for the Aboriginal communities of the region to be incorporated to the Draft North Coast Regional Plan prior to Exhibition in 2022. The North Coast Region is made up of the following nations: Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr, Dunghutti, Thungutti, Biripi, Githabul and Yaeg. A cross-section of key stakeholders was identified to ensure that chapters of the NCRP and geographical spread are considered during early engagement. We have developed early engagement meeting notes for DPE's consideration.

The following stakeholders attended meetings and the notes from these meetings are appended to this report:

- Rob Appo - Aboriginal Projects Officer, Byron Shire Council and Board Member, Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Michele Laurie - Senior Manager Aboriginal Leadership and Engagement - Social Futures
- Darren Kershaw - Executive Chairperson, North Coast Aboriginal Development Alliance, Department of Aboriginal Affairs Regional Assembly
- Arthur Bain - Chief Executive Officer, Thungutti Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Ken McIntosh - Senior Regional Coordination Officer RAP/ Regional Development NSW

Due to the timing of early engagement meetings, some of the key stakeholders were unable to participate as they were unavailable or on leave. These were:

- Leweena Williams - Chief Executive Officer, Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Dallas Taylor - Regional Manager, Aboriginal Housing Office
- Marni Tuala - Deputy Director, Aboriginal Health Primary Health Network

These stakeholders will be included in the broader consultation process when the NCRP is on exhibition in mid-2022.

During early engagement we asked key stakeholders for recommendations for community engagement during the exhibition period in 2022. This will inform our engagement methodology for targeted feedback during exhibition.





The Zion Aboriginal engagement team are in a unique position to provide first-hand perspectives to this project. Our team have decades of knowledge and lived experience from belonging to community, working with community organisations and government agencies, and being active in cultural practice and revitalisation processes in the North Coast region. This experience has informed our knowledge of the region and we were able to utilise existing relationships with key stakeholders within the region.




## Outcomes of Early Engagement

Based on the literature review and early engagement with key stakeholders across the region, we have developed this Aboriginal Stakeholder Early Engagement Recommendations Report for inclusion in the draft NCRP updates. We have developed the table below to summarise the key recommendations for each of the different sections of the NCRP.

ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER EARLY ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		
	Stakeholder Meetings	Literature Review
<p><b>General Discussion</b></p> <p>Case Study Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gumbaynggirr Language School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional plan about connecting the whole region, not just the LGA boundary</li> <li>Move away from motherhood statements and towards tangible actions and outcomes</li> <li>Embed Aboriginal perspectives and values across all sections of the NCRP</li> <li>Native Title needs to be interwoven into the regional plans</li> <li>Stories in the start of each chapter to highlight Aboriginal innovation</li> <li>Truth telling in the regional plan to accurately represent differences in community for Aboriginal people. Shifting the focus to address the lack in Aboriginal communities and level the playing field to clarify that we have never had equal footing</li> <li>Regional support to re-establish bilingual schools across the region. Dedicated spaces for language centres that are Aboriginal controlled.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government agencies need to collaborate to work with Aboriginal stakeholders. Lack of co-ordination, service overlap and gaps of services particularly challenging in smaller and remote communities</li> <li>Local Government need a standardised approach to engaging local communities and formalising commitments to Aboriginal communities</li> <li>Strengthen cultural awareness and knowledge in the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community</li> <li>Develop leadership capacity in Aboriginal young people</li> </ul>
<b>General Recommendations</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the need to take a regional approach to planning and decision-making with strong cross-Government collaboration in the development and implementation of Aboriginal outcomes</li> <li>Embed Aboriginal perspectives across the NCRP by including Aboriginal innovation stories at the start of each chapter and ensuring Native Title and truth telling is integrated</li> <li>Encourage a standardised approach for Local Government in working with Aboriginal communities, which should be built on the foundation of stronger cultural awareness</li> </ul>	




## ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER EARLY ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

	Stakeholder Meetings	Literature Review
<p><b>Introduction - Growth, Change and Opportunity</b></p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> <p>Case Study suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads to Home project Bowraville</li> <li>• Tweed Shire Council Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities to support bilingual schools and develop leadership capacity amongst Aboriginal young people</li> <li>• Every LGA on North Coast should have cultural heritage mapping</li> <li>• National Broadband Network needs to be prioritized in isolated communities</li> <li>• Need for land available for health services especially rehabilitation detox and mental health support centres across the region</li> <li>• Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) lands to be rezoned for Aboriginal housing development</li> <li>• Support staged development of cultural hubs to enable capacity development</li> <li>• Local Governments leading relationships with Aboriginal communities eg Roads to Home</li> <li>• Capacity building in governance for Aboriginal organisations and businesses</li> <li>• Advocating with LALCs to work with LGA and State agencies to support and resource outcomes</li> <li>• Need for accurate statistics for Aboriginal community beyond ABS statistics</li> <li>• Through COVID close downs medical centres shifted to online consultation, difficult to access when internet is a barrier. National Broadband Networks connectivity for outreach communities needs to be prioritised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All local government areas of region need to have consistent Cultural Heritage mapping funded by government and directed by local Aboriginal communities</li> <li>• Local Government needs to lead the relationship with Aboriginal community</li> <li>• Local Government needs to increase Aboriginal designated positions to support these relationships</li> <li>• Government funding is structured ineffectively. Too many short-term funding cycles do not address long-term problems</li> </ul>
<b>Growth, Change And Opportunities Recommendations</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide funding for Aboriginal communities to work with Councils to undertake Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Mapping</li> <li>• Support provision of communications technology in all Aboriginal communities, especially for more isolated communities in the region</li> </ul>	





## ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER EARLY ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

	Stakeholder Meetings	Literature Review
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with LALCs to identify land holdings to be rezoned for Aboriginal housing and establish a streamlined approach to development</li> <li>Support culturally responsive health infrastructure</li> <li>Provide governance, capacity building and staged development support to Aboriginal businesses, Aboriginal Organisations and Cultural infrastructure</li> <li>Support Councils to invest in developing partnerships with Aboriginal communities for land management and economic development as well as cultural heritage protection and community development</li> </ul>	
<p><b>1. Productive and Innovative</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Case Study Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tabulum Beef Enterprise</li> <li>Jubulum Local Aboriginal Land Council and Kyogle Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caring for Country opportunities for economic development for Aboriginal communities</li> <li>Diversity of cultural tourism opportunities</li> <li>Investigating cultural tourism economic models that line up with cultural frameworks</li> <li>Consider a trail of cultural tourism that links up across the region</li> <li>Foster opportunities for economic development that lead to financial independence</li> <li>Staged developments for Aboriginal business and cultural infrastructure projects to allow for capacity development</li> <li>Need for an emergence of galleries and shops selling Aboriginal products and fashion, growth in cultural consultations and businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A regional employment strategy to be developed with local Aboriginal communities that includes Caring for Country and Cultural Tourism</li> <li>Employment opportunities need to support Aboriginal people at different stages of career development to stay on Country to fulfil cultural and community obligations</li> <li>Aboriginal organisations want to be self-sustaining and financially independent</li> <li>Developing thriving, successful and innovative business developments and enterprise</li> </ul>
	<b>Productive And Innovative Recommendations</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a regional Aboriginal employment strategy focusing on key industries such as tourism and environmental management Support economic development opportunities that build capacity of Aboriginal communities towards financial independence, including staged development</li> <li>Invest in infrastructure for Aboriginal creative industries and business hubs</li> </ul>	



## ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER EARLY ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

	Stakeholder Meetings	Literature Review
<p><b>2. Sustainable and Resilient</b></p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> <p>Case Study Suggestion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arakwal National Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with traditional knowledge systems in caring for Country</li> <li>• Monitoring waterways and impacts from industry and farming</li> <li>• Careful consideration and monitoring of the impact of farming on waterways</li> <li>• Consider cultural farming as a sustainable model</li> <li>• Promoting Caring for Country to farmers</li> <li>• Self-determination and autonomy to have a say in how we want to be a part of creating wealth in the region</li> <li>• Develop Regional Aboriginal Employment Strategies with communities, Aboriginal businesses including an audit for opportunities and capacity building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caring for Country to be developed as a model for economic opportunities for Aboriginal communities</li> <li>• Traditional Fire Management Systems to be reintroduced across the region</li> <li>• Aboriginal people want to live on and work to protect and restore the environmental and cultural values of Country</li> <li>• Aboriginal people prioritise back to Country employment opportunities and cultural land management principles and practices</li> <li>• Aboriginal people want to access decision making on Country to enable protection of special places including through crown reserve management, joint management of National Parks and water infrastructure management</li> <li>• Aboriginal people need to have opportunities to develop capacity around decision making processes regarding protecting country</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable And Resilient Recommendations</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caring for Country to be elevated and prioritised through strong partnership between government and Native Title holders, LALCs and Traditional Custodians</li> <li>• Develop governance model that allows Aboriginal communities to participate in decision making on Country</li> <li>• Support restoration and promotion of Cultural Land Management practices through knowledge sharing opportunities and policy</li> <li>• Improve monitoring of waterways and increase accountability for the impacts from industry and farming on Country</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. Housing and Place</b></p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing is a huge priority and diversity of housing stock needs to be considered</li> <li>• Air BnB need to be regulated for affordability</li> <li>• Lack of affordable housing a barrier to Aboriginal economic development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal Cultural Centres are a priority for local communities and local governments</li> <li>• Local Government to work with LALCs to find solutions for Aboriginal housing</li> </ul>




## ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER EARLY ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

	Stakeholder Meetings	Literature Review
<p><b>Case Study Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal Place: Walk in Ballina, truth telling about the massacre,</li> <li>• Murwillumbah Museum – natural history wall – oral story of the Tweed Rob/ Kyle and Josh Slabb</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culturally appropriate and responsive housing is needed. Housing needs to reflect the kinship system living with mob with appropriate housing for extended families</li> <li>• Developers are building houses for the nuclear family. Our people need intergenerational housing. Planning legislation does not support this outcome</li> <li>• More Aboriginal cultural expression in public spaces including representations of totems in public spaces, designed by Aboriginal people and decided by communities and visual acknowledgement of shared history stories in public space</li> <li>• LACS lands to be rezoned for Aboriginal housing development</li> <li>• Need for a different tenure model for Aboriginal housing</li> <li>• Growth in retirement profile, our people get locked out of buying houses on Country</li> <li>• Dual naming of places and spaces is important in developing deep respect</li> <li>• Multi-purpose spaces for cultural centres are needed</li> <li>• Access to Country and sites is important for cultural identity. Wellbeing is linked to access to sacred sites and reconnection to these places. Aboriginal people have obligations to restore ceremony and cultural practices</li> <li>• Need for holistic rehabilitation facilities that are community controlled and culturally appropriate including a reconnection with Country and culturally responsive healing spaces</li> </ul>	<p>Lack of affordable housing and homelessness is one of the biggest issues across the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is particularly notable that in coastal towns such as Tweed Heads and Byron Bay that there are significant numbers of Aboriginal people sleeping rough</li> <li>• In Byron Bay, Aboriginal people often can't afford to live on Country and therefore live somewhere else even though they work in Byron</li> <li>• Social housing waiting lists are several years long particularly in coastal towns/tourist spots</li> <li>• Repair and maintenance is a significant issue for Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) and Aboriginal Land Council tenants</li> <li>• Lack of access to dental care is challenging for a lot of communities</li> <li>• There are major concerns regarding mental health issues, self-harm and suicide, which requires the provision of appropriate infrastructure</li> <li>• There is a need for both local men and women's groups and spaces in Aboriginal communities to reflect cultural framework</li> </ul>





## ABORIGINAL STAKEHOLDER EARLY ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

	Stakeholder Meetings	Literature Review
	<b>Housing And Place Recommendations</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with LALCs to identify land holdings to be rezoned for Aboriginal housing and establishing a streamlined approach to development</li> <li>In partnership with Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal Housing Office and other relevant stakeholders, develop a different tenure and housing model for Aboriginal communities</li> <li>Regulate short term accommodation to increase housing affordability and availability</li> <li>Implement DPE’s dual naming strategy across the region</li> <li>Embed Aboriginal cultural expression in public spaces</li> <li>Improve Aboriginal Health Care facilities and services including Mental Health and Dental Services</li> <li>Support provision of multi-purpose spaces for cultural centres</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Connected and Accessible</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Case Study Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tweed Byron Community Transport – Dave Kapeen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport is a complex problem in the region with high car reliance</li> <li>Public transport is adhoc, expensive and unreliable</li> <li>Sustainable ongoing funding support for isolated communities to access transport. Communities need their own transport, generally a bus</li> <li>Cost of community transport is too high especially in accessing health services at Gold Coast and Lismore. Affordable and realistic pricing for community transport is required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport is a recurring priority for Aboriginal community</li> <li>Transport is a predeterminant to economic advancement for Aboriginal people</li> <li>Lack of transport and driver’s license further limits opportunities for employment and training</li> <li>Transport impacts on the ability of Aboriginal people, particularly young people and Elders to access health services, education, employment and training opportunities, social and cultural activities and can be a deciding factor on <i>where</i> people choose to live. This impacts cultural obligation to stay on Country and in community</li> </ul>
	<b>Connected And Accessible Recommendations</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a sustainable funding model to support isolated communities to access transport</li> <li>Affordable Public Transport systems need to be developed through a cross government collaborative approach that addresses the needs and resourcing issues of communities and connects isolated communities to regional centres</li> </ul>	



## Key themes

Throughout the early recommendations there were a number of key themes that emerged for consideration:

- Cross Government collaboration and developing a strategic approach on working with Aboriginal communities
- Investing into culturally responsive programs to develop the capacity of Aboriginal communities to engage with opportunities
- Need for innovation around breaking away from funding cycle reliance and developing strong communities built on self-determination
- Celebrating Aboriginal knowledge systems and how they can strengthen the region
- Self determination for developing land for LALCs to respond to community needs to be supported through cross government collaboration

## Next steps

The next steps for our team is to support the next phase of the NCRP development. We will work with DPE staff to finalise recommendations to inform Draft NCRP. We will continue to work closely with DPE staff to support the drafting the NCRP for exhibition in 2022.

It is integral to our practice to assure transparency with Aboriginal communities and our team propose to close the loop with our stakeholders and share this report with them. This will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to confirm and provide feedback on what we have captured and ensure their input has been accurately recorded.

Our team have begun planning for engagement and consultation during exhibition. We have begun extensive stakeholder mapping and have included the recommendations from Aboriginal stakeholders involved in the early engagement process. In collaboration with **DPE**, our team would like to contact Aboriginal communities and organisations in April to introduce the project and share the infographic with communities to support them to start considering their participation in the process. We will prepare an Aboriginal Engagement Plan for the public exhibition period of the NCRP. Our team will work with DPE to prepare a briefing pack for LALCs and Native Title Groups and other community organisations for the exhibition period in 2022.



# APPENDIX TWO



# North Coast Regional Plan Aboriginal Engagement







## Acknowledgement of Country

# North Coast Regional Plan

### Regional Cities:

Tweed Heads  
Coffs Harbour  
Port Macquarie  
Lismore

### Sub Regions:

Murwillumbah, Mullumbimby, Byron Bay,  
Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle, Casino, Grafton,  
Bellingen, Macksville, Kempsey

### Aboriginal Nations:

Bundjalung, Yaegl,  
Githabul, Gumbaynggirr,  
Dungutti/Thungutti, Biripi



# NCRP Context

## 1. What is a Regional Plan?

*A high level DPE document which informs land use decisions across a region. Informs how other state Government agencies and Local Government makes land use decisions*

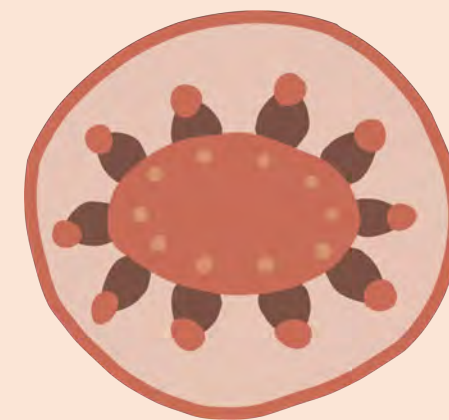
## 2. Why is it important or relevant to Aboriginal Communities?

*To ensure Aboriginal priorities are embedded into the planning framework*

## 3. How are voices heard through this process?

*Our team will develop an engagement outcomes report with recommendations to DPE for inclusion in the regional plan. Community will have an opportunity to ensure their voices were captured accurately*

*Out of scope feedback is also reported back to the Delivery Coordination Monitoring Committee (DCMC), a cross agency body responsible for implementation*





# Overview NCRP Contents Page



## Part 1 : Thriving and Sustainable

### Goal 1: Liveable and Resilient

Biodiversity | water | climate change | circular economy  
Housing | design | need | public spaces | cultural  
infrastructure | cultural values

### Goal 2: Productive and Sustainable

State and regional connectivity | public transport |  
new transport technology | Employment | visitor  
economy | new industry | agriculture | natural resources



## Part 2 : Growth Change and Opportunity

### Goal 3: Planning for Communities

Land use | population growth | community  
need | regional economic development | local  
character |

# NCRP Aboriginal input

## Early engagement

- Met with key stakeholders across region late 2021
- Developed early recommendations report
- Early recommendations report informed draft for exhibition

## Draft exhibition NOW

- Ten day engagement program across region
- Two online meetings
- Meetings at request
- Consultation outcomes report with recommendations

## Final plan

- Consultation outcomes report circulated to confirm
- Further follow up to refine recommendations
- Recommendations used to finalise plan
- Consultation summary published on DPE website
- Out of scope actions forwarded to relevant government departments



# Aboriginal input to draft NCRP

Theme	2017 plan	Draft 2022 plan
Housing	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Culturally responsive and intergenerational housing</li><li>• Opportunities for LALCs to identify land</li></ul>
Water	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnering with local Aboriginal communities to care for Country and waterways</li></ul>
Transport	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On demand transport opportunities</li></ul>
Cultural expression	Focus on protecting Aboriginal objects and places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mapping in partnership with local Aboriginal communities</li><li>• Dual place names</li><li>• Cross government framework (Connecting with Country)</li></ul>
Partnership	Collaboration during the engagement phase of the planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnerships instead of input</li><li>• Consider hiring Aboriginal staff within planning teams</li></ul>



# Aboriginal Specific Objectives and Strategies

## Objective 4:

**Understand, celebrate and integrate Aboriginal culture**

Strategy 4.1 - Cultural heritage mapping

Strategy 4.2 - Dual naming



## Objective 13:

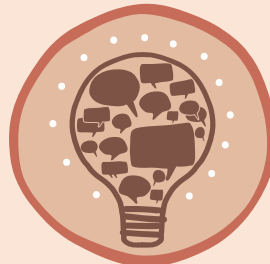
**Champion Aboriginal self-determination**

Strategy 13.1 - Using the NSW planning system

Strategy 13.2 - Process Crown Land claims

Strategy 13.3 - Partner with Aboriginal communities

Strategy 13.4 - Aboriginal identified staff



## Additional strategies:

- Culturally responsive housing
- Embedding cultural knowledge into biodiversity conservation and water management
- Cultural tourism opportunities
- Community transport needs
- Cultural infrastructure

## Objective 4

### Understand, celebrate and integrate Aboriginal culture

#### Strategy 4.1

#### Cultural Heritage Mapping

Working with Aboriginal communities to protect culturally important sites.



#### Strategy 4.2

#### Dual Naming

Apply dual names to important places, features or local infrastructure

#### Action 4

Finalise Connecting with Country to inform the planning, design and delivery of built environment projects.





## Objective 13

# Champion Aboriginal self-determination

## Strategies

### Strategy 13.1 Using the NSW Planning System

Work with LALCs and Native Title holders to achieve development aspirations

### Strategy 13.2 Process Crown Land Claims

Prioritise processing unresolved Aboriginal land claims on Crown Land

### Strategy 13.3 Partner with Aboriginal Communities

Align strategic planning and community aspirations - economic participation and land management

### Strategy 13.4 Aboriginal Identified Staff

Councils consider Aboriginal identified staff within their planning teams to facilitate strong relationships





## Objective 13

### Champion Aboriginal self-determination

#### Action 6

The Department of Planning and Environment will work with LALCs, Native Title holders and councils to better reflect LALC and Native Title holders' aspirations in plans by:

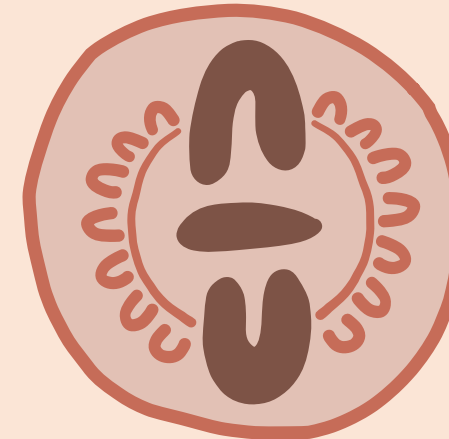
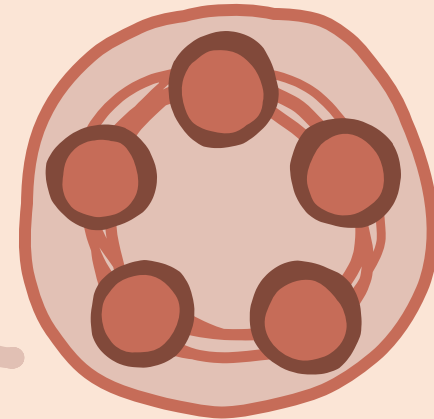
- meaningfully engaging with LALCs and Native Title holders in the development and review of strategic plans
- delivering an interactive mapping tool to enable LALCs to view their landholding information together with relevant planning controls on the NSW Planning Portal
- supporting LALCs and Native Title holders to better understand the planning system
- promoting opportunities for cultural awareness training for all involved in planning
- incorporating Aboriginal knowledge of the region into planning considerations and decisions.





## Additional Strategies

1. Culturally responsive housing
2. Embedding cultural knowledge into biodiversity conservation and water management
3. Cultural tourism opportunities
4. Community transport needs
5. Cultural infrastructure
6. Other



## Next Steps

- Develop draft Consultation Outcomes report
- Circulate draft to community to close loop
- Finalise inputs to NCRP
- Submission



# APPENDIX THREE



	NCRP 2036	Draft NCRP 2041
<b>Tourism</b>	Prepare destination management plans or other tourism-focused strategies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify culturally appropriate Aboriginal tourism opportunities</li> </ul>	Council strategic planning and local plans should consider opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partner with local Aboriginal communities to support cultural tourism and connect ventures across the region (strategy 12.1)</li> </ul>
<b>Collaborate and partner with Aboriginal communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop partnerships with Aboriginal communities to facilitate engagement during the planning process, including the development of engagement protocols</li> <li>- Ensure Aboriginal communities are engaged throughout the preparation of local growth management strategies and local environmental plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide opportunities for the region’s LALCs and Native Title holders to utilise the NSW planning system to achieve development aspirations, maximising the flow of benefits generated by land rights to Aboriginal communities through strategic led planning. (strategy 13.1)</li> <li>- Prioritise the processing of unresolved Aboriginal land claims on Crown land. (strategy 13.2)</li> <li>- Partner with Aboriginal communities to align strategic planning and community aspirations including enhanced Aboriginal economic participation, enterprise and land management. (strategy 13.3)</li> <li>- Councils consider engaging Aboriginal identified staff within their planning teams to facilitate strong relationship building between councils, Aboriginal communities and key stakeholders such as Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local Native Title holders. (strategy 13.4)</li> <li>- The Department of Planning and Environment will work with LALCs, Native Title holders and councils to better reflect LALC and Native Title holders' aspirations in plans by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•meaningfully engaging with LALCs and Native Title holders in the development and review of strategic plans</li> <li>•delivering an interactive mapping tool to enable LALCs to view their landholding information together with relevant planning controls on the NSW Planning Portal</li> <li>•supporting LALCs and Native Title holders to better understand the planning system</li> <li>•promoting opportunities for cultural awareness training for all involved in planning</li> <li>•incorporating Aboriginal knowledge of the region into planning considerations and decisions. (Action 6)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<b>Self determination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver opportunities to increase the economic independence of Aboriginal communities through training, employment and tourism</li> <li>- Foster closer cooperation with LALCs to identify the unique potential and assets of the North Coast communities</li> <li>- Identify priority sites with economic development potential that LALCS may wish to consider for further investigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide opportunities for the region’s LALCs and Native Title holders to utilise the NSW planning system to achieve development aspirations, maximising the flow of benefits generated by land rights to Aboriginal communities through strategic led planning. (strategy 13.1)</li> </ul>
<b>Aboriginal culture in the community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure Aboriginal objects and places are protected, manage and respected in accordance with legislative requirements and the wishes of local Aboriginal communities</li> <li>- Undertake Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments to inform the design of planning and development proposals so that impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage are minimised and appropriate heritage management mechanisms are identified</li> <li>- Develop local heritage studies in consultation with the local Aboriginal community, and adopt appropriate measures in planning strategies and local plans to protect Aboriginal heritage</li> <li>- Prepare maps to identify sites of Aboriginal heritage in ‘investigation’ areas, where culturally appropriate, to inform planning strategies and local plans to protect Aboriginal heritage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Councils undertake cultural heritage mapping with Aboriginal communities to protect culturally important sites. (strategy 4.1)</li> <li>- Consider applying dual names to important places, features or local infrastructure. (strategy 4.2)</li> <li>- Finalise Connecting with Country to inform the planning, design, and delivery of built environment projects. (Action 4)</li> </ul>



<b>Housing</b>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local Council plans are to encourage and facilitate a range of housing options in well located areas. (strategy 1.2) (note: Culturally responsive housing referenced in narrative above strategy)</li> <li>- Councils and LALCs can partner to identify areas which may be appropriate for rural land sharing on Country. (strategy 1.6)</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic planning and local plans should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Partnering with local Aboriginal communities to care for Country and waterways (part Strategy 9.1)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- * reference made to the preparation of an Aboriginal Water Strategy – one of the actions from the NSW Water Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Transport</b>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigate expansion of on-demand transport model to other centres. (Collaboration activity 7)</li> <li>- To ensure that centres experiencing high growth have well planned and sustainable transport options, placed-based Transport Plans will be developed for key cities and centres across the North Coast region. (Collaboration Activity 4)</li> </ul>

# APPENDIX FOUR



**North Coast Regional Plan Aboriginal Engagement workshop outcomes**

<b>Objective, Strategy or Action</b>	<b>Tweed Community Update</b>	<b>Grafton Community Update</b>	<b>Casino Community Update</b>	<b>Kempsey Community Update</b>	<b>Port Macquarie Community Update</b>	<b>Coffs Harbour Community Update</b>	<b>Ballina Community Update</b>
<p><b>Objective 4 Strategy 4.1</b> Councils undertake cultural heritage mapping with Aboriginal communities to protect culturally important sites.</p>	<p>Councils with appropriate funding from State Government, undertake cultural heritage mapping and Cultural Heritage Management Plan with Aboriginal communities to protect culturally important sites.</p>	<p>Additional Recommendation: Review and implement changes to DPEs management of Registered Aboriginal Party databases.</p> <p>Additional Strategy: Work with local Aboriginal communities to recognise and empower cultural governance decision making structures and processes within appropriate management plans relating to the management of</p>	<p>New Strategy: Relevant government agencies to work in partnership with local Aboriginal communities to develop appropriate restrictions and enable community access to culturally significant sites for maintenance of sites and cultural practice.</p>			<p>Updated Recommendations: To include ..... With a legislative mechanism.</p>	<p>Aboriginal elders and knowledge holders remunerated for their time and knowledge in the cultural mapping process.</p>
<p><b>Objective 4 Strategy 4.2</b> Consider applying dual names to important places, features or local infrastructure</p>	<p>Prioritise applying dual names to important places, features or local infrastructure, in collaboration led by local Aboriginal community. Community reserves such as sports fields to be named after Aboriginal people</p>		<p>New Strategy: Work with local Aboriginal communities to develop opportunities to share local knowledge of Country.</p>	<p>Prioritise applying dual names and associated artworks to important places, features or local infrastructure, in collaboration led by local Aboriginal community.</p>	<p>Share the DPE policy for dual naming</p>		<p>Encourage the use of appropriate naming in local Aboriginal language in infrastructure and the build environment.</p>
<p><b>Objective 4 Action 4</b> Finalise Connecting with Country to inform the planning, design and delivery of built environment projects</p>	<p>Councils to work with local Aboriginal communities to identify priorities for Connecting to Country to inform the planning, design and delivery of built environment projects</p>	<p>Additional Action: Work with government agencies and local Aboriginal communities to enable access to Country for cultural activities.</p>	<p>Councils to work in partnership with local Aboriginal communities to identify priorities for Connecting to Country to inform the planning, design and delivery of built environment projects</p>	<p>Work with local Aboriginal communities to enable access to Country for cultural activities and practices.</p> <p>DPE investigate and review the barriers within the legislation for achieving Aboriginal self-determination outcomes and advocate for change.</p>	<p>Ensure Sea and Sky Country are included in Connecting to Country plans.</p> <p>* Hastings Birpai Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Plan - Case studies.</p>	<p>Councils to work with local Aboriginal communities to identify priorities for Connecting to Country, responsive to the local Cultural Heritage mapping plans to inform the planning, design and delivery of built environment projects.</p> <p>Councils to apply framework to larger developments in their LGA for developers to create Connecting to Country plan for</p>	

<p><b>Objective 13 Strategy 13.2</b> Prioritise the processing of unresolved Aboriginal land claims on Crown land.</p>	<p>Prioritise the processing of unresolved Aboriginal land claims on Crown land</p> <p>Add new strategy: Investigate opportunities for Co Management of Crown Land by LALCs and Native Title holders. Work with local LALCs and Native Title holders in decision making regarding Crown Land</p>	<p>Additional Recommendation: Investigate opportunities for Co Management of Crown Land by LALCs and Native Title holders and recognised Aboriginal organisations. Work with local LALCs and Native Title holders and recognised Aboriginal organisations in decision making regarding Crown Land</p>		<p>Crown Lands to work with LALCs to prioritise the resolution of unresolved land claims on Crown Land</p> <p>Government to work with LALCs to amalgamate adjacent land claims to simplify resolution of Aboriginal land claims.</p>	<p>Team of planners at DPE to triage planning related matters to elevate Aboriginal Housing developments.</p> <p>Crown land returned that can be developed for housing development should be prioritised.</p> <p>*Case Study: LALC20 project</p>	<p>Additional Recommendation: Finalise and implement the LALC20 (Land Claim Negotiation) program.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 13 Strategy 13.3</b> Partner with Aboriginal communities to align strategic planning and community aspirations including enhanced Aboriginal economic participation, enterprise, and land management.</p>	<p>Partner with local recognised Aboriginal organisations to align strategic planning and community aspirations including enhanced Aboriginal economic participation, enterprise, and land management.</p>				<p>Add water, sea and sky Country to any reference to Country</p> <p>Also add to description of Country to glossary</p>	<p>Partner with Aboriginal communities to align strategic planning relevant zoning, land use and community aspirations including enhanced Aboriginal economic participation, enterprise, and land management.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 13 Strategy 13.4</b> Councils consider engaging Aboriginal identified staff within their planning teams to facilitate strong relationship building between councils, Aboriginal communities, and key stakeholders such as Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local Native Title holders.</p>	<p>•Councils engage Aboriginal identified staff within their planning teams to facilitate strong relationship building between councils, Aboriginal communities, and key stakeholders such as Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local Native Title holders.</p> <p>•New strategy: Councils in the North Coast Region to develop relationships with local Aboriginal Communities to establish inclusive Aboriginal Advisory Committees for that local government area. Example of the Tweed Shire Councils Aboriginal Advisory Committee.</p> <p>•New strategy: Government agencies to develop Aboriginal procurement policies to</p>	<p>Developing capacity in the local Aboriginal community to engage with the planning system. Facilitate community to participate in government planning and land management systems and processes.</p>	<p>Councils in the North Coast Region to develop relationships with local Aboriginal Communities to establish inclusive Aboriginal Advisory Committees for that local government area. Example of the Tweed Shire Councils Aboriginal Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>DPE or Local Councils provide designated planning staff to work within LALCs Native Title holders to implement strategic plans of the LALCs</p> <p>Update all language that refers to Native Title holders as Native Title Prescribed Body Corporates.</p>	<p>Councils in the North Coast Region to develop relationships with local Aboriginal communities to establish inclusive, remunerated Aboriginal Advisory Committees for that local government area. Example of the Tweed Shire Councils Aboriginal Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Some issues with the wording on Page 59 of the draft plan was discussed including – change language from ‘will pursue’ to ‘will guarantee’ Aboriginal people live across the state.</p>	<p>Further pilot DPE or Local Councils provide designated planning specialists to work within LALCs Native Title holders to implement strategic plans of the LALCs</p> <p>Local Governments to develop Aboriginal Employment /procurement strategies with measurable outcomes reflective of their Aboriginal populations.</p>	

<p><b>Objective 13 Action 6</b></p> <p>The Department of Planning and Environment will work with LALCs, Native Title holders and councils to better reflect LALC and Native Title holders' aspirations in plans by:</p>	<p>Add new dot point to action or add new strategy: Develop appropriate remuneration model for working with LALCs and Native Title groups and Aboriginal organisations</p>	<p>New Action: DPE to work with local Aboriginal communities to develop capacity building pathways for Aboriginal communities to participate in the planning system</p>	<p>Council staff to undertake localised Aboriginal cultural training.</p>		<p>Develop across agency all of government mechanism to work with local Aboriginal communities in a holistic approach to management of Country.</p>	<p>State government to transparently consult with local LALCs and Native Title groups in relations to any state government land transfer or development. Transparent consultation prior to the granting of land and assets to establish intended and interest in future use and ensuring appropriate zoning.</p> <p>Governments to resource the development of Plans of Management prior to transfer of land and assets ie. Heritage Listings.</p> <p>Develop community resources for planning skills and capacity for</p>	
<p><b>Objective 1:</b> Provide well located homes to meet demand</p> <p><b>Strategy 1.2</b> Local Council plans are to encourage and facilitate a range of housing options in well located areas. (1.4)</p> <p><b>Strategy 1.4</b> Local housing strategies are to be consistent with the Local Housing Strategy Guideline and the regional plan.</p>		<p>Develop a regional based culturally responsive Aboriginal housing policy to define typology and tenure mechanisms that allow for adaptability and flexibility to be integrated on local housing strategies.</p>		<p>Aboriginal housing provisions, with measurable targets, to be included as part of Local Housing Strategies.</p>	<p>Councils to consider removing economic barriers including paying rates for LALCs to provide social housing to Aboriginal communities as part of their Local Housing Strategies.</p> <p>Update the language Council will engage...</p> <p>Action: Department to update Local Housing Strategy Guidelines to include reference to working with Aboriginal community to develop Aboriginal Housing</p>	<p>Partnerships between LALCs and Native Title and local Aboriginal Housing bodies to invest in funding housing on Aboriginal land</p>	
<p><b>Objective 1:</b> Provide well located homes to meet demand</p> <p><b>Strategy 1.6</b> Councils and LALCs can partner to identify areas which may be appropriate for rural land sharing on Country.</p>				<p>Councils and LALCs to partner in identifying areas which may be appropriate for culturally responsive housing on Country</p>			

<p><b>Objective 2:</b> Provide for more affordable and low-cost housing</p> <p><b>Action 3</b> Establish Housing Affordability Roundtables for the Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers subregions with councils,</p>		<p>Engage (and recognise) local Aboriginal organisations to develop culturally responsive housing place-based strategies.</p>				<p>Develop suitable accommodation opportunities for our elders to live on Country with support they required.</p> <p>Develop suitable accommodation opportunities for our Aboriginal young people with complex support needs to live on Country</p>	
<p><b>Objective 3:</b> <b>Strategy 3.1</b> Protect, maintain, and restore important environmental assets in strategic planning and local plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•focusing land-use intensification away from HEV land and implementing the 'avoid, minimise and offset' hierarchy in strategic plans, LEPs</li> </ul>		<p>New Recommendation: Develop and fund proactive localised caring for Country programs to protect and enhance the environment.</p>		<p>Promote and fund proactive localised caring for Country programs to protect and enhance the environment.</p>	<p>Action: Identify legal/systemic barriers to cultural burns operations.</p> <p>Prioritise the needs of climate refugia for threatened species and other key species in strategic planning including biodiversity and conservation planning and embed climate change adaptation actions in</p>	<p>New Recommendation: Elevate the value of Aboriginal land management practices and knowledge as a specialist technical skill set (scientific knowledge).</p>	
<p><b>Objective 5:</b> Manage and improve resilience to shocks and stresses, natural hazards, and climate change</p> <p><b>Strategy 5.4</b> Resilience and adaptation plans should consider opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•encourage sustainable and resilient building design and materials (such as forest</li> </ul>		<p>New infrastructure and developments to carefully consider flood, fire, storm, and draught in design stage.</p> <p>Emergency response precincts with facilities that are flood and fireproof and also places for animals to go. Grafton currently does not</p>					<p>Work with local Aboriginal communities to develop funded land management agreements and policy to support cultural management practices including fire.</p>
<p><b>Objective 5:</b> Manage and improve resilience to shocks and stresses, natural hazards, and climate change</p> <p><b>Strategy 5.6</b> Support restoration and promotion of Cultural Land</p>		<p>New Recommendation: Work with local Aboriginal communities to develop funded land management agreements and policy to support cultural management practices.</p>					
<p><b>Objective 6:</b> Create a circular economy</p> <p><b>Strategy 6.1</b> Support the development of circular economy, hubs, infrastructure and activities. Also consider employment opportunities that may arise from circular economies and</p>				<p>Aboriginal people to develop land to create Circular Economy Clean Country based employment opportunities and self-determination.</p> <p>* Case study regarding Kempsey recycling program</p>			



<p><b>Objective 9</b> Sustainably manage and conserve water resources</p> <p><b>Strategy 9.3</b> Encourage a whole of catchment approach to land use and water management across the region that considers climate change, water security, sustainable demand and growth, the natural environment and investigate options for water management through innovation.</p>						<p>Recognise and respond to Aboriginal community's cultural values and cultural rights to water.</p> <p>Refer to Water rights page 49</p>	<p>Recognise and respond to Aboriginal community's cultural values and cultural rights to water in the protection of waterways from industry.</p> <p>Ensure Aboriginal communities voices and cultural knowledge inform future decision making for water infrastructure and water management (including groundwater).</p> <p>Action: DPE to develop and fund a caring for Country program in partnership with local Aboriginal communities for waterway restoration from the impact of the floods across the region.</p> <p>Ensure that the North Coast Regional Water Strategy team receive a copy of the NCRP Aboriginal Engagement Recommendations Report.</p> <p>Recommendation: Increased local Aboriginal community engagement in the development of the North Coast Regional Water Strategy.</p>
<p><b>Objective 11:</b> Support cities and centres and coordinate the supply of well-located employment land</p> <p><b>Strategy 11.4</b> New employment areas are in accordance with an employment land strategy endorsed by the Department of Planning and Environment.</p> <p>Collaboration Activity 3 Support the development of the Richmond Valley Regional Job Precinct to create a hub focused on high-value agriculture, food processing, manufacturing,</p>			<p>Department of Regional NSW to develop career pathways, including work experience, traineeships, opportunities, and designated positions between local high schools in the regional job precinct for local Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Department of Regional NSW and Councils to work on expanding career expos including local industry, TAFE, Southern Cross University to engage local young people and showcase employment opportunities locally. (Regional economic development</p>				

<p><b>Objective 12:</b> Create a diverse visitor economy</p> <p><b>Strategy 12.1</b> Council strategic planning and local plans should consider opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•partner with local Aboriginal communities to support cultural tourism and connect ventures across the region</li> </ul>		<p>New Recommendation: Destination NSW to work across government agencies with local Aboriginal cultural tourism providers to enable streamlined processes to access Country for cultural tourism opportunities.</p> <p>New Recommendation: Destination NSW to work with government agencies and local recognised Aboriginal communities to develop protocols to protect scared and significant sites and cultural values in cultural</p>	<p>Destination NSW to establish a regional Aboriginal Cultural Advisory Committee, with membership of Aboriginal people representing communities across the region, to ensure the development of Aboriginal tourism is culturally appropriate.</p>	<p>Prioritise actioning rezoning applications from Aboriginal community to develop land for eco and cultural tourism opportunities.</p>			<p>Acknowledge the need for Aboriginal cultural tourism opportunities and truth telling in the built environment.</p>
<p><b>Objective 16:</b> Increase active and public transport usage</p>	<p>Update all language that refers to transport to include access: "Transport and Access needs of the Aboriginal Community"</p>						
<p><b>Objective 16:</b> Increase active and public transport usage</p>	<p>Aboriginal Transport and Access to be considered up front in all areas of planning for North Coast Communities to enable participation for Aboriginal people.</p>						
<p><b>Objective 19:</b> Public spaces and green infrastructure support connected and healthy communities</p>			<p>Develop community infrastructure for young people prioritising the needs in rural and remote areas</p>	<p>Work in partnership with local Aboriginal communities to develop bespoke cultural infrastructure for responding to the needs of Aboriginal communities to continue cultural practices.</p>	<p>Prioritise the development of dedicated multipurpose facilities, with men's and women's business spaces, with indoor and outdoor spaces for community, for cultural activities and practices for local Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Provision of access to public spaces and land to enable Aboriginal people to practice culture.</p>	<p>Ensure allocation of designated spaces for local Aboriginal communities to safely practice culture.</p>	<p>New Recommendation:</p> <p>Work with Aboriginal communities to develop partnerships that enable access to infrastructure for appropriate service delivery.</p> <p>Strategies:</p> <p>Prioritise local Aboriginal organisations in the provision and access of public infrastructure for service delivery and cultural practice.</p> <p>Include areas designated for Aboriginal cultural practice in public space design acknowledging the need for men's and women's business.</p> <p>Public spaces are designed with associated</p>

<p><b>Other Feedback</b></p>				<p>Government agencies to invest in the reengagement of young people in education and all of life activities to address the impacts of COVID.</p>		<p>Bipartisan support for the implementation of the NCRP. Aboriginal people invest their time, knowledge and good faith in participating in these processes with no clear commitment to implement the outcomes.</p> <p>Aboriginal community seeks feedback clarifying how is the new Cultural Heritage legislation ensuring the different cultural heritage databases and systems are referring or linking to each</p>	<p>New Recommendation:</p> <p>Work with Aboriginal communities to develop partnerships that enable access to infrastructure for cultural practice.</p> <p>Councils to develop pathways and opportunities for Aboriginal people in arts and cultural roles to strengthen cultural practice within local government.</p>
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