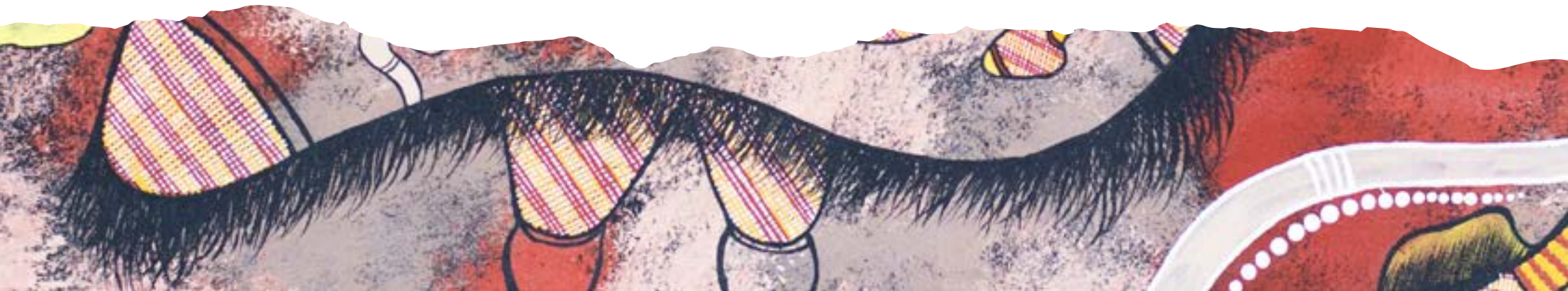




Local Aboriginal Land Council

DARKINJUNG

Annual Report *2022*



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Meet the Artist



Joe Walker born in Casino and raised on Tabulam Aboriginal Reserve, from the Bundjalung Nation and a Proud Wahlabul Man who's totem is the Possum.

Joe's culture is very important to him and his love of painting comes from his culture as child hunting for Binging (turtle).

Respect *and* Recognition

Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council acknowledges that we operate and function on the lands of the Darkinjung people.

We pay our respect to these lands that provide for us. We acknowledge and pay respect to the ancestors that walked and managed these lands for many generations before us.

We acknowledge and recognise all Aboriginal people who have come from their own country and who have now come to call this country their home.

We acknowledge our Elders who are our knowledge holders, teachers and pioneers.

We recognise all Aboriginal people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities and acknowledge the negative impact on the Aboriginal community. We acknowledge for many of the children and now adults, removal meant that they have now lost all connection to family, and the life-long consequences for those taken.

We acknowledge our youth who are our hope for a brighter and stronger future and who will be our future leaders.



Message from Chairperson, Barry Duncan

At the timing of this report Covid still remains the topic on everyone's lips. Our community, our land council members still remain in relative safety, let's hope they remain so.

Our staff have developed key areas which include **Responsibility, Courage, Integrity, Communication and Respect** all underpinned by Community, it pleases me that staff have adopted all these key areas openly and honestly for the benefit of DLALC, our members and the general community. 2021-2022 see's us establish strong working relations through a number of Memorandum of Understandings (MOU's) with Central Coast Council and NRMA.

The Central Coast Council (MOU) particularly reinforces our position as the largest landowner in the boundaries of Central Coast Council and that we need to be consulted in any strategic planning concerning the future growth of the Central Coast/ Darkinjung Country.

NRMA (MOU) is a partnership for employment, tourism and promotion at the Ocean Beach Big 4 Park in the southern end of the Coast opens

up many other opportunities We continue to offer our membership Community Benefits, this has been largely due to the membership successfully negotiating the sale of land through the comprehensive and legislative processes we have to follow.

Our Perpetual Investment is a welcoming source of comfort to the Board as this will give future generations the opportunity to operate free of the welfare mentality and instead promote progressive development of our community here on Darkinjung Country.

Despite the uncertainty of the markets our investment portfolios are doing well.

We are entering an exciting phase of opportunities which include Peat Island, Lake Munmorah, Dooralong Public School (to replace Darkinjung / Barker at Yarramalong) the Central Coast Accord we are blessed to be in such a strong position.

We continue to promote our Cultural Authority and have gained many allies in the fight for recognition of the great work we do Culturally, Spiritually and

Emotionally to maintain our identity as First Nation people who reside on Darkinjung Country.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our Board who fittingly embody all of the NAIDOC 2022 theme in that they Getup, Stand up & Show up to all meetings, community events and official functions, their devotion to Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council and the membership is highly commendable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Duncan'.

BJ Duncan

Chairperson, Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council

Board Members



Barry Duncan
Chairperson
Appointed 02/02/2020



Danielle Captain-Webb
Deputy Chairperson
Appointed 17/09/2019



Tina West
Board Member
Appointed 17/09/2019



Jenni McEwen
Board Member
Appointed 17/09/2019



Katarina Sales
Board Member
Appointed 17/09/2019



Gail Lake
Board Member
Appointed 17/09/2019



Robyn Sutherland
Board Member
Appointed 17/09/2019



Debra Swan
Board Member
Appointed 17/09/2019



Jeff Delaney
Board Member
Appointed 17/09/2019



Amy Parry
Board Member
Appointed 17/09/2019

Board Sub Committees

Community & Culture

9 meetings

Robyn Sutherland
Gail Lake
Debra Swan
Danielle Captain-Webb
Barry Duncan
Jeff Delaney

Governance, Finance and Economic Development

9 meetings

Jenni McEwen
Amy Parry
Tina West
Danielle Captain-Webb
Barry Duncan

Community & Culture secretariat

Adina Duncan

Governance, Finance and Economic Development secretariat

Brent Ellis

Note: The Chair and CEO both sit in all committees.

Board Meetings

OM	28/06/2022	OM	26/10/2021
OM	31/05/2022	OM	28/09/2021
EOM	18/05/2022	EOM	21/09/2021
OM	20/04/2022	EOM	08/09/2021
OM	29/03/2022	OM	31/08/2021
OM	22/02/2022	EOM	04/08/2021
EOM	12/02/2022	EOM	30/07/2021
OM	24/01/2022	EOM	28/07/2021
OM	15/12/2021	OM	27/07/2021
OM	30/11/2021	OM	28/06/2021
EOM	20/11/2021	EOM	16/06/2021

OM Ordinary Meeting EOM Extra Ordinary Meeting

Board Meetings

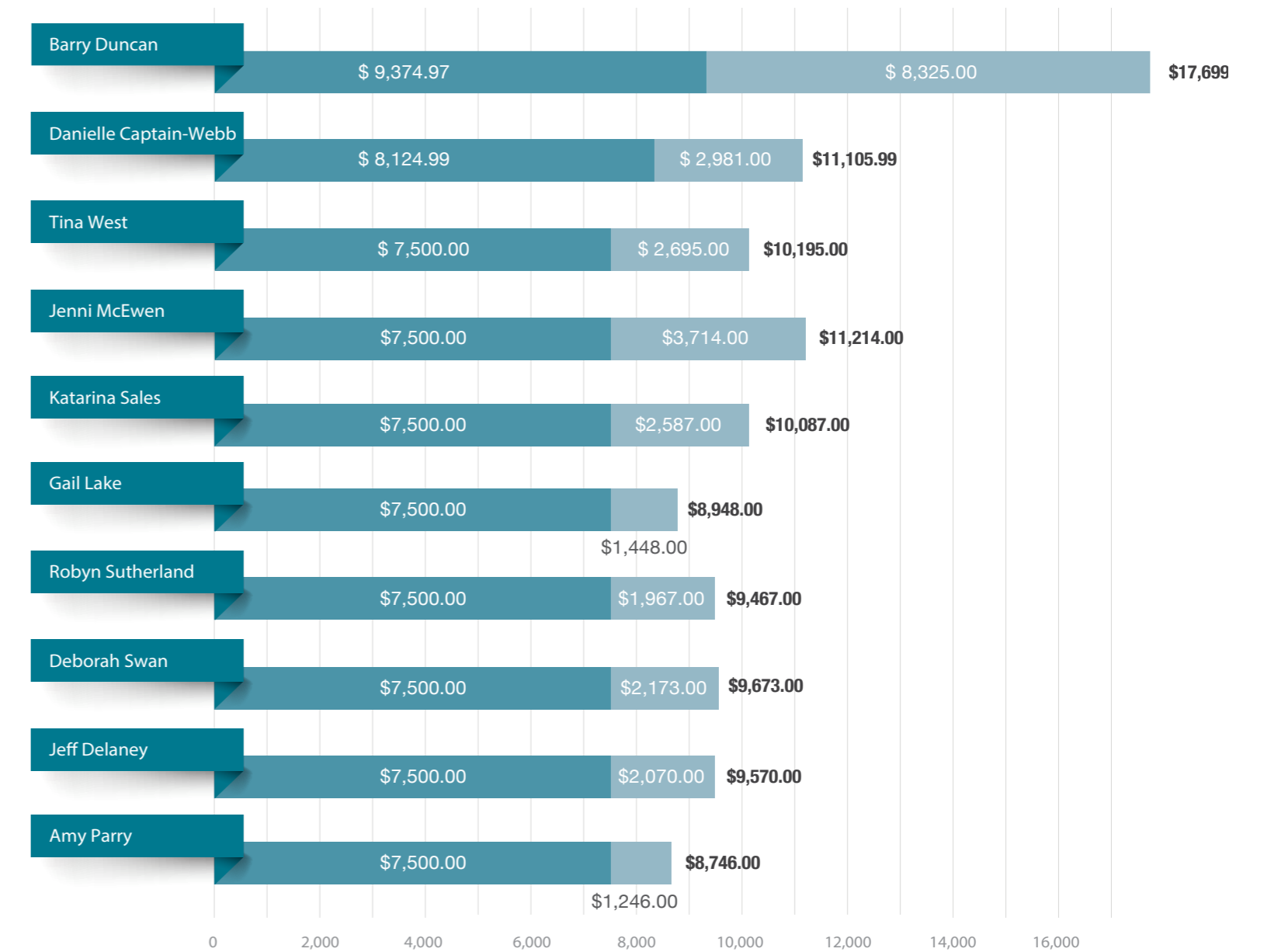
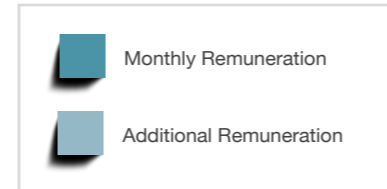
Ordinary and Extraordinary

Total Meeting Attendance	Number Attended	Number eligible to attend
Tina West	18	20
Amy Parry	17	20
Danielle Captain-Webb	19	20
Gail Lake	16	20
Jeff Delaney	19	20
Jenni McEwen	20	20
Katarina Sales	14	20
Robyn Sutherland	19	20
Deborah Swan	15	20
BJ Duncan	20	20

Ordinary Meetings Attendance	27/07/21	31/08/21	28/09/21	26/10/21	30/11/21	15/12/21	24/01/22	22/02/22	29/03/22	20/04/22	31/05/22	28/06/22
Tina West	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
Amy Parry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
Danielle Captain-Webb	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gail Lake	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Jeff Delaney	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
Jenni McEwen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Katarina Sales	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Robyn Sutherland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deborah Swan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓
BJ Duncan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

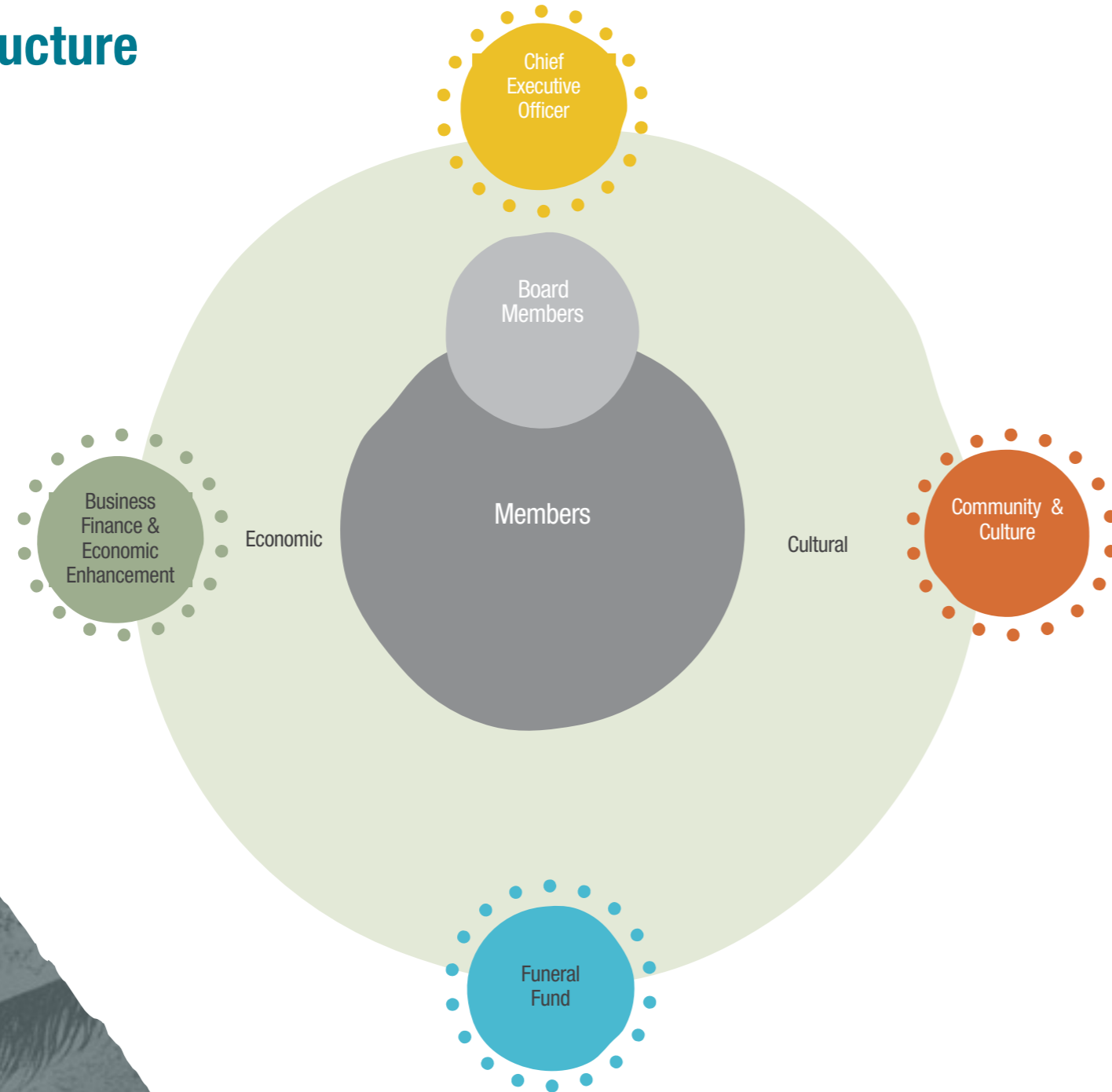
EOM Meeting Attendance	28/07/21	30/07/21	04/08/21	08/09/21	21/09/21	20/11/21	12/02/22	18/05/22
Tina West	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amy Parry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Danielle Captain-Webb	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Gail Lake	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Jeff Delaney	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jenni McEwen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Katarina Sales	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	✓	✓
Robyn Sutherland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Deborah Swan	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BJ Duncan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Board Remuneration

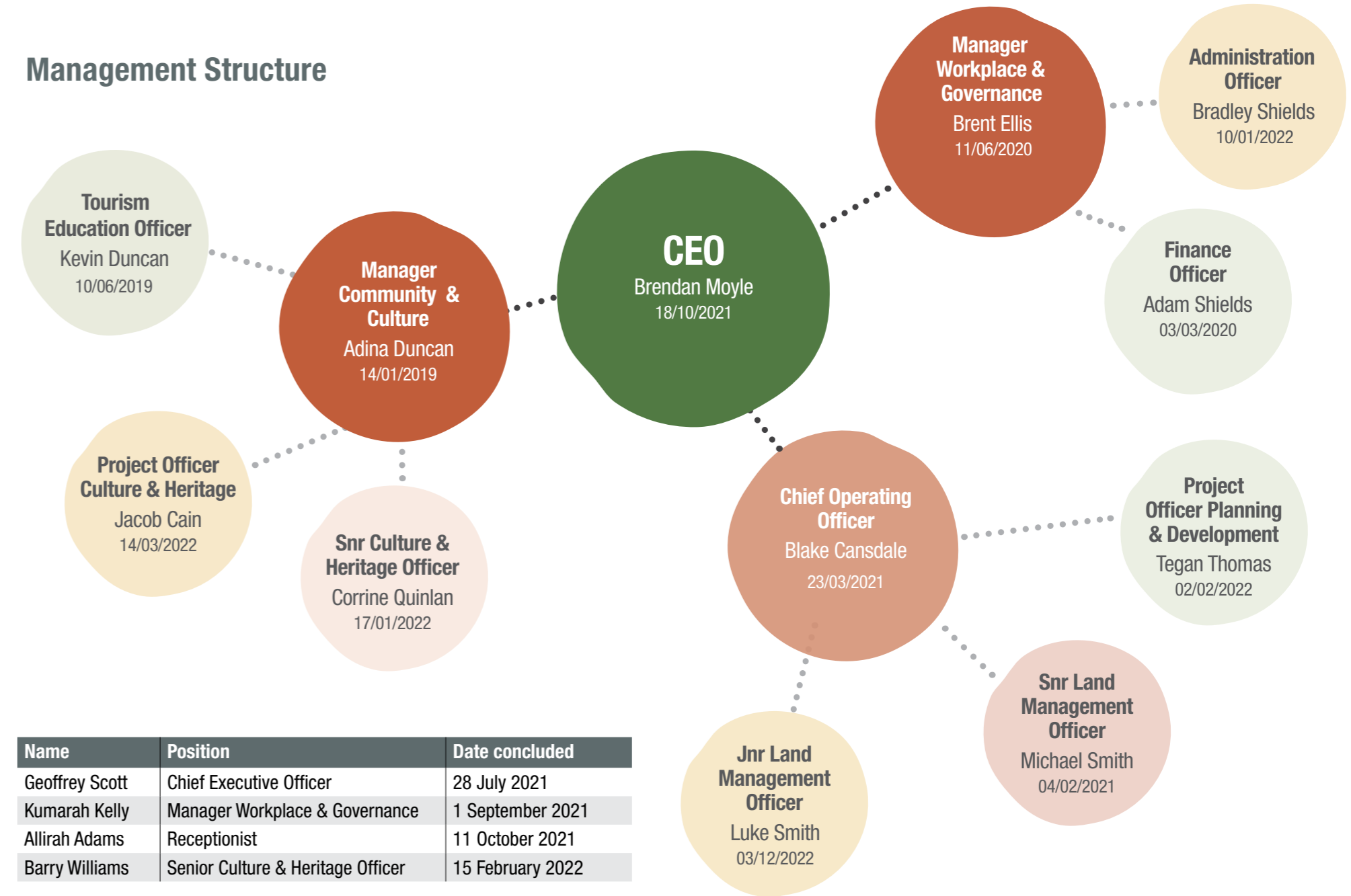


Management *and* Structure

Organisational Architecture



Management Structure



Name	Position	Date concluded
Geoffrey Scott	Chief Executive Officer	28 July 2021
Kumarah Kelly	Manager Workplace & Governance	1 September 2021
Allirah Adams	Receptionist	11 October 2021
Barry Williams	Senior Culture & Heritage Officer	15 February 2022



Message from Chief Executive Officer

The 2021-22 financial year has been a very big year for Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council (Darkinjung). I have been employed as the CEO since 18 October 2022, right as we came out of significant COVID outbreaks and lockdowns. It has been an honour working for Darkinjung over this time and we have achieved many things in line with the requirements under the Community Land and Business Plan (CLBP).

Over the last year we have continued to struggle with COVID requiring shifts to the way we work and we engage as a community, and recent flood events which have put so many mob at risk.

Darkinjung's operations have shifted to allow us to build more employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people, particularly around land management, cultural tourism, and cultural heritage management.

We are also pursuing funding sources from Government for this in line with their commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and in response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safeguards.

Over the last year we have signed an MOU with NRMA Holiday Parks, which is the first of its kind across NSW and provides opportunities to grow legitimate Aboriginal businesses and employment

opportunities while sharing culture. We continue to elevate the Central Coast and Darkinjung as a centrepiece of cultural tourism opportunities, recognising that we live close to the birthplace of so many of our Aboriginal nations' creation story – that of Biayami.

Through initiatives like this, we are continuing to build our cultural education and tourism, and cultural heritage services so that we can protect and promote culture while increasing employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Darkinjung continues to grow economic opportunities, with the Lake Munmorah residential development now moving through the zoning process. This will help Darkinjung to raise more funds that we can put into the intergenerational fund creating an economic future for generations to come, while providing home ownership opportunities for local Aboriginal people and helping to address the significant shortage of residential properties for the Central Coast community.

These opportunities will continue to build a financial base for Darkinjung to help our members through scholarships for our future generations at Darkinjung Barker, sponsorships for our members, funeral support and assistance, and a range of community activities.

We have also put forward a proposal to take possession of the former Dooralong Public School site under similar arrangements. This would allow Darkinjung to grow our partnership with Barker College and provide a facility where we can increase the number of Aboriginal children attending Darkinjung Barker while being in a better and more accessible facility.

Darkinjung is also working to develop opportunities to promote local legitimate Aboriginal businesses by creating a register that we can share across our stakeholders. This will help us to deliver on key objectives and outcomes under the CLBP, promoting local businesses and employment.

As always, Darkinjung will continue to work in partnership with a range of stakeholders to secure stronger outcomes for the Aboriginal community on the Central Coast. It continues to be a privilege to work in the Central Coast Aboriginal community, and progress outcomes that will benefit our Elders, our community, and our future generations.

Brendan Moyle, CEO

Summary Review of Operations

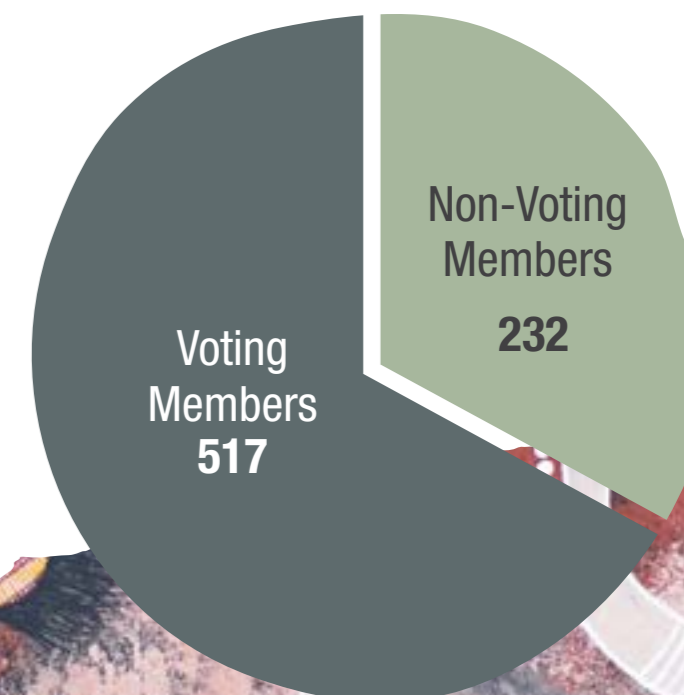
It was around this time two years ago when we first asked members to go gently on us as we fought to conduct business as usual under exceptionally trying circumstances. Little did we know then that COVID under its many guises would still be making its presence felt more than 2 Years later. Add to this a fair bit of adverse weather and it's safe to say that it sometimes feels like our lucky country is not so lucky after all. Yet the role we hold both as a council and a community group means that we don't get the chance to sit back and feel sorry for ourselves. Instead, circumstance has dictated that we continue to lead from the front when it comes to strengthening and empowering our community for our people – past, present and future. While it may appear that all has been quiet on the home front, this could not be further from the truth. In recent months we have signed a statement of intent to negotiate the potential transfer of Peat Island and furthered discussions around the possible development of an Aboriginal Discovery Centre, Indigenous Walking Path and cultural tourism opportunities on the site. In addition, we are forging ahead with plans for NAIDOC Week 2022, in September and hosted visits from the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) where we afforded a cultural tour of Bulgandry Aboriginal Place and Peat Island on Darkinjung country and taken part in the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (CAPO) Closing the Gap community consultation series. It appears we will be kept just as busy in upcoming weeks as we do our best to ensure our members voices continue to be represented in areas of cultural and heritage.

Member Meetings

EOM	20/12/2021	69 Members attended
EOM	14/12/2021	58 Members attended
OM	03/05/2022	71 Members attended
AGM	19/06/2022	59 Members attended
EOM	15/03/2022	57 Members attended

OM Ordinary Meeting
EOM Extra Ordinary Meeting
AGM Annual General Meeting

Total Members **749**
Voting Members quorum **52 (10%)**



Portfolio Performance 2021-2022

Jul-21	\$23,889,201.56	Nov-21	\$22,889,868.72	Mar-22	\$22,718,292.97
Aug-21	\$24,547,303.60	Dec-21	\$22,883,350.37	Apr-22	\$22,636,423.30
Sep-21	\$22,875,614.51	Jan-22	\$22,263,690.09	May-22	\$22,085,677.93
Oct-21	\$22,838,969.13	Feb-22	\$22,910,694.44	Jun-22	\$20,848,461.41

TYPE	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Listed Securities	\$938,241.00	\$4,810,879.83	\$5,478,170.45	\$4,827,783.83	\$6,416,048.27	\$5,234,812.96
Managed Investments	\$2,491,809.93	\$15,846,648.62	\$16,597,508.21	\$15,252,008.67	\$17,013,903.52	\$15,454,909.02
Fixed Interest & Cash Investments	\$61,875.00	\$961,026.75	\$800,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Direct Cash	\$12,996,360.27	\$148,108.34	\$241,941.78	\$66,571.52	\$101,775.34	\$158,739.44
TOTAL	\$16,488,286.20	\$21,766,633.54	\$23,117,620.44	\$20,146,364.02	\$23,531,727.13	\$20,848,461.41

TYPE	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Portfolio distributions on managed Funds	\$346,098	\$803,969	\$513,240	\$818,610.46	\$989,897.77	890,307.97
Dividend accrued on listed securities	\$0.00	\$37,094	\$22,769	\$262,245.53	\$164,494.58	342,717.97
Total	\$16,834.38	\$22,607.73	\$23,681.19	\$20,146,364.02	\$23,531,727.13	\$20,848,461.41

Community Land and Business Plan Implementation Report

The following is an annual report of the implementation of the objectives, strategies and actions outlined in the statutory requirements of the LALCs CLBP.

ACQUISITION, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AND OTHER ASSETS: Nil

LAND CLAIMS – GRANTED: Nil

ALC'S LODGED

Claim	Date Of Claim	Claim Status	Area M2	Lots	Determination Date	Determination
53636	6/09/2021	Incomplete	69,780.20	159/45606		
53655	13/09/2021	Incomplete	10,078.50	36/755221		
54123	8/03/2022	Incomplete	40,418.90	218/755271,219/755271		

Note the incomplete status means it's not yet determined. ALC's Granted None have been granted.

ALC'S REFUSED

CLAIM	DATE OF CLAIM	CLAIM STATUS	AREA M2	LOTS	DETERMINATION DATE	DETERMINATION
37395	31/10/2014	Refused	1,294.78	626/822121,626/822121	11/03/2022	Refused
44729	3/07/2017	Refused	1,294.78	626/822121	11/03/2022	Refused
15921	2/06/2008	Incomplete	1,480,410.00	7020/1124384	11/04/2022	Refused
17363	27/02/2009	Incomplete	1,418,850.00	7020/1124384	11/04/2022	Refused

LEASES

LOT	DP	LESSEE	VALUE	DURATION	DETERMINATION DATE
153	725117	NBN Co.	\$17,000/year + 2.5% increase per annum (2022 payment was \$19,680 incl. GST)	3/4/2020 - 2/4/2025	11/03/2022

DISPOSAL

LOT	DP	SALE VALUE	PURPOSE	STATUS
10	1230083	\$84,000 (excl. GST)	to limit liability of owning land of minimal value to DLALC	Finalised

LAND CLAIMS TRANSFERRED WITHIN FINANCIAL YEAR

LOT 14 DP 1118119 – 365 Bushells Ridge NSW 2259
LOT 751 DP 1277822 – Dandaloo St, Kariong NSW 2250
LOT 752 DP 1277822 – Dandaloo St, Kariong NSW 2250
LOT 3 DP 1281551 – Morgans Rd, Wendoree Park NSW 2250

PURCHASES

LOT	DP	PURCHASE VALUE	ADDRESS
1	1056297	\$1.00	15A Wisemans Ferry Rd, Somersby NSW 2250

Goal 1

Aboriginal Culture and Heritage

Objective: Maintain, Strengthen & Celebrate Aboriginal Values, Our Culture & Our Heritage.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE WORK	FY21	FY22
Aboriginal Heritage Site Surveys	19	39
Conservation work	3	5
Updated AHIMs	13	10
Response to DA applications, Arch report, Management Plans	5	6
Environmental works	13	16

STRATEGY	ACTION	STATUS
1. Promote and develop Aboriginal values and Aboriginal cultural knowledge in our community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to bring our community together by hosting community events to teach our people our history and culture and to improve connections within our community. Secure a hall or community facility for members to use and to host community events. Establish and run regular cultural events, e.g. 'Caring for Country' days and Elders Olympics. Develop a communications strategy to engage with members and other Aboriginal people in our area, including by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining Darkinjung LALC's social media accounts; maintaining our website; providing a forum for members to raise issues, including a forum for members to raise issues anonymously; undertaking surveys; and keeping members up to date on Land Council meetings, policies and events, as well as other relevant non-Land Council news. Organise excursions and camps for the community with a focus on cultural immersion and teaching. Provide family education and skills classes to members, including speakers on history, community development, family relationships, etc. Continue to support members in cultural practices. 	Ongoing

2. Improve the understanding of Aboriginal values in the broader community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer seminars to the public to teach them about Aboriginal culture and history in Darkinjung LALC's area. Develop a list of capable and willing volunteers to speak with authority on these issues. Invite non-Aboriginal people and groups to participate in community events and activities. Develop a brand profile for Darkinjung LALC which projects the objects it pursues and the values that drive it. Develop relationships with local and State media organisations to assist the Land Council to communicate with the wider community. Develop partnerships with key non-Indigenous organisations in Darkinjung LALC's area including Central Coast Council, major sporting and arts bodies, civic organisations and other NGO's. Establish working parties with these groups. Advocate publicly on issues important to our community. Document our relationships and partnerships with media, governments and other organisations and promote these where they are successful. Prepare and disseminate an official acknowledgement of country for use at official events. Create and maintain partnerships with local schools and other training organisations, including the Darkinjung Barker school. Engage with stakeholders to create or upgrade signage to identify Darkinjung LALC and Darkinjung boundaries. 	
3. Identifying and cataloging new Aboriginal culturally significant land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake regular site visits to ensure all Aboriginal sites in our area are protected and conserved. Develop a cultural heritage site overlay to identify sites in Darkinjung LALC's area. Publish information on the importance of Aboriginal sites and landscapes within our area. Develop and implement a cultural burn policy for land in Darkinjung LALC's area. Partner with the Rural Fire Service when developing and implementing the policy. Run community 'Caring for Country' working bee and excursion days to educate and engage our members. 	Ongoing
4. Improve the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for law reform which better protects Aboriginal culture and heritage, including Aboriginal sites, objects, and landscapes. Coordinate with NSWALC, the Network and other Aboriginal organisations to seek better protections for Aboriginal culture and heritage. Where appropriate, seek the return of Aboriginal objects and artefacts to Aboriginal ownership. 	Ongoing
5. Develop an Aboriginal cultural heritage service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up an Aboriginal cultural heritage service. Employ site officers to identify, record, monitor and advise on Aboriginal cultural heritage within Darkinjung LALC's area. Use Darkinjung LALC's website and social media to promote its Aboriginal cultural heritage service. 	Ongoing

Goal 2 Community Benefit Schemes

Objective: To enhance the social wellbeing and participation of our community

STRATEGY	ACTION	STATUS
1. Develop an understanding of our community needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake surveys and host forums and workshops for members and other Aboriginal people in our area to understand their needs in relation to housing, employment, health, connection, and other things. Identify members and families in need of priority assistance. 	Ongoing
2. Assist members to obtain decent and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to operate our social housing program. Ensure our social housing policies encourage tenants to seek and maintain employment. Advocate for other government and non-government social housing policies to reflect the same. Investigate options to upgrade and improve the infrastructure and landscaping for our housing properties. Assist members to access housing services where this cannot be provided by Darkinjung LALC. Investigate options for home ownership schemes for our members and: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> build relationships with capability partners, e.g., developers, banks and other financiers. develop a business case; and implement a pilot program. Investigate options for the construction of new homes, either as part of a home ownership scheme or as social housing for members. Offer seminars to members and other Aboriginal people in our area to understand strategies for achieving home ownership and for overcoming poverty and homelessness. 	Ongoing

STRATEGY	ACTION	STATUS
3. Assist our ageing members to access culturally- appropriate care services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with government and non-government aged care providers in Darkinjung LALC's area to assist them to deliver culturally-appropriate aged care to Aboriginal people. Identify land that would be suitable for an aged care facility for members and other Aboriginal people, investigate funding options and develop a business case 	Ongoing
4. Improve the health of Aboriginal people in our area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with organisations providing health services to Aboriginal people to discuss how Darkinjung LALC can assist them in their objectives, including by offering the use of Darkinjung LALC's facilities. 	Ongoing
5. Educate and train our members and their families to build their capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build and maintain partnerships and relationships with RTO's to facilitate training courses for members. Partner with TAFE and other skills-training providers to provide courses to apprentices and trainees. Establish a scholarship fund for students to support high-achieving students and students in need. Work with other scholarship funds to provide the same. Host seminars for parents on how they can support their children's learning. Establish a fund to assist families with school and training-related costs such as uniforms, supplies and excursions. Provide a forum for Darkinjung Youth to speak to the Board about youth issues. Develop a 'Young Community' program to mentor Darkinjung Youth. Engage with other Aboriginal mentoring programs such as AIME to do the same. 	Ongoing
6. Create and support employment for the Darkinjung Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and prioritise employment opportunities for members and other Aboriginal people in Darkinjung LALC's businesses. Assist members to start businesses and utilise Federal and State Government procurement opportunities. Setup a fund to assist jobseekers with job-related costs such as tools, clothing, equipment, etc. Identify opportunities including by working with capacity partners to create jobs for Darkinjung members and other Aboriginal people. 	Ongoing
7. Support our members with the passing of a loved one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to operate our Funeral Fund for members and their families. Support members and their families in organising a funeral for a loved one. Investigate options for an Aboriginal cemetery on Darkinjung LALC land. 	Ongoing

Goal 2 Community Benefit Schemes

Objective: To enhance the social wellbeing and participation of our community

STRATEGY	ACTION	STATUS
8. Improve our own capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ staff to organise and coordinate community events and seminars, setup and administer the funds identified in this Plan, build relationships and partnerships with other organisations, and monitor the implementation of this Plan. Provide leadership and professional development opportunities to staff and members. Prioritise the employment of Aboriginal people from our area where possible. 	Ongoing
9. Support inmates and released prisoners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support inmates and released prisoners in their rehabilitation Support the families of inmates and released prisoners 	Ongoing
10. Identify and develop other plans to deliver community benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate other options to provide community benefits to our members including options to support the teaching or celebration of Aboriginal values by other organisations. Develop our own administrative capacity to deliver further community benefit schemes. Only pursue further schemes if they do not unreasonably detract from our existing programs. Where appropriate, apply for grants from Government and private bodies to support additional community benefit schemes 	Ongoing

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

The Darkinjung Emergency Relief Fund is available to be accessed only by Members of Darkinjung. Members applying are required to meet the criteria expressed under the Policy guidelines endorsed by the Board of Darkinjung and funds are provided in the form of Vouchers universally accepted.

Scheme	Purpose	Number of beneficiaries	Income	Expenditure
Emergency Relief	To assist Members when there are insufficient resources to meet short term urgent need.	49	\$20,000	\$19,800

DARKINJUNG BUS

The Darkinjung bus continues to be used for the purposes of events and Members to bring our community together and so our community can travel home to country as required. Members are able to hire the bus when needed. The bus has been utilised on 23 occasions for the financial year 2021-22



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Darkinjung's housing portfolio is comprised of 28 properties, located at both the north and south ends of the Central Coast. Darkinjung completes refurbishments of each vacant house in preparation for new tenants for the financial year 2021-2022 all properties were tenanted.

Objective	Strategy	Action	Status
Affordable Housing	Provision of housing to members at cost recovery rents	Management of Policy is in-house. Management of properties by local Real estate agent.	Ongoing

Scheme	Shape
Purpose	Housing
Beneficiaries	28
Total rental income	\$259,237.30
Total rental expenses	\$147,118.48

SPONSORSHIP

Darkinjung recognises and values the role of individuals in contributing support and development of its diverse community. To this end, Darkinjung offered 23 sponsorship contributions to eligible members through its Sponsorship Program. Darkinjung recognises that individuals and groups within the community require funds for community celebrations, events and activities. Sponsorship is provided under five different categories.

Arts & Culture	\$3125.00
Education	\$33,364.59
Sports	\$ 7,500.00
Elders	\$ 11,925.00
Youth	\$ 3,125.00
Total	\$ 59,770.95

NAIDOC WEEK 2022



The adverse weather conditions experienced up and down the Eastern seaboard forced Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council (Darkinjung) to postpone a number of NAIDOC Week 2022 activities.

NAIDOC Week 2022 was due to have taken place from Sunday 3 July to Sunday 10 July. But owing to concerns over localised flooding causing the evacuation of some parts of the Central Coast, the board felt it had no choice but to temporarily delay some NAIDOC Week activities.

Events impacted by the decision include the Darkinjung Elders on Country Day scheduled for Wednesday 6th July, the Darkinjung Family Fun Day due to take place on Thursday 7th July and the much-anticipated Darkinjung NAIDOC Golf Day scheduled for Friday 8th July.

This years' NAIDOC week event was limited to our incredible NAIDOC Ball which was an exciting and fun night of revelry for all who attended.



Goal 3 Acquisition, Management and Development of Land and other assets

Objective: To ensure the prosperity of our Community through the effective management of current and future assets.

STRATEGY	ACTION	STATUS
1. Acquire strategic land through land claims, Aboriginal land agreements, purchase and lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review land claims to identify claims for priority determination and refer these to Crown Lands. 	<p>Darkinjung is awaiting the finalisation of 3 of the 20 claims referred to the Crown Lands' LALC 20 Priority Claims initiative.</p> <p>On the conclusion of the LNP and LALC 20 initiative, Darkinjung will review remaining outstanding claims and advise Crown Lands of the order in which we wish for them to be determined</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to make land claims. 	Darkinjung submitted two land claims in FY21/22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Crown land which is strategically valuable to Darkinjung LALC and seek the transfer of this land under an Aboriginal land agreement or other agreement. 	<p>Darkinjung has been negotiating the transfer of Lot 10-11 DP 1157280 (Peat Island, Mooney Mooney) into our ownership since November 2021. If the acquisition proceeds, it will involve a purchase for nominal consideration.</p> <p>Since early 2022, Darkinjung has been negotiating with the NSW Government to transfer the former Dooralong Public School into our ownership.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage in the land negotiation process. 	Darkinjung recommenced negotiations under the Land Negotiation Program with Crown Lands in mid-2021. Subject to the new favourable negotiating parameters, Darkinjung is expecting a bulk transfer of land to us by early 2023.

STRATEGY	ACTION	STATUS
1. cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase or lease strategic properties where required, e.g. for a community hall. 	In mid-late 2021, Darkinjung purchased Lot 1 DP 1056297 (15A Wisemans Ferry Road, Somersby) from Hunter & Central Coast Development Corporation for nominal consideration. This land adjoins other land owned by Darkinjung and constitutes a short to medium-term development priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire culturally-significant land and sites to preserve. 	<p>Darkinjung is negotiating with the owner of Lot 5 DP 876323 (10 Vere Place, Somersby) to transfer part of the land which contains significant Aboriginal cultural heritage features into Darkinjung's ownership. This transfer would likely proceed by way of purchase for nominal consideration.</p> <p>Darkinjung is negotiating with the owner of Lot 14 DP 1015195 (7 Ainslie Cl, Somersby) for legal access to a portion of the site that contains significant Aboriginal cultural heritage features.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to acquire properties being divested by housing providers, e.g. the AHO. 	Ongoing

Goal 3 Acquisition, Management and Development of Land and other assets

Objective: To ensure the prosperity of our Community through the effective management of current and future assets.

STRATEGY	ACTION	STATUS
2. Progress and deliver Darkinjung LALC's priority projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress and deliver Darkinjung's four key priority projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Munmorah residential subdivision (in stages); Wallarah industrial and employment precinct; Somersby rural residential development and conservation lands; Kariong low density residential and conservation lands. Pursue other priority projects identified in the Strategic Land Assessment Developments should only proceed where legal constraints, such as biodiversity constraints, do not unfairly burden Darkinjung LALC. 	<p>Darkinjung's Lake Munmorah planning proposal went on public exhibition in mid-2022 and the stage one rezoning is due for completion by late 2022.</p> <p>In late 2021, Darkinjung entered a memorandum of understanding with Landcom (NSW Government's land and property development organisation). Darkinjung is exploring a potential joint venture partnership with Landcom to deliver on our Lake Munmorah development.</p> <p>Darkinjung's Kariong planning proposal is due for public exhibition in mid-late 2022 and rezoning is due for completion by early 2023.</p> <p>Darkinjung's Somersby planning proposal is on hold pending the outcome of work to overcome barriers presented by the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme.</p> <p>In mid to late 2022, Darkinjung will begin implementing a market engage strategy to secure a joint venture partner for our Wallarah industrial development site.</p> <p>In early 2022, Darkinjung submitted a significant government funding application seeking funding to construct Aunty Betty's Place—supported independent living facility in Blue Haven (Lot 329-330 DP 1209705).</p> <p>Darkinjung continues to explore opportunities to achieve a development outcome for our Halekulani development site (Lot 627 DP 727733).</p>

STRATEGY	ACTION	STATUS
3. Streamline and improve development pathway for Darkinjung LALC's development projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Darkinjung Delivery Framework including by assisting the Minister to prepare a Development Delivery Plan for Darkinjung LALC's priority projects. 	<p>Darkinjung continues to work with the Department of Planning & Environment to finalise our Development Delivery Plan (DDP). In late 2021, Darkinjung began advocating for a change to the scope and structure of our DDP. Whilst this caused a slight delay, the proposed changes were accepted by the Department and will have a beneficial impact for Darkinjung.</p> <p>Darkinjung's final DDP will contain approximately 28 development sites (our development pipeline) and is due for completion by late 2022.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to include all priority projects in the Aboriginal Land SEPP. 	As above
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options for improving the development pathway for Darkinjung projects including legislative reform. Advocate for legislative change where required. Advocate for an independent, specialist body to assess development on LALC land. Develop a strategic plan which identifies Darkinjung's priority development land and land which Darkinjung considers appropriate for nature conservation. 	<p>Since mid-2021, Darkinjung has been advocating to the Department that the Aboriginal SEPP (now the Planning Systems SEPP) requires significant reform, such that it genuinely delivers LALCs a unique planning pathway that is more effective and efficient than existing ordinary pathways. Once the Minister has endorsed Darkinjung's final DDP, we will continue this advocacy direct with the Minister for Planning.</p> <p>Darkinjung is engaged in regular and ongoing reform dialogue with the Department across a range of areas to do with Aboriginal Land Planning in NSW.</p> <p>As of June 2022, Darkinjung has sought to be joined to the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme Stakeholder Reference Group. This group is overseeing the NSW Government's review of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme in NSW.</p> <p>In early 2021, Darkinjung assisted the Department in the design of the newly proposed Strategic Planning Panel/s. The Department is yet to confirm the scope and function of these Indigenous planning panels, however they are set to commence operating in mid to late 2022.</p> <p>Darkinjung worked extensively with the Department to ensure that the Central Coast Regional Plan (2041) complimented, as far as possible, Darkinjung's development pipeline. The Regional Plan also recognises and elevates Darkinjung's broader social, cultural and environmental aspirations. The Regional Plan is due to be published in late 2022.</p> <p>Together, Darkinjung's final DDP and the Central Coast Regional Plan constitute a strong strategic platform from which to pursue economic self-determination for our community.</p>

Goal 3 Acquisition, Management and Development of Land and other assets

Objective: To ensure the prosperity of our Community through the effective management of current and future assets.

4. Develop a plan for a Darkinjung Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate land suitable for a cemetery. 	As part of the Land Negotiation Program, Darkinjung is investigating the suitability of several locations for a Darkinjung cemetery. If due diligence on these sites shows that they are unsuitable for this purpose, Darkinjung will work with a Planning Partner to identify suitable land within our existing estate in late 2022/early 2023.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a feasibility study and business case for the establishment of a cemetery. 	In 2023, Darkinjung will begin preparing a feasibility study on the establishment of a cemetery on any viable sites identified.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where appropriate, partner with another cemetery manager to deliver a cemetery for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. 	In 2023, Darkinjung will begin preparing a business case for establishment of a Darkinjung cemetery. This business case will explore various business structures for owning and/or operating a cemetery, including a range of partnership models.
5. Manage existing holdings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the recommendations of the Strategic Land Assessment. Maintain a database of landholdings and land under claim. Identify surplus lands and assets for disposal to fund key priority projects. Maintain a database of all studies and research undertaken in relation to our holdings and land under claim. 	<p>Darkinjung is using the recommendations of our Strategic Land Assessment (2020) as the basis of our final development delivery plan.</p> <p>Darkinjung is maintaining a suite of digital tools for recording, analysing and managing our landholdings (e.g. cloud-based content management system, a detailed master land ownership and land claims register and a geographic information system (GIS) for mapping our owned land and land under claim). Whilst Darkinjung currently uses Google Earth for our digital mapping and geospatial data management, we are working closely with NSWALC, the NSW Government and Central Coast Council to build our own proprietary GIS platform and improve the capacity of our staff to utilise this technology to manage our land in a modern, sophisticated and cost-effective manner.</p> <p>In FY21/22, Darkinjung members resolved to sell three surplus lands, those lands being Greenmans Track (Lot 10 DP 1230083), land adjacent to Doyalson RSL (Lot 7340 DP 1166918) and land subject to encroachment by Ognis Pty Ltd (Lot 8 DP 1230083). These lands were agreed to be sold to fund key priority projects such as Darkinjung's supported independent living facility in Blue Haven (Aunty Betty's Place).</p>

STRATEGY	ACTION	STATUS
6. Develop other income streams from land and other assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse our portfolio of land and other assets to identify other possible income streams. Develop a business case for potential income streams. Obtain expert advice and undertake appropriate due diligence on all business and land ventures, including early engagement with NSWALC and other approval authorities. 	<p>Darkinjung is undertaking several complimentary feasibility studies of the following options for leveraging our conservation estate to achieve a dual economic and environmental outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSW biodiversity offset scheme Carbon trading Cultural burn credits Green/renewable energies market <p>As of June 2022, Darkinjung is exploring a potential joint government funding application with Central Coast Council to develop a business case for entering the green/renewable energies market on the Central Coast.</p> <p>Darkinjung works closely with a small group of Planning Partners and legal experts, as well as a wider group of specialist consultants, to undertake appropriate due diligence on all business and land ventures. Darkinjung engages consultants in a manner that delivers maximum value for money to our community. Darkinjung's approach in 2022 to the potential acquisition of Peat Island and to the potential joint venture partnership with Landcom regarding our Lake Munmorah development are both examples of our thorough yet cost-effective approach to managing our complex business and land ventures.</p>

Goal 3 Acquisition, Management and Development of Land and other assets

Objective: To ensure the prosperity of our Community through the effective management of current and future assets.

STRATEGY	ACTION	STATUS
7. Investigate conservation options for land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options for applying Darkinjung LALC 	Ongoing
8. Promote Aboriginal enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for businesses owned by our members to operate on Darkinjung LALC land. 	Darkinjung has begun to develop a register of Aboriginal Businesses on the Central Coast to progress this item .
9. Pursue partnerships to utilise land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek capability partners to develop and use land for commercial or community purposes. 	<p>Darkinjung has been building a strong working relationship with Landcom since mid-2021 . Darkinjung sees Landcom as a key capability partner that could assist in delivering on our development pipeline.</p> <p>Throughout FY21/22, Darkinjung has continued working extensively with the Department of Planning and Environment (the Department), to maintain/grow this strategic relationship. Darkinjung’s partnership with the Department ensures that we’re at the coalface of Aboriginal Land Planning in NSW and thereby strategically positioned to achieve our land and broader economic development goals.</p> <p>Throughout FY21/22 Darkinjung has worked closely with key development industry bodies, including Regional Development Australia and the Urban Development Institute of Australia. Darkinjung’s relationship with these organisations is important for promoting our land-based economic opportunities.</p> <p>Throughout FY21/22 Darkinjung worked closely with Central Coast Council’s environment and planning and economic development divisions, and the executive to build a stronger working relationship between our two organisations. Importantly, Darkinjung supported the Council with the development of the Central Coast First Nations Accord and Acknowledgement of Country. This Accord is an important step toward developing a shared vision for the future of our region and a collaborative relationship between Darkinjung and the Central Coast Council. The Accord is due to be published in mid to late 2022.</p>

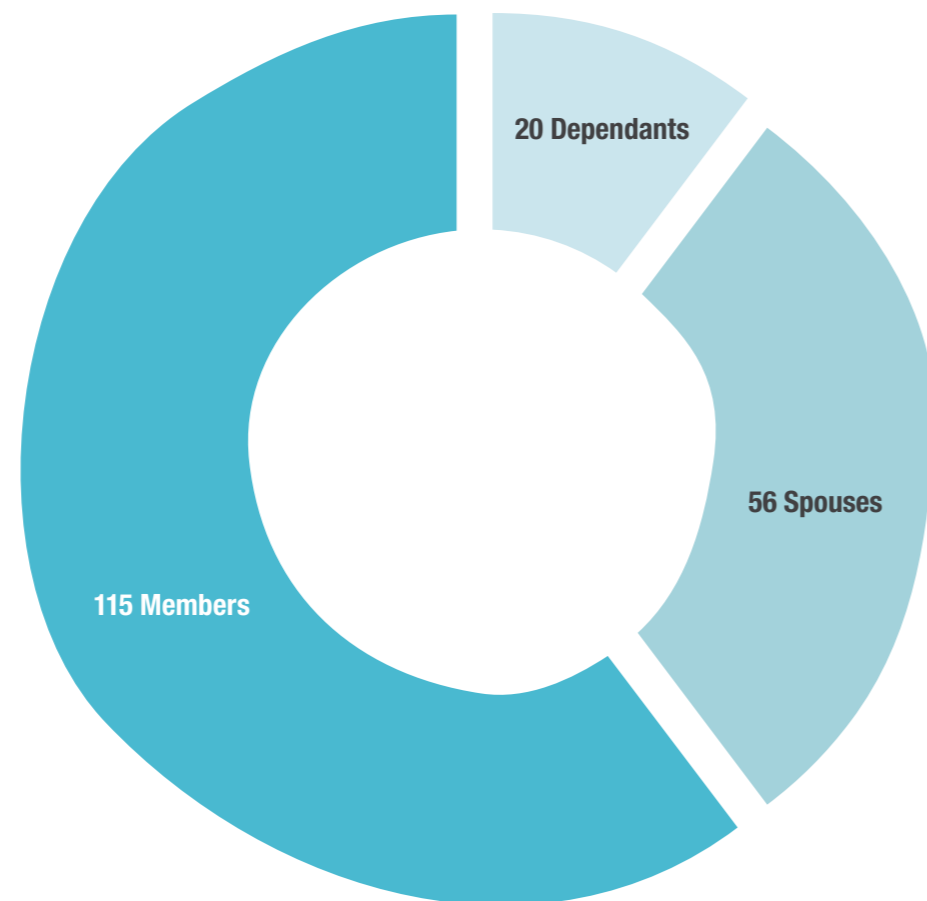
STRATEGY	ACTION	STATUS
10. Develop a Ranger Program to manage, protect and regenerate land and sites within our area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design a Ranger Program with input from NPWS, the NSW Government and Central Coast Council. Implement the Program. The Ranger Program may operate as a business offering land management services but can also comprise volunteers interested in Caring for Country. 	In June 2022, Darkinjung received government funding to develop a Darkinjung conservation land strategy. The focus of this funding is to assist LALCs to navigate the complexities of the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme. Darkinjung will be utilising this funding in part to design, development and implement a Ranger Program.

Darkinjung Funeral Fund

Darkinjung is committed to what we see as our responsibility to support our members and the Aboriginal population within our boundaries. The Darkinjung Funeral Fund is an initiative designed to offer peace of mind and security to our members and their families when needed most. The cost of a funeral can be unexpected, and the costs incurred are often passed onto loved ones or members of the community. The flexible funeral plans are specifically tailored to our members to help meet the costs of culturally appropriate funeral services for our people.

The breakdown of this is as follows:

In force as at 30 June 2021	184
Former Members re-joining	1
Deaths	5
Lapses	0
New Members	11
In force as at 30 June 2022	191



ENTITY ACTIVITIES AND EXPENDITURE

Name of Entity	Darkinjung Funeral Fund Pty Ltd	
Darkinjung Funeral Fund Pty Ltd	Barry Duncan	Non- Executive Director Chairperson
	Danielle Captain- Webb	Non- Executive Director Deputy Chairperson
	Amy Parry	Non- Executive Director
	Jenni Mcewen	Non- Executive Director
	Robyn Sutherland	Non- Executive Director
	Jeffrey Delaney	Non- Executive Director
	Tina West	Non- Executive Director
	Katarina Sales	Non- Executive Director
	Deborah Swan	Non- Executive Director
	Gail Lake	Non- Executive Director
	Brendan Moyle	Chief Executive Officer
	Brent Ellis	Workplace And Governance Manager
	Adam Shields	Finance Officer
Objectives & Purpose	Provides members, their spouses and dependents with an affordable funeral service	
Value of entity	\$63,000	
Approval of assets transferred to the entity	\$0	
Activities/performance targets	Increase membership base by 10% per annum	
Legal reports to LALC	Monthly management statements and annual audited financial statements	

Goal 4 Business enterprises and investment

Objective: Develop new Darkinjung businesses and grow our existing businesses while prudently managing our investments

Objective	Strategy	Status
1. Develop our key landholdings and priority projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise the development of our priority projects as set out in this Plan. 	Ongoing
2. Set up an Aboriginal cultural heritage business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options to set up an Aboriginal cultural heritage business. Prepare a business case. Partner with tertiary education organisations and other organisations if required. Market our Aboriginal cultural heritage business. 	Ongoing
3. Develop other complementary businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop other complementary businesses to support existing Land Council business and deliver further jobs and benefits to our members and Aboriginal people in our area. Businesses could include land management and bush regeneration, seed collection, plant nursery, etc. Prepare a business case and seek independent advice for all new business ideas. 	Ongoing
4. Manage the risks of our businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where appropriate, operate new business enterprises through separate entities to manage the risks to Darkinjung LALC and its other assets and to provide flexibility to the new business. Ensure members are kept informed of the operations of our businesses. 	Ongoing
5. Grow the Intergenerational Wealth Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to invest into the wealth fund were prudent. Ensure all fund assets are prudently managed for the benefit of future generations. Consult with or retain independent expert advisors or fund managers to advise us on our investments. There is no requirement for surplus funds to be invested in the wealth fund. 	Ongoing

Objective	Strategy	Status
6. Maintain a prudent investment strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider and, if appropriate based on independent professional advice, use the range of potential investments available under the ALRA and the Regulation including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Australian and international equities. term deposits. Government-backed securities. real property and property trusts; and other investments that Darkinjung LALC determines are in the best interests of it and Aboriginal people in its area. Ensure all investments comply with the ALRA. Nothing in this Plan requires Darkinjung LALC to allocate assets to a particular investment. 	Ongoing
7. Take advantage of Indigenous procurement targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take advantage of Federal and State Government procurement targets where possible. Seek to develop businesses in joint venture with capability partners. Seek to partner with other Indigenous businesses on joint projects where possible. Assist members and their businesses to take advantage of procurement opportunities. 	Ongoing

Consultants

CONSULTANT NAME	DETAILS	ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL COST FOR FINANCIAL YEAR (EXCL GST)
DLALC GENERAL CONSULTANTS			
Aboriginal Carbon Fund	Feasibility Study		\$16,500.00
AccessEAP	Staff Support		\$4,895.00
Aplas Group Pty Ltd	Construction Estimates		\$3,960.00
Barr Property & Planning Pty Ltd	Planning		\$19,841.29
Beetson & Associates Pty Ltd	ACTING CEO		\$24,544.60
Blackash Bushfire Consulting	GRANT RESEARCH		\$11,660.00
Cal Davis Advisory Services	Acting CEO		\$12,080.00
Chalk & Behrendt Lawyers & Consultants	Advisor Fees		\$66,539.76
Clarke Dowdle & Associates	Planning		\$4,400.00
Douglas Partners Pty Ltd	Engineering		\$3,921.50
Employsure Pty Ltd	HR Advisor		\$10,733.58
Hill PDA Consulting	Planning		\$11,000.00
Independent Property Valuations (IPV)	Valuation Services		\$7,700.00
M&K Business Solutions	Bookkeeping/Accountant		\$22,366.68
MBM Legal & Conveyancing	Planning		\$4,319.30
Michael Leavey Consulting	Planning		\$31,561.75
Morris & Piper Advisory	Grant Research		\$8,800.00
Northrop Consulting Engingeers Pty Ltd	Engineering		\$16,214.00
Sub total		15	\$388,888.67
Other Consultants < \$50,000		3	\$35,866.39
Sub total		3	\$35,866.39

CONSULTANT NAME	DETAILS	ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL COST FOR FINANCIAL YEAR (EXCL GST)
DLALC GENERAL CONSULTANTS			
Praxis Learning	Planning		\$330.00
Preston Rowe Paterson Newcastle & Central Coast	Valuation Services		\$1,650.00
Ryan Andrew Lees	Media Production		\$4,350.00
SECA Solution Pty Ltd	Planning		\$3,905.00
Stanford Property	Property		\$22,000.00
SWA Recovery & Investigation Group	Advisor Fees		\$495.00
TraceAbility Communications	Media Releases		\$7,603.75
Umwelt Australia Pty Ltd	Planning		\$17,924.50
Unity Accounting Pty Ltd	Bookkeeping/Accountant		\$134,267.19
Walter Partners	Auditor Fees		\$46,750.00
Wycom Technology	IT SUPPORT		\$35,139.50
Total			\$555,452.40

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the 2022 financial year, Darkinjung approved the following related party transactions in line with the LALC's applicable policies:

- \$5,000 granted as sponsorship to office bearers.
- \$11,180 granted to the children of office bearers; and
- \$1,825 granted as sponsorship to office bearers' parent.

News

STATEMENT ON ABORIGINALITY AND CULTURAL AUTHORITY ISSUED

A surge in attacks from misinformed members of the public has forced DLALC (Darkinjung) to issue a statement outlining what constitutes cultural authority and legitimate Aboriginality. The board also made a statement denouncing what it called "the current vitriol" being directed at its membership and instead praised the sensational work being carried out by its staff.

DLALC Chairperson Barry Duncan says recent press has seen an increase in attacks on Darkinjung and non-Aboriginal people, politicians and institutions that work with the organisation.

Understanding Aboriginality and cultural authority is a topic that is continuing to grow in our communities across the Central Coast, across New South Wales, and across Australia, he says.

"Most unfortunate is seeing the tirades being directed by non-Indigenous people within this."

In an attempt to address the issue, the statement outlined what the term traditional ownership actually means in relation to the Native Title Act 1993 as well as breaking down the differences between land rights and native title.

In addition, he also offered a step-by-step breakdown of the definition of Aboriginality as it relates to the law.

Having heritage alone does not make you an Aboriginal person, he says.

"It means that you have some heritage but does not



necessarily mean that you are an Aboriginal person. People suddenly finding out about long lost ancestry or had not identified or lived as an Aboriginal person are unlikely to be determined as an Aboriginal person under the legislative instruments," he says Mr Duncan says people who are not accepted as an Aboriginal person through the legal processes, including community acceptance by legitimate community-controlled organisations, are not legally Aboriginal people.

He says unfortunately the number of non-Indigenous Australians aligning themselves to these people, attack legitimate Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and community members often including recognised elders.

Local Aboriginal Land Councils are often the focus of these attacks as they try to build a future for the legitimate aboriginal community and are exercising their legislated functions in a way that these people don't want, he says.

"If you are attacking the identity and aspiration of those legitimate Aboriginal people, you are in fact engaging in racial discrimination and vilification," Mr Duncan says.

Instead, he implored those with questions about the role of DLALC or the legal definition of Aboriginality to speak directly with him or other Board members.

"If you really want to understand and support Aboriginal social, cultural and economic progress, engage with the legitimate community and the DLALC for an intelligent and respectful discussion."

DLALC MEMBERS MARKED EMBASSY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A delegation of DLALC members headed to Canberra recently to help mark the 50th anniversary of The Tent Embassy.

The Tent Embassy is a symbol of Aboriginal protest against successive governments and their approach to Indigenous issues.

The most prominent issue being publicised by the embassy

is Aboriginal sovereignty over the Australian continent and an acknowledgement of an Indigenous right to self-determination.

On 26 January 1972, four Aboriginal men from Redfern in Sydney established the Aboriginal Embassy under a beach umbrella on the lawn opposite what is now Old Parliament House in Canberra in response to the Australian government's

approach to Aboriginal land rights.

It followed the McMahon government's implementation of a new system that rejected granting independent ownership of traditional land to Indigenous people in favour of 50-year general purpose leases for Indigenous communities, provided they could demonstrate a social and economic use for the land and excluding any mineral and forest rights.'

The Aboriginal Tent Embassy, as it became known, inspired many more protesters to assemble in Canberra, including university students and high profile First Nations activists. The protest attracted national and even international media attention.

In June of 1972, new laws made the encampment illegal and on Thursday 20 July, hundreds of protesters clashed with police. Many protesters were arrested and the tents were removed, only to be resurrected days later.

The Embassy stood until 1976 when it was dismantled following the introduction of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act of 1976 which was instigated by the Whitlam Government in mid- 1975 and passed with bipartisan support by the Fraser government in December 1976.

The protest site moved around to various places in Canberra before returning to the original and current site in 1992.

The Embassy, now a permanent building, has suffered condemnation and even arson attacks over the years but to this day remains a symbol of Aboriginal protest. DLALC Community & Culture convenor Robyn Sutherland said, Darkinjung community were honoured to participate and acknowledge the pioneers that paved the way for what Land Rights is today.



PEAT ISLAND STATEMENT OF INTENT

Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council's (DLALC) vision to make Peat Island the centrepiece of Australia's cultural tourism received a major boost recently after the NSW Government agreed to negotiate about potentially transferring the ownership of the island back to its original custodians.

The two parties have signed a statement of intent to negotiate the potential transfer of the parcel of land which is sited near Mooney Mooney by the Hawksbury River.

The island and its surrounds are deemed to have significant Aboriginal and European heritage and as such are subject to a land claim by DLALC which seeks to use it to further economic and cultural opportunities for the local Aboriginal community and all Australians. Plans that are being discussed include the possible development of an Aboriginal Discovery Centre, Indigenous Walking Path and cultural tourism opportunities that will capture and help preserve the rich Aboriginal cultural heritage on and surrounding the island however, all decision's made will be done in collaboration with our membership.

The announcement was made during a special presentation at the site, attended by representatives of DLALC and local and state government officials. Kevin 'Uncle Gavi' Duncan

also conducted a smoking ceremony at the announcement.

The island is the site of a former asylum that was opened in 1911 and decommissioned in 2010. It has remained unused since.

DLALC Business enterprises & governance convenor Jenni McEwen believes the island could be the jewel in the crown of the Aboriginal land rights movement.

"The benefits that we can actually create here are not just for the Aboriginal people but for all Australians. Showcasing, preserving and celebrating the ancient history, the contemporary Aboriginal history, and the modern history of non-indigenous Australia."

NSW Minister for Planning and Homes Anthony Roberts says the statement of intent marked another step forward in reconciliation, with the NSW Government recognising the significance of Peat Island, in both its indigenous and European histories, and the impact it has had on all Australians over the past 100 years.

"Working with Darkinjung LALC gives us the opportunity to partner with a grassroots community organisation to pay respects to these shared histories," he says.

DLALC and the NSW government will continue working through the planning processes, including community consultation.





Local Aboriginal Land Council

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