



NSW Joint Council Communique – 29 June 2021

The NSW Joint Council on Closing the Gap met on 29 June 2021. The Minister co-chaired the meeting with NSW CAPO Councillor Charles Lynch. Attendees included the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, senior government representatives from the Dept of Premier & Cabinet and Aboriginal Affairs NSW and NSW CAPO members. The NSW Joint Council welcomed Yusef Deen, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (ALC) Acting CEO in place of outgoing NSWALC CEO James Christian. Key discussion items and outcomes are detailed below.

NSW Implementation Plan

NSW Cabinet approved the NSW Closing the Gap Implementation Plan (IP) on 21 June 2021 and was tabled in Parliament on 23 June 2021. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon. Don Harwin MLC will present the NSW IP to National Joint Council 6 August 2021.

Update from the NSW Partnership Working Group (PWG)

The NSW PWG met on 20 May and 17 June. Key outcomes from these meetings include endorsement of:

- The draft NSW Implementation Plan
- April Community Engagement Report and strategy for future consultations
- Joint Communications and Promotion Strategy
- Revised terms of reference (TOR) and forward agenda
- Work plan for officer level working groups to implement priority reforms and targets in the National Agreement and develop new initiatives

Community Engagement

NSW CAPO updated the NSW PWG on consultations with Aboriginal communities. Engagements commenced 23 April 2021 and concluded 30 April 2021 in 9 locations across NSW. There were 3 options for community engagement: face to face sessions, an online survey or written communication to CAPO. Consultations focused on the Closing the Gap priority reforms, including testing with community the NSW specific 5th priority reform on Employment, Business growth and Economic Prosperity. Future 2021 consultations will focus on the 17 Socio-economic targets and a deeper dive into community feedback gained from the first round of consultations.

Communication

NSW CAPO led the development of a NSWIP Promotion Strategy to raise community awareness and ownership of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Communities will be made aware of opportunities for input into Closing the Gap, via regular and ongoing engagements, the actions agreed to in the first IP and a chance to provide feedback on new actions in future Implementation Plans.

The promotion of the NSWIP is closely linked to the Community Engagement Strategy. NSW CAPO will inform communities consulted in April where their feedback was incorporated into the IP. A comprehensive Community Engagement Report has been developed to report back on what was heard and how that input been captured and used to inform the NSW IP.

Joint Council work plan 2021-2022

The NSW Joint Council endorsed a revised TOR, forward work plan and key deliverables for 2021-2022 to reflect a renewed focus on overseeing the operation of the cabinet endorsed NSW IP and development of subsequent IPs.