
(Koodah) Terry Cornwall and Peter Sharp - presentation / discussion

Updates

Both Koodah and Peter are very happy to report that in relevance to CALM's outputs, relations between indigenous and non-indigenous people continue to be positive.

The Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES) Policy Paper has received a number of submissions, many of which are positive comments.

CALM is seeking \$1.5M in 2004/05 rising to \$7.5M annually by 2008/9 to increase its Aboriginal workforce up to 15% of the entire CALM workforce over the next 10 years. This will be a marked difference and will lead to an increased amount of land managed by CALM.

Burup is now leased to CALM for 99 (+ 99) years. As part of this agreement, CALM shall receive \$450,000 per annum, which shall be used for Aboriginal training in the area.

A policy paper has been developed, which nominates conditions where meetings fees and sitting fees should be applicable and non-applicable. A draft of the policy paper was released to selected staff for feedback a few months ago. The policy (Payment Guidelines for Consultation with Aboriginal People) will be finalised early in 2004.

Marissa Maher is pleased to report she is moving forward into research into Aboriginal women's issues, which will involve all women in CALM.

There is currently a section plan being developed, which should be completed before the end of 2003.

Current Government initiatives

1. Joint management of lands

The *Conservation and Land Management Act* 1984 in its present form, does not make reference to any indigenous issues and/or joint management between indigenous land owners and CALM. For joint management to be successful in the future, it is envisaged that the Act will be amended to make reference to indigenous issues.

2. Resolution of native title

This will involve engaging with indigenous people, including both the traditional owners and the contemporary owners of the land in question.

Challenges

The Indigenous Heritage Unit highlights the ongoing frustration between understanding spiritual connections and liaising with government bodies.

The big challenge is to move forward and achieve outcomes. The importance of being honest with the community is highlighted.

The 'bottom line' is that landowners must always be notified and given chance to respond. Notification and engagement is vital in ensuring that CALM doesn't 'trip up' with special sites. This also includes liaising with native title representative bodies.

There is now an MOU to establish a formal process for dealing with indigenous issues in relation to the new National Parks in the southwest.

Another challenge is to make the Indigenous Heritage Unit grow and become stronger. Over the next two years a further challenge is to develop some policies on non-indigenous cultural heritage issues.