

Notes form discussion at the PVS workshop Bunbury
October 2007-10-19

Indigenous issues

- Conflicts between native title claimants and local indigenous heritage groups. How do you accommodate both having a say without offending one or the other or both.
- Approvals vs. needs and issues
- What other ways can we engage with and acknowledge traditional owners
- There are levels and degrees of engagement with aboriginal groups and individuals, being (A) Aboriginal Heritage acts and matters ie issues of payment. (B) Joint Management, (C) Desire by DEC to cooperate with Aboriginal people in a general and informal sense. Engaging at just the level of acts and regulations can be impersonal and counter productive to fostering a mutual understanding and respect between parties.
- How do we deal with internal disagreements within the noongar community and family groups....is it our problem....it causes tension/uncertainty for DEC staff when negotiating.
- Joint Management & Payment....Eddie Wilkes spoke about the desire of aboriginal people to access land, hunt and maintain connection to land rather than stand on a site and simply be paid.....what is the deeper desire of Aboriginal people, how do we help them realise that.
- Involving young aboriginal men and women in the site monitoring process. Opportunities for them to engage with their culture and history.
- Consultation fees need to be identified early and included in budget estimates.
- Review of current process/policy and framework.
- You need to be flexible when it comes to working with aboriginal people and issues, one policy doesn't necessarily fit all situations and circumstances.