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## Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation Reclamation Committee Terms of Reference and Policy Plan

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## **1. Terms of Reference Rationale:**

The recording of Wonnarua history of the Hunter Valley, North West of Newcastle, in New South Wales has been fraught with many misconceptions. From colonial times to the present non Indigenous researchers have virtually recorded by far the largest volume of Indigenous histories associated with Wonnarua people. As such, these writings have always been Eurocentric in nature to contemporary Anglo Celtic Australian perspectives.

The earlier recordings of Wonnarua people were often viewed with jaundiced eyes and quite often missing and misinterpreting traditional Wonnarua ways and while completely ignoring Wonnarua worldviews, with contemporary recordings having very little ,if any, Wonnarua consultation.

In doing this, they failed to record the whole foundation of Wonnarua people's heritage and culture.

Wonnarua land loss meant diminish of Wonnarua language, story, song, music, dance, kinship relations, social order, foods, technology, flora and fauna, art, sites and history. Many early nineteenth century researchers who wrote of the culture of Wonnarua people never even visited the Hunter Valley and only relied on hearsay from local correspondences from people whose judgment of Wonnarua people at the time, would have been very questionable, to say the least.

To direct bloodline descendents of Wonnarua people, this represents a travesty of unjustified cultural genocide, paralleling that of many other Indigenous Nations in south eastern Australia today.

## **2. Terms of Reference Vision and Aims:**

The primary purpose of the Cultural Reclamation Committee is to present achievable policy and programs in which to make significant conceptual advances into the reclamation of Wonnarua heritage and culture and to develop contemporary knowledge bases and understandings of Wonnarua history and lifestyle from a Wonnarua perspective, for future Wonnarua generations through.

- Establishing a committee of dedicated WNAC members and co-opted members with expertise who are committed to the advancement of cultural reclamation and capitalise co-opted members of Wonnarua heritage and culture.
- Employing the strongest available research tools within the context of reaching realistic achievable research design goals.
- Utilising acceptable available research techniques including but not limiting the gathering of relevant data and innovative case study approaches to examine Wonnarua history using blends of oral, written and electronically recorded narratives.

- Capitalising on the availability of contemporary Wonnarua based expertise within WNAC and co-opted members.
- Provide a secure repository to house the collection of data so as to make this readily available to WNAC.
- Develop resources with data collected for educational purposes and programs agreed by the WNAC.
- Fostering a collaborative sharing between other Indigenous nations of processes and procedures in reclamation of cultural heritage.

### **3. Policy Plan Rationale:**

The purpose of this policy plan is to support Wonnarua Aboriginal people and to preserve, strengthen and build awareness and appreciation of their unique culture and heritage. This commitment embraces all forms and aspects of Wonnarua culture and heritage.

The policy plan reflects a shared vision and commitment of the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation to develop genuine relationships with Wonnarua Aboriginal communities to promote strong Wonnarua culture and heritage.

It also provides a guide for the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation's future investment in Wonnarua cultural and heritage programs, policies, planning and decision-making processes.

Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation recognises that connection with culture and heritage is fundamental to individual and community identity, wellbeing and resilience, and that culture and heritage is a strong part of the Wonnarua history which contributes to the distinctiveness of Wonnarua identity.

For these reasons, the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation will:

- Celebrate Wonnarua's unique identity.
- Foster the development of the next generation of Wonnarua Aboriginal leaders in culture and heritage.
- Invest in Wonnarua culture and heritage to deliver sustainable outcomes.
- Develop strong strategic partnerships with relevant government and non-government organisations to build engagement and commitment to enable a coordinated approach to cultural and heritage maintenance.

**4. Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation is committed to:**

- The right of Wonnarua Aboriginal people to own and control their cultural and heritage intellectual property.
- Respecting, promoting and protecting Wonnarua people's moral, legal and cultural and heritage rights.
- Working in partnership with Wonnarua Aboriginal people and others in the development of programs, policies and initiatives.

**5. Aims of the Reclamation Committee Policy Plan:**

Wonnarua culture revolves around the environment in which they live. Their culture and heritage is seen as a key element which plays an important part in the lives of past and present day Wonnarua people and is central to many of their customs and spiritual beliefs.

Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation recognises that all cultural and heritage resources are of cultural and traditional value to the Wonnarua Aboriginal community as a whole and therefore Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation has established the 'Reclamation Committee' and has developed this Policy Plan which will guide the Reclamation Committee to work towards the aims set out below.

The WNAC Reclamation Committee will be given the responsibilities;

- Of developing the 'WNAC Cultural and Heritage Management Plan'.
- Explore the establishment of the Gulamurra Education and Training Centre.
- Research and record Wonnarua past and present history.
- Of resurrecting, restoring and reclaiming Wonnarua language.
- To develop informative and educational programs.
- To develop a 'Sites Register'.
- To develop training programs that will include field work and report writing that is consistent with DECCW, CMA and other necessary guidelines. For example; Aboriginal Sites Officer, Bush Regeneration and Land Management training.
- To assist with renewing Aboriginal involvement in mining offsets.
- To coordinate displays of collections in consultation with such agencies as the Newcastle Museum, Australian Museum, AIATSIS and others.
- To coordinate curator training with the Australian Museum.

- To maintain a cultural and historical page on WNAC Website.
- Raise awareness and knowledge of Wonnarua culture and traditions.
- Support developments and promotions of Wonnarua cultural and heritage.
- Support Wonnarua Aboriginal people to protect and strengthen culture.
- Increase employment and training in the cultural and heritage and land management sectors.
- Assist in the repatriation of cultural objects and skeletal remains.
- Mapping of Wonnarua traditional boundaries.
- Identify appropriate funding sources.

## 6. Reclamation Committee Protocol Guidelines

The Reclamation Committee will adhere to Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation's protocol guidelines when carrying out the aims of the Reclamation Committee Policy Plan.

These protocols will include the following:

- **Meeting Process:** The Reclamation Committee to submit a brief to the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation to conduct a meeting and the purpose of the meeting. The Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation will be required to give approval before holding of any such meetings.

**NOTE:** This process will also include meetings with for example: Land Councils or other necessary meetings, i.e. Australian Museum etc.

- **Project Approval:** The Reclamation Committee to submit a brief to the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation to commence a project. The Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation will be required to give approval before commencing any projects.

**NOTE:** This process will also include meetings and research for example: Land Councils, research visits to the Australian Museum etc.

- **Standard Fee Rate:** A standard fee rate will be set at \$43 per hour or unless specified by the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation with prior approval.

**NOTE:** standard fee rate to also includes necessary meetings and other Reclamation Committee activities such as research which have prior approval from the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

- **Project Costings:** will be determined once a project has been identified and a project strategy and timeframe is developed. This may include travel, accommodation and meals (meals to be set @ \$60 per day per person) and/or other research activities as required i.e. there may be the need to conduct an activity as an individual such as visit a library or historical society etc.

**NOTE:** Prior approval from the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation will be required once the Reclamation Committee has submitted a project, project strategy and timeframe.

## **7. Implementation of the Policy Plan:**

The Reclamation Committee's Terms of Reference and Policy Plan will be implemented as part of the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation Strategic Plan.

The work will be led by the Reclamation Committee but will also involve other areas such as the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation Cultural and Heritage Unit (repository for Wonnarua language, recordings, manuscripts, photographs and other cultural and heritage materials) and the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation Board of Directors and Members and other identified resources as deemed necessary.

## **Project: Mapping of Wonnarua Boundaries.**

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*Aim: To research, record and map Wonnarua Traditional Boundaries.*

### **Objectives:**

#### **Stage 1:**

- Commence research & data gathering & collate information on current identified & uncontested Wonnarua boundaries.
- Reclamation Committee Meeting.
- Progress Report

#### **Stage 2:**

- Commence research & collate information on possible contested Wonnarua boundaries.
- Reclamation Committee Meeting
- Progress Report

#### **Stage 3:**

- Establish representation from Key Partners and other relevant agencies i.e. LALC's.
- Engage wider range audience to gain short and longer term 'buy-in' i.e. Elders.
- Highlight the need for the project.
- Highlight the activities for the project and their strategies.
- Reclamation Committee Meeting.
- Progress Report

#### **Stage 4:**

- Develop necessary promotional, educational materials for the project i.e. inclusion on Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation's web page.
- Reclamation Committee Meeting.
- Interim Project Report.
- Final Project Report

## Quality Management

To ensure that this project is delivered to the highest possible quality standards, the Reclamation Committee proposes the following:

Strategy	Who Is Responsible	Time Frame
Develop a Project Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclamation Committee</li> <li>WNAC Board</li> </ul>	Within 2 weeks of approval from Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation.
Proposed Reclamation Committee Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclamation Committee</li> <li>WNAC Board as required</li> </ul>	Monthly or as required.
Progress Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclamation Committee</li> </ul>	Monthly or as required to be presented to Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

## Project Activities and Deliverables

Activity	Duration	Start Date	End Date
<b>Stage 1 will involve (1 month):</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence research &amp; data gathering &amp; collate information on current identified &amp; uncontested Wonnarua boundary.</li> </ul>	Up to 1 month	From date of Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation approval.	Up to 1 month
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclamation Committee Meeting</li> </ul>	During Stage 1. X 3 hrs	Reclamation Committee to meet to collate information & materials.	At end of 1 month
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress Report</li> </ul>		Progress report provided to Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation.	At end of 1 month
<b>Stage 2 will involve (2 months):</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence research &amp; collate information on possible contested Wonnarua boundary.</li> </ul>	Up to 2 months	Immediately after Stage 1 is completed.	Up to 2 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclamation Committee Meeting</li> </ul>	During Stage 2. X 3 hrs	Reclamation Committee to meet to collate information & materials.	At end of 2 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress Report</li> </ul>		Progress report provided to Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation.	At end of 2 months



<b>Stage 3 will involve (2 months):</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish representation from Key Partners and other relevant agencies i.e. LALC's.</li> <li>Engage wider range audience to gain short and longer term 'buy-in' i.e. Elders.</li> <li>Highlight the need for the project.</li> <li>Highlight the activities for the project and their strategies.</li> </ul>	Up to 2 month	Immediately after Stage 2 is completed.	Up to 2 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclamation Committee Meeting</li> </ul>	During Stage 3. X 3 hrs	Reclamation Committee to meet to collate information & materials.	At end of 2 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress Report</li> </ul>		Progress report provided to Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation.	At end of 2 months
<b>Stage 4 will involve (2 months):</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop necessary promotional, educational materials for the project i.e. inclusion on Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation's web page.</li> </ul>	2 Months	Immediately after Stage 3 is completed	End of Stage 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reclamation Committee Meeting</li> </ul>	During Stage 4. X 3 hrs	Reclamation Committee to meet to collate information & materials.	At end of 2 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim Project Report.</li> </ul>		Interim Project Report provided to Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation.	During Stage 4.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final Project Report</li> </ul>		Final Project Report provided to Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation.	End of Stage 4

### Project Outcomes

<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>How Measured</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of Wonnarua Boundaries.</li> </ul>	- Measured through focus groups and informal discussion.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent involvement of Wonnarua Aboriginal people over the life of the project.</li> </ul>	- Measured through meetings and community liaison effectiveness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent involvement of other Project Partners over the life of the project.</li> </ul>	- Measured through meetings and informal discussion, workshop involvement, issues and community liaison effectiveness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent involvement of target groups in the development of program materials and activities.</li> </ul>	- Measured through project activities, participation in the development of materials and messages, feedback on the process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities and materials are culturally appropriate.</li> </ul>	- Measured through the acceptance of the materials and activities and feedback from participants.

## Project Evaluation

The project evaluation will be based on the following success criterion:

Results	How measured
• Project delivered in a timely manner	Achievement against project planning - milestones
• Project delivered within allocated budget	Achievement against Budget allocation.
• Project engaged relevant key partners and stakeholders	Development and delivery of an appropriate communication strategy
• Project identified strategic alliances to minimise costs & issues.	Review planned vs allocated expenditure items and strategic alignments identified throughout project delivery.
• Project outcomes and benefits were realised	Data examination to identify realisation of project outcomes.

## Budget

Reclamation Committee Budget.			
Project Activities			
Reclamation Committee Meeting	Stage 1.	Standard Fee Rate per person per hour \$43	X 3hrs = \$43 per person
Reclamation Committee Meeting	Stage 2.	Standard Fee Rate per person per hour \$43	X 3hrs = \$43 per person
Reclamation Committee Meeting	Stage 3.	Standard Fee Rate per person per hour \$43	X 3hrs = \$43 per person
Reclamation Committee Meeting	Stage 4.	Standard Fee Rate per person per hour \$43	X 3hrs = \$43 per person
<b>Possible Project Cost</b>			<b>\$3,096.00</b>

Please note: that Possible Project Costs are based on the following and therefore should be seen as an approximation ONLY.

There are 6 Reclamation Committee Members and that all 6 Reclamation Committee members may submit a tax invoice for payment.

- Standard Fee Rate @ \$43 per/hr/per person/per meeting.
- Duration of meetings @ 3hrs/per meeting = 3hrs x \$129 per person/per meeting.
- 4 meetings @ \$129 per person = \$516
- 6 RC members x \$516 = \$3,096 (Total Project Cost)

**PLEASE NOTE: That this approximate cost ONLY includes meetings based on 6 RC Members. It does NOT include other costs such as research which may be conducted by individual RC Members.**

