

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 December 2017 9:35 AM

**To:** OEH ROD LMBC Support Mailbox <[lmbc.support@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lmbc.support@environment.nsw.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Draft Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy Aboriginal Community Feedback

Hello

Recently we gave Aboriginal Land Managers and community the opportunity to workshop and develop some responses to the Draft BDIS 2017-2037.

Attached are their responses to the consultation questions. Please give these responses some consideration and we would be more than happy to be contacted should clarification on any of the points be required.

Respectfully,

Aboriginal Communities

Local Land Services Western Region

PO Box 363 (32 Enterprise Way)

Buronga NSW 2739

## Biodiversity Conservation Trust – Investment Strategy

Date: 6 December

Feedback

**Do you have any comments on the proposed purpose, objectives and targets for the strategy (section 1.2).**

Purpose and Objective:

- No comment

Targets:

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage needs to be included and protected, as they are part of biodiversity at every level.
- There is no health of the landscape targets, only metrics on number of agreements and diversified income streams.
- No Socio-economic targets.

**Are there other international or national commitments that you think the strategy should acknowledge (sections 1.4 and 1.5).**

- National commitment to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Native Title Determination
- Current commitments to social-economic related programs
- Employment programs, specifically Aboriginal training and employment programs.

**Proposed approach for identifying priority investment areas (section 2.3 and supplementary information online).**

- Aboriginal cultural heritage values to be considered.

**Any other data that should be considered to identify priority investment areas.**

- Native Title determinations and applications, including all future aspirations for land management on determined (or other agreements on Traditional Ownership) land.
- Data relating to desired land for acquisition, to be Aboriginal owned and managed land.
  - Properties that Aboriginal communities identify as culturally and naturally significant.
- Socio-economic opportunities regionally. Investment should consider local and regional capacity to manage land and improve the health of the land ongoing.
  - Local willingness to develop capacity to deliver land management services

- Broader community involvement, through application of processes such as Healthy Country Planning.

**Do you have any comments on the proposed profiles of IBRA sub-regions (section 2.4).**

- No comments.

**Do you have any comments on the investment principles (section 3.2).**

Principle 1 & 2

- No comment

Principle 3

- Land acquisition for private land conservation, particularly Aboriginal determined land for conservation.
- National commitment to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Native Title Determination.
- Increased support for current Aboriginal property investments for land management.
- Current commitments to social-economic related programs.
- Employment programs, specifically Aboriginal training and employment programs.

**Do you have any comments on the short and long-term targets (section 3.3).**

- As above

**Are there other targets we should consider including in the strategy? If so, how should they be measured (section 3.3).**

- Target directly associated with Aboriginal cultural values as a guiding principle. Measured through an operating Healthy Country Plan – community developed and endorsed.

**General Observations:**

- Any property that receives \$, for any agreement, should have an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment completed. And all assessments should be monitored and audited by an independent group to maintain integrity of the process.

- There is currently no protection for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage on private land – we would like to incorporate this into the process.
- Program resources need to be directed towards the acquisition of suitable land, for hand back to relevant Aboriginal communities, to be managed for conservation of natural and cultural values, while supporting socio-economic objectives. One property per year, with endowment incorporated for sustainable management ongoing.