



**DUNGHUTTI ELDERS COUNCIL
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To Whom It May Concern;

Please find following, the views of Dunghutti Elders Council position on the PBC support Strategy- consultation paper. 2016

- To assist PBC's in setting out Strategic economical business plans. To create employment, economic advancement and to put in place innovative goals. Apply better communication and transparency in relation to issues regarding Native Title business.
Treat all PBC's equally, it is an unfair process, that the amount of money allocated should be different because of what state you happen to be apart of, all PBC's would benefit from the same amount of money to what is allocated to the Northern Territory PBC's, all indigenous people have the same concerns and issues when dealing with the Government and their representative bodies. Indigenous people are vying for independence from the non-indigenous sector, allowing Indigenous people to handle their own affairs on their own terms, not to be dictated to, from an Anglo Saxon point of view, who think they know what's right for the "black fulla".
The most important factor to answer question 1 is for the Government to visit communities, treat each community individually and listen to the issues of concern and the visions and aspirations of those communities, then follow up with those communities on their progress.
- In regards to question 2 the Dunghutti Elders Council cannot speak for other PBC's in the country. However the DEC receives only the basic support funding to assist in capacity building and ongoing costs of the Corporation. Unfortunately this amount falls short for the other activities mentioned, economic development and partnerships. If there is other avenues for PBC's to gain funding through, we should be made aware of this asap. This would be a way for the PBC's to take advantage of existing funding, through "TRANSPERENCY" and better open communication from the government rep bodies. Also assist the PBC's in applying for the funding, to help create a strong application.
- The Dunghutti Elders Council views on the proposed changes are that of glee, the wording states and seems to be offering a lot more assistance to the PBC's in ways that the PBC's have been requesting for in the past, the DEC also favours the section where the Minister will look at new applications as required.
- Not all PBC's are operational, with offices and staff, it will be up to the governing bodies or Native Title Services or their counterparts for each state, to notify all PBC's in writing, some visitations may be required for a better understanding of the new information.
- At the present the support that the Dunghutti Elders Council receives is only the PBC BSF, but we would also like the support of the Native Title Services reps on being clear and consistent in their approach to answering enquiries relating to Native Title issues from the Dunghutti people. We have been waiting for over fifteen years for a claim to re commence,
- This PBC , would find these projects of great interest, as this is what the aim of the Dunghutti Elders Coincil, would hope to achieve by working with the private sector

to establish projects and see aspirations come to fruition. As for promoting successful and diverse use of land that would work by giving other PBC's ideas on how best to utilise what they have or are in the process of receiving through determinations, but then all communities are unique in their own way, what may work and be successful for one community may not be for another. That's why as previously mentioned that Government bodies and their representatives need to sit and discuss these issues and the PBC's aspirations and offer assistance and support to the PBC's to achieve success.

- This type of funding would be beneficial for PBC's who have established plans in place for future development opportunities, however the priority could take place with those PBC's that are established and waiting for this assistance to start with their projects.
- In relation to q8, anything that is a money saver to either the PBC and the community as for dispute resolving all communities will dispute over history and unfortunately facts, however this is where the Elders of the community should be called on to be a part of the dispute resolution but those Elders in their late 60's, 70's and if possible 80's. Those that hold the knowledge and information.
- The management of accountability, that the DEC experiences is through regular members meetings, allowing the PBC to update their members. Keeping members informed on progress and changes to legislation (if any), this is also the key to transparency and good governance, also having financial documents available for the native title holders so they themselves can see expenditures and where the expenditures are being spent (if available). Advise PBC's of the regulations, we are a PBC and are not quite aware of the regulations.
- All PBC Regulations should cover all areas of governance, whether they be internal and/ or external.
- This is where the onus comes back on Native Title Services, to inform all PBC's in the state as well as other Native Title Bodies in the country to inform their PBC'S of this information and what are the mechanism's being discussed and only then will we know how they can be improved. All information becomes a valuable commodity when it is shared for the common good of the people and their communities, also it makes the native title holders feel more confident in knowing, their needs are being met and looked after.

In closing, please feel free to contact the Dunghutti Elders Council, if further information or input is required.

Ngairé Matthews
General Manager
On behalf of the Board of Directors
And it's Members.
2/12/2016