



Fishing Advisory Committee Member Positions

The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) is seeking Expressions of Interest from people with significant experience and knowledge of the commercial fishing industry for independent membership to its Fishing Advisory Committee by close of business 3 June 2022.

Background

In 2018, the Australian Government provided NSWALC with \$5 million to establish the NSWALC Fishing Fund (NFF) to provide financial support for Aboriginal people to remain in or enter the commercial fishing sector and aims to support sustainable and long-term economic outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal people in NSW can apply for loans and grants for Aboriginal fishing businesses in the wild harvest, aquaculture, and charter fishing industries.

The Fishing Advisory Committee

The Committee is responsible for assessing funding applications and providing recommendations, advice, and direction to the Council on these applications as well as strategic advice on the sustainability of the program. Successful applicants will be appointed for 2 years.

Members of the Committee will be selected for their skills, experience, and knowledge. Aboriginal applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

Selection criteria include but is not limited to:

- Knowledge of, and experience in, the NSW fishing industry, including aquaculture
- Knowledge of, and experience in, the NSW tourism industry, including charter fishing
- Knowledge and experience in business, especially within the Aboriginal business sector
- Experience working with Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal organisations
- Strong networks in relevant business communities.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are to be submitted by **close of business 3 June 2022**. For an EOI Information Package, please email fishingfund@alc.org.au or call (02) 9689 4477.



Expressions of Interest – NSWALC Fishing Advisory Committee membership

Expressions of interest for membership to NSWALC Fishing Advisory Committee (FAC) are now open. Appointment is for 2 years, and members are guided by the NSWALC Fishing Advisory Committee Charter (attached).

The FAC makes recommendations to NSWALC on matters relating to the NSWALC Fishing Fund (NFF), applications, and strategic direction.

NSWALC seeks expressions of interest from those that have extensive knowledge of the fishing sector including aquaculture, wild harvest and charter fishing. We strongly encourage applications from Aboriginal people.

Guidelines for expressions of interest

Expressions of interest close on 3 June 2022.

Expressions of interest can be submitted via email to fishingfund@alc.org.au

Emailed expressions of interest must include:

- 1. A three-page (maximum) letter addressing the selection criteria**
 - At a minimum, each of the 'Essential' criteria must be addressed.
- 2. A two-page (maximum) resume.** This must include the following information:
 - full name (including title)
 - contact details (postal address, telephone number, email address)
 - current employer and position
 - work history and voluntary involvement relevant to committee position
 - qualifications/training
 - other committee/board experience (if relevant)
 - current contact details of two referees.

Selection criteria

Essential

- Knowledge of, and experience in, the fishing industry, including aquaculture and wild harvest.
- Knowledge of, and experience in, the tourism industry, including charter fishing.
- Knowledge and experience in business, especially within the Aboriginal business sector.
- Experience working with Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal organisations.
- Strong networks in relevant business communities.

- Ability to think strategically and to act decisively.
- Ability and willingness to commit a minimum of six (6) annual FAC meetings and adequate preparation time for meetings to actively contribute to FAC business.
- Access to suitable equipment, internet access and experience in using Microsoft Teams groups for communications, receipt of documents and attendance of online meetings.

Desirable

- Experience/understanding of the fishing industry sector in general.
- Understanding of the NSW DPI fishing licensing requirements.
- Understanding of Aboriginal cultural fishing and its importance to the Aboriginal people of NSW.
- Understanding of business planning and management especially as it relates to the fishing industry.
- Previous experience in an industry advisory role.

Background

NIAA Funded NSWALC Fishing Fund Program

The NSWALC Fishing Fund (NFF) in partnership with the Commonwealth Government's National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), aims to support the growth and development of the Aboriginal fishing industry in NSW to achieve long term economic opportunities for Aboriginal people.

As part of the Remote Australia Strategies Program, NSWALC entered into a funding agreement (the Agreement), to undertake the development and implementation of a project named the 'NSW Aboriginal Controlled Fishing Fund'.

The Agreement commenced 1 July 2018 and is due for completion 30 June 2024.

Objective and Scope of the NFF

To achieve sustainable economic outcomes for Aboriginal communities in NSW through the provision of financial support to Aboriginal people and businesses, who meet the eligibility and assessment criteria, to undertake commercial fishing activities.

Governance, Eligibility and Disbursement Procedures

As part of the Agreement, the 'Governance, Eligibility and Disbursement Procedures' (the Procedures) were developed and approved by NSWALC and NIAA. Along with providing the parameters for the governance, eligibility and disbursement of grants from the Fund, it also determines the annual budget available for disbursement.

Operation and Implementation of the NFF

The NFF operates in accordance with the Funding Agreement and the deliverables contained within it and the Procedures as agreed by both NSWALC and NIAA and is implemented by NSWALC's Program Implementation Unit.

The Agreement commenced 1 July 2018 and is due for completion 30 June 2024. The Agreement provided a total funding amount of \$5,000,000 (ex GST).



Charter of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council Fishing Advisory Committee

1. NSWALC Fishing Advisory Committee

- 1.1 The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) Fishing Advisory Committee (the Committee) is established pursuant to section 118 of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (the Act).
- 1.2 A member of the Committee is covered by the exclusion of liability Section 242 of the Act if the act or omission was done, or omitted to be done, in good faith for the purpose of executing this or any other Act.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The Committee is appointed to support the NSWALC Fishing Fund (NFF) including by:
 - a. Assessing Grant and Loan applications made to the NFF and providing recommendations to NSWALC.
 - b. Considering the sustainability of the NFF, and on occasion providing strategic and commercial advice to NSWALC regarding the NFF.

3. Composition and Tenure

- 3.1 Five (5) suitably qualified and experienced individuals (a minimum of two Aboriginal people will be appointed to the Committee by NSWALC).
- 3.2 Up to two (2) Councillors will be appointed to the Committee.
- 3.3 One of the five Committee members with extensive experience in the industry will be appointed Chair of the Committee by NSWALC.
- 3.4 The five Committee members will be appointed from candidates who meet at least two (though preferably three) of the following selection criteria:
 - a. Experience in, or knowledge of, the NSW fishing industry, including aquaculture and wild harvest.
 - b. Experience in, or knowledge of, the NSW tourism industry, including charter fishing.
 - c. Experience in community development, the food industry or other relevant business, especially within the Aboriginal business sector.
 - d. Experience working with Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal organisations.
 - e. Strong networks in relevant business communities.

- 3.5 The Chairperson will have extensive experience across all the selection criteria (in 3.4) applicable to the Committee members. The Chairperson would also be able to input additional time between meetings as required by the role.
- 3.6 The Committee members will assess the grant and loan applications made to the NFF and provide recommendations to NSWALC. Members of the Committee who are Councillors will not participate in the assessment of grant and loan applications or the provision of advice to NSWALC on grant and loan applications.
- 3.7. All Committee members including the two Councillors will provide strategic, policy and commercial advice to NSWALC regarding the NFF, including advice regarding the sustainability of the NFF.
- 3.8. The tenure of Committee members will be for two years, or such time as determined by NSWALC in accordance with section 118 (4) of the Act.
- 3.9 Each member of the Committee must declare any potential conflict of interest that could interfere with the exercise of his or her duties and not participate in discussions or decision making relating to the area of potential conflict.
- 3.10 All Committee members must comply with the Codes of Conduct as well as the Honesty and Disclosure provisions pursuant to Part 10 NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, as well as any other relevant legislation or policy.
- 3.11 The members of the Committee will be entitled to such travelling or other allowances as determined by NSWALC.

4. Vacancies in the committee

- 4.1 Members may resign from the Committee at any time by notifying NSWALC via email.
- 4.2 If a member is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings without reason, that member is deemed to have resigned from the committee.
- 4.3 NSWALC may seek EOI through direct contact to fill any casual vacancy.

5. Committee Meetings

- 5.1. The Committee shall meet at least six times a year, and at such other times as NSWALC, the chair or the committee members deems necessary or appropriate.
- 5.2. Meetings may be called by the Chair of the Committee or NSWALC with at least seven (7) working days' notice via email.
- 5.3. Three of the five individuals of the Committee attending in person or by teleconference shall constitute a quorum. The quorum must include the Committee Chair (or the Chair's delegate).

6. Papers and Minutes

- 6.1. NSWALC, in conjunction with the Committee Chair, will provide relevant material and papers for the Committee electronically, including the Agenda, Minutes and other documents such as applications for grants and loans or any other business or investment related material NSWALC requires the Committee to consider.
- 6.2. NSWALC, in conjunction with the Committee Chair, will provide an agenda and any relevant material and papers proposed for consideration, no later than seven (7) working days prior to the Committee meeting.
- 6.3. The taking of meeting minutes will be the responsibility of NSWALC, in conjunction with the Committee Chair. The minutes will be tabled for acceptance at the following Committee meeting or otherwise via email.

7. Responsibilities

- 7.1. Convene for the NFF: The Committee will support sustainable economic outcomes for Aboriginal communities in NSW, through the NFF.
- 7.2. Make Funding Recommendations: The Committee will assess funding applications and make funding recommendations to NSWALC. Recommendations shall be made in accordance with the NSWALC Fishing Fund Eligibility and Disbursement Procedures. Committee members who are Councillors will not participate in making funding recommendations.
- 7.3. Provide Other Advice: At annual or other intervals, the Committee will consider the overall sustainability of the NFF and provide strategic and commercial advice to NSWALC.
- 7.4. Recommend other Advice: Whenever appropriate, including when an application is for a grant or loan of more than \$100,000, the Committee may recommend the commissioning of additional business, technical or expert advice. Committee members who are Councillors will not participate in making funding recommendations.

8. Relationship with NSWALC

- 8.1. The Committee serves as a resource for NSWALC and is advisory only. Recommendations by the Committee are not binding on NSWALC.
- 8.2. However, for the sake of the integrity of the decisions taken in relation to the NFF, decisions of NSWALC will be guided by the Committee, in most cases.

9. Access to Information and Independent Advice

- 9.1. NSWALC will provide the Committee with access to the information needed to administer its responsibilities, including applications, reports, and budgets. The Committee may recommend NSWALC obtain independent professional advice as per 7.4. The commissioning of this advice will be subject to NSWALC's approval.

10. Confidentiality

- 10.1. Unless otherwise required by law, Committee members are required to keep all NSWALC information, Committee discussions, papers and deliberations confidential. Committee members will also be required to sign a Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement.

11. Remuneration

- 11.1 The Committee members will be paid the following allowance (exclusive of GST where applicable):
 - Chairperson \$10,000 per annum
 - Members \$5,000 per annum
- 11.2 Fees will be paid six monthly on provision of a suitably rendered invoice, from the date of each member's appointment.
- 11.3 Members must attend at least 50% of all meetings in any 6-month period, and 80% over a twelve-month period to qualify for full payment of sitting fees.
- 11.4 Members may qualify for reimbursement of other travel and associated expenses related to their membership of the Fishing Advisory Committee if approved prior to expenditure.