

Indigenous Voice Community Consultation

Consultation session details

Munupi country,

Pirlangimpi, Melville Island, 1.30pm, 30 April 2021

Number of participants: 19

Key points raised

Please note, this is a summary of the discussion and the views and opinions expressed by participants in consultation sessions. It is not intended to be an exhaustive summary of all points raised, but draws out the key points.

The session was attended by 19 participants who were welcomed to Munupi country by Dennis Tipakalippa. Key points discussed are summarised below.

Local and Regional Voices

- Participants supported the need for a Local and Regional Voice for the Tiwi Islands, and indicated that more discussions would be needed to consider what the local arrangements could look like.
- There was a general discussion about issues facing the community, such as housing renovations.
- Participants also talked about the existing consultative arrangements in the community, including cultural advisers to the local government.
- Participants also reflected that they now have community meetings but they don't seem to go very far in addressing issues such as drug rehabilitation. It was felt it would be good if a group / board such as a Local and Regional Voice was set up, so it could take such issues up.
- Participants suggested a couple of people from their community could be picked to go around to find out what needed to be done.
- There was a question about the process, in particular if co-design members would come to the Tiwi Islands from now on more often to work with the community to design a voice. Co-design members clarified that their task was to finalise the proposals after considering the consultation feedback, and provide it to Government around July. The Government will then consider it, and, if agreed, there would be another co-design process, with each region designing their own arrangements consistent with the Local and Regional Voice principles.
- Participants advised the community holds monthly meetings to discuss their priorities, and would like to encourage all agencies to come and meet with them at the same time. It was suggested NIAA could come to the next meeting and it could be an opportunity to further discuss the Indigenous Voice co-design and the proposals.



- It was also clarified that existing bodies such as Land Councils will still continue, with this new body pulling everyone together to work out priorities, strategies for addressing them such as five year plans, and work with government on how to use funding against these priorities. It was noted that for these arrangements to work governments' approach would need to change, but the community would also need to change the way they work with each other.
- It was also noted the proposed Local and regional Voice arrangements would incorporate cultural leadership, but there would also be opportunities for Stolen Generations to be involved.

Other Issues

- There was a question about whether CDEP program that used to pay wages will come back, as young people in the community need something. Co-design members acknowledged this issue was frequently being raised during consultations, and the feedback would be provided to the government, but it would need to be considered separately from the Voice co-design process.