

Matthew z Wilkinson

From: Justine Dillon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 4:29 PM
To: CHA_Review
Subject: CHA Review

Hi,
Sending through my comments for the cultural heritage review.

-there is currently not an appropriate way for the Traditional owners to local areas to have the identity to speak for country - particularly the Gold Coast Area as we have been 'regionalised' and lost our voice to the Native Title body that is majority Beaudesert families and we already know as Kombumerri we have no claim just recognition- apparently even that is a struggle due the regional concept that one party manages all our area due to the Act.
-Aboriginal people are hesitant to break any laws or acts so they follow procedure and we try to follow it to adhere however the process eliminates the previous CH bodies and individuals that may hold vital cultural knowledge!
-The Act doesn't work in terms of Land User to CH body - there is not enough local representation or power for smaller claim groups within 'regions' to have their minority say. Let me paint you a quick picture that one person from a certain group has publicly falsified local culture and lineages to enable his people to have to numbers and power...the region idea allows them to work everywhere in the native title claim even if it isn't there traditional owner country!! Disallowing local TO's work and favouring their own for the work. Now who authenticates their claims and information? Lineages could be checked through births, deaths and marriages to check for legitimacy and checking regional concepts match local TO interpretation. We have people speaking on our country due to the 'region' and they are not from this country but we have to sit and be polite and swallow our pride to enable things to continue to flow in our communities. Who else but us local people would understand the level of emotion this causes for us? It's shameful and terribly hard to sit and keep your mouth shut when people talking for your country publicly and you know they are not from there.
-Cultural heritage bodies only employ their own, no outside contracting or equitable family division of works and income. Others are locked out of work as people will call and abuse them and intimidate to take control of job sites that is causing further embarrassment for our people as a whole, that and the overcharging prices a that are ridiculous and so humiliating making us look like rip-offs to the wider non-Indigenous groups. Needs to be a set rate to ensure equitable outcomes for all communities and companies involved.
-Native Title parties concept needs to be widened to allow more than just one group running and stop removing the last group due to last man standing nonsense as this removes and makes the previous group ruined commercially and financially - its ruins one Aboriginal company to boost another - where's the good outcome by doing that? What's achieved here? Nothing but a loss of good workers, knowledge and skills that have to be relearnt by the new company in charge and having to start and rebuild or take contracts from mob and all still fight continually to keep businesses active and running - not to mention the irreparable damage it does to personal family connections!!
-does there have to be only ONE native title party in each region??
-public notice of work or claims...can this be specified in the act of where to find notifications? Searching local papers is not an option for everyone anymore - not many people buy or even read newspapers anymore so that's not a viable solution and some groups purposely publish on short notice to further add to their need to employ their own...
-need to improve the cultural heritage register and database - yes other local groups can be used to authenticate information and needs of Traditional Owners -power needs to be in CH body hands under a new redeveloped act and not the construction industry...they should have to have a CH check before works commence anywhere as they are not skilled enough to know by sight looks the value of any of our sites.
-there needs to be an improvement to the process with regional bodies and them having a requirement to delegate to local groups and individuals and the public notification process needs updating.
Thank you and kind regards,

Justine Dillon (BEd)
Kombumerri Noonuccal Ngugi
Traditional Owner

Ngarang-Wal G.C.A.A Inc. Secretary
Guanaba I.P.A. Project Manager