

ABORIGINAL PARTICIPATION IN CONSTRUCTION WORKING WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

You will find local Aboriginal community organisations across the State which NSW Government agencies and construction companies can meet with to discuss planned construction activities.

The best results for Aboriginal participation in construction activities have occurred when agencies and contractors work closely with local Aboriginal leaders, community organisations or employment service providers. Close cooperation can assist agencies and firms to:

- understand the Aboriginal community's aspirations for employment and economic development;
- identify potential employees and trainees;
- allow communities to develop realistic expectations about the benefits the project will bring;
- build good channels of communication which can be used for the early identification and addressing of any problems; and
- reduce the overall project risk.

Observing appropriate protocols when working with Aboriginal people and communities is critical to establishing positive and respectful relationships. Consulting with Aboriginal communities should always be seen as a two-way process, with both parties learning together and from each other.

Working with Aboriginal communities should always be through appropriate channels. It is recommended that companies tendering for NSW Government contracts contact the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs. The Department can provide advice on protocols and community contacts. Contact details for a number of Aboriginal construction businesses are available on the Department of Commerce Procurement website.

A whole-of-government Aboriginal community engagement policy and background paper are currently being finalised and will be available on the Department's website early in the 2007-08 financial year.

Department of Aboriginal Affairs officers in Sydney and in regional New South Wales are available to provide advice to government agencies and construction firms on working with Aboriginal communities.

Sydney	Regional Manager	9219 0700
Central (Wagga Wagga)	Regional Manager	6937 3040
New England (Tamworth)	Regional Manager	6701 9000
North East (Coffs Harbour)	Regional Manager	6648 5800
South-East Region (Narooma)	Regional Manager	4476 4955
Western (Bourke)	Regional Manager	6872 1904