

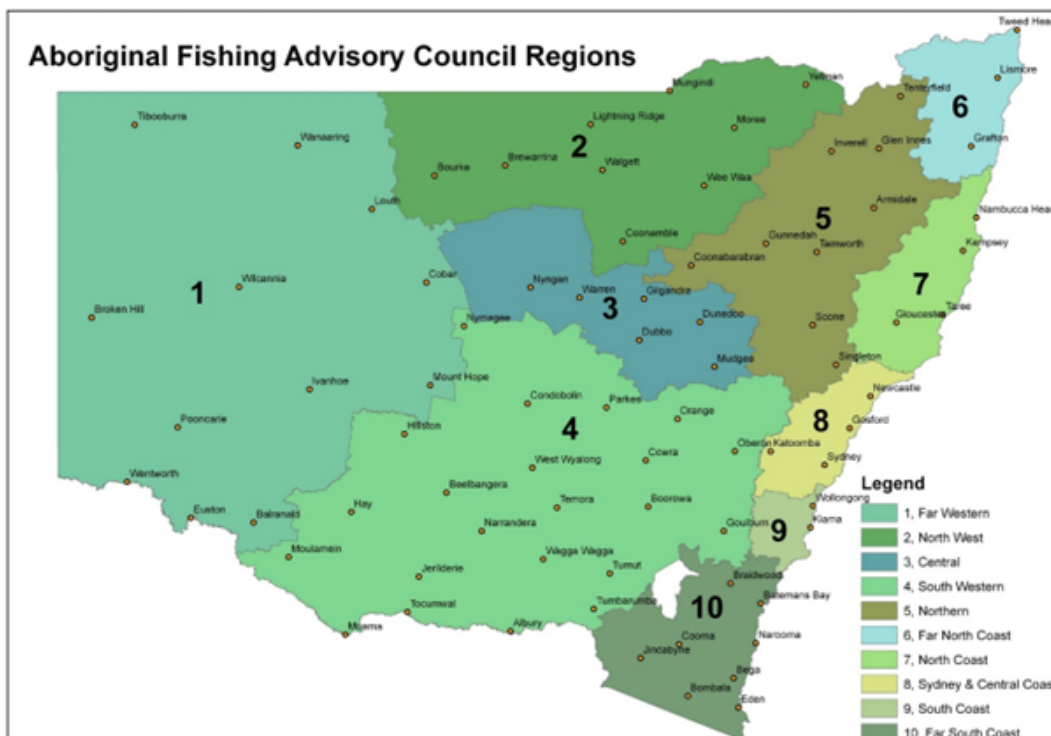
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the role of the Council?

- The functions of the Council are to advise the Minister for Agriculture on:
 - a. any matter that is referred to it; and
 - b. any other matter it considers relevant to the Aboriginal fishing sector.
- Within these broad functions the Council has a focus on the following priority areas:
 - Advising on expenditure from the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund
 - Aboriginal interests in the management of fisheries
 - Aboriginal access to fisheries resources for cultural purposes
 - Commercial/economic opportunities for Aboriginal people flowing from fisheries activity
 - Advice on research priorities relating to Aboriginal people's connection with the fisheries resource.

What is the composition of the Council?

- In line with requirements prescribed in the Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2019 the Council is to be composed of up to 14 members, of which 13 are voting members.
- Specifically, membership is to consist of:
 - Aboriginal persons appointed to represent different regions of the State (not more than 10 in total-see map below),
 - One other Aboriginal person,
 - One person appointed as a representative of NTSCORP Limited,
 - One person appointed as a representative of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council,
 - A senior officer of the Department (non-voting).



- The composition of the Council aims to ensure that the membership has knowledge, experience and understanding of: Aboriginal cultural fishing; the social and cultural significance of commercial fishing for Aboriginal people; fisheries issues generally that can affect Aboriginal people and communities; and, have capacity to speak about their region's fisheries related issues.

What is expected of Council members?

- Council members are expected to:
 - Make reasonable efforts to attend all Council meetings;
 - Put views clearly and concisely and be prepared to negotiate to achieve acceptable outcomes where necessary;
 - Actively seek solutions that result in outcomes that are best for Aboriginal communities;
 - Observe confidentiality and exercise tact and discretion when dealing with sensitive issues;
 - Commit sufficient time to consider all relevant information to facilitate informed participation in matters considered by the Council;
 - Be prepared to consult with community in their regions (regional members);
 - Respond to issues out-of-session when necessary.

How often does the Council meet?

- The Council generally meets two to three times per year.
- Meetings are normally held in Sydney but may be held in regional areas. Meetings are held over one or two days depending on the amount of Council business. Although it is not preferred, virtual meetings using video conference (VC) software may be held in some circumstances where a face-to-face meeting is not possible or to conduct business out-of-session.

Are Council member meeting costs and time reimbursed?

- Reasonable costs incurred by members travelling to and from Council meetings and any pre-approved accommodation and associated expenses will be reimbursed.
- Members are also paid an annual stipend of \$2,500, which is paid fortnightly into their nominated bank account, in line with the NSW Public Service Commission's Classification and Remuneration Framework for NSW Government Boards and Committees.

How long are members appointed for?

- Members are appointed for a specified period (not exceeding 3 years). Members are eligible for re-appointment.

Who is the Council's chairperson?


- The Council appoints its own Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson from amongst its members.
- The appointed Chairperson is paid an annual stipend of \$10,000, which is paid fortnightly into their nominated bank account, in line with the NSW Public Service Commission's Classification and Remuneration Framework for NSW Government Boards and Committees.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information about the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council, please visit the website or email the DPI Aboriginal Fishing team:

Website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aboriginal-fishing/afac

Email aboriginal.fishing@dpi.nsw.gov.au



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