



Guidelines for Assistance - Traditional Owners Attending Meetings

Attachment 3

Native Title Representative Bodies are notoriously under-funded and accordingly we cannot provide the full extent of assistance that Traditional Owners deserve. As a result, the Land Council must be efficient and effective with resources when organising meetings with Traditional Owners. Thus, the Land Council has set limits on the amount of assistance available. These guidelines give an indication as to what assistance is available for Land Council meetings. Note that all assistance is subject to the approval of the Land Council's Executive Officer and that these guidelines may change in the future without notice.

Applicant and/or Working Group Meetings

Applicant and Working Group Members are reminded that members are selected to membership of the Applicant and/or Working Group on the basis that they are easily contactable, live in the area where meetings are likely to be held and are available to attend meetings. Generally, assistance to attend Applicant and/or Working Group Meetings is limited. Transport assistance is limited to available seats in Land Council vehicles in circumstances where:

- i) To pick up a person does not involve any substantial deviation from the direct route to be travelled by the Land Council vehicle
- ii) To pick up a person does not involve any substantial additional travel time for the Land Council vehicle
- iii) The Land Council vehicle is not expected to travel to some other venue after the meeting before returning to the Land Council

Note that this assistance is on a first-in, best dressed and totally discretionary basis. **Those people wanting a lift to the meeting need to contact the Land Council at least three (3) days prior to the meeting. Fuel monies for private vehicles is not available.** The Land Council will try to schedule meetings during the day so that there is minimal inconvenience to Traditional Owners. Therefore, assistance with accommodation for Applicant and/or Working Group Meetings is not available.

Community Meetings

The purpose of a Community Meeting is to have representation of the wider group to; provide information, discuss key issues and to seek instructions on issues that may or may not be outside your native title claim (e.g. anthropological, historical, cultural heritage or corporation business), to allow the wider community to provide feedback or direction to Applicants or Working Groups.

Due to budget constraints NQLC is unable to provide any funding assistance for travel and accommodation. Only under extraordinary circumstances will NQLC give consideration to using NQLC funding for such meetings, this will be subject to the Executive Officer's final approval. Where a third party [such as Mining Company] is paying that will be set out in the notice.

Authorisation Meetings

Due to the importance of Authorisation Meetings and the need to have a wide representation of the community of Native Title Holders, assistance with travel and accommodation is available for Authorisation Meetings. All assistance is subject to approval of the Executive Officer but may include fuel reimbursement (either by production of a fuel receipt or a fuel mileage allowance) and assistance with long distance travel. Assistance with accommodation may also be available but is subject to the approval of the Executive Officer. Note: it is recommended that approval from the Executive Officer be sought before you make any travel and/or accommodation arrangements that may require reimbursement.

WHERE THE NQLC IS PROVIDING BUS TRANSPORTATION – FUEL/ MILEAGE WILL NOT BE PAID IF TRAVELLING FROM PLACES WHERE A BUS SERVICE IS PROVIDED.

Special Meetings

When the Land Council calls a meeting to assist a third party such as a developer, miner or similar and the Land Council has been able to negotiate that this third party contribute to the cost of the meeting, then assistance will be provided subject to the deal negotiated with the third party. The details of the assistance available will be advised prior to the meeting. Again, it is recommended that approval from the Executive Officer be sought before you make any travel and/or accommodation arrangements that may require reimbursement.

NIAA funding conditions do not allow the Land Council to pay sitting fees to Traditional Owners to attend meetings. An incidental allowance may be paid at various meetings however this is subject to the prior approval of the Executive Officer.