

Legislative Frameworks

Q. Does local government continue to provide an effective model for Indigenous governance?

Yes, especially given its flexibility, particularly in terms of representation and powers and functions. It is acknowledged that the current composition of local government requires reform.

Q. How might the LG Act be harmonised with the Aboriginal Lands Rights Act and Native Title Act to support more effective Indigenous governance?

Agreed that land use agreements were appropriate and that this did not necessarily require an amendment to the Act. It could be recorded in a council constitution. The Act could require it to be in the constitution.

Any reference in either the Act or constitution should also include reference to town planning, development approval and general recognition of traditional owners.

Agreed that current provisions within both Acts are adequate and that agreements could be entered into outside of this.

There may need to be multiple agreements but the starting point should be the towns and that a framework agreement could be drafted for most towns.

Agreed that Regional Authorities should not be hamstrung by red tape over agreements particularly when they require negotiation