

ATSIC REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING

ATSIC Regional Council Planning is a public conversation which will explore the processes used to engage the indigenous community in the Binjirru region in the development of the Binjirru Regional Plan

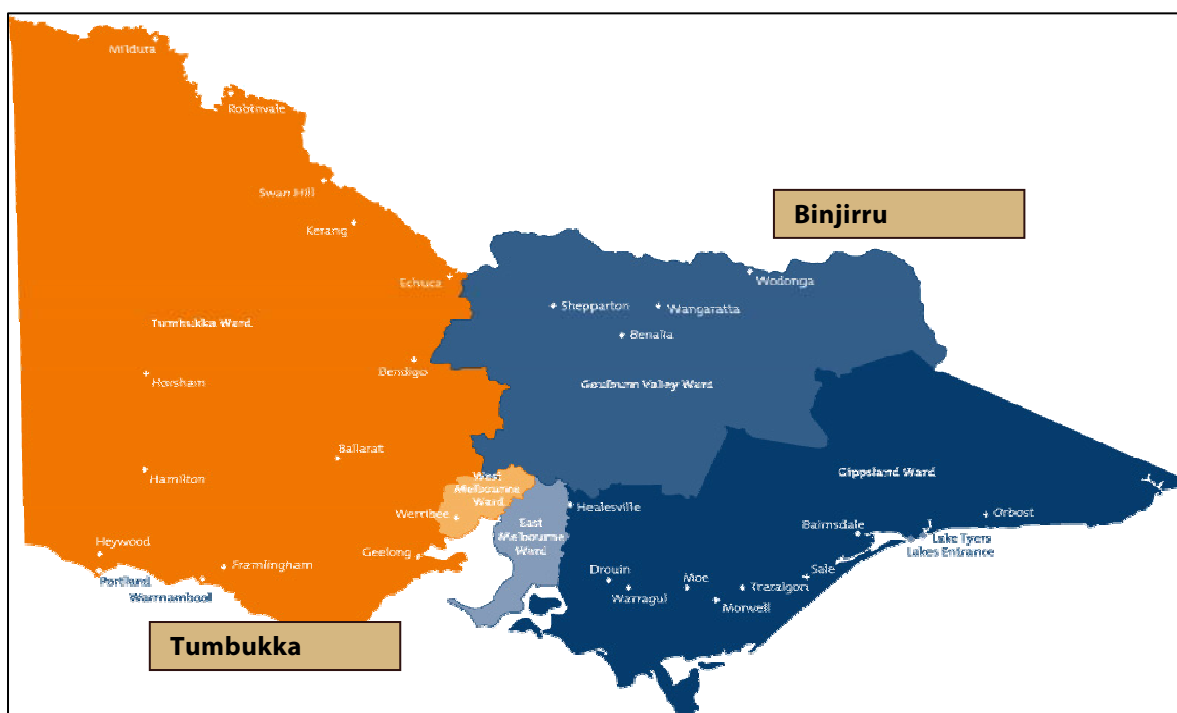
Indigenous regional councils regularly develop a regional plan to guide their activity in advocating for the community that elected them. The Binjirru Regional Council contracted Context to undertake a process of community engagement that would ensure community interests and needs are embodied in the plan

This conversation will focus on the process of how Context and the Binjirru Regional Council worked together to engage with the community to ensure all Indigenous people living in the region had the opportunity to have input into how issues that were important to them would be addressed by the Regional Council.

In particular, the discussion will examine how contact was made with the community, and the workshop process that was developed for the consultation.

A specific aspect of the workshop process was the nature of the information we were seeking and how we went about getting it. In addition to asking people to identify the issues their communities are facing, the Council was particularly interested in getting direction from the community about what the Council can do on the community's behalf.

ATSIC regions in Victoria



The project

- Contracted by ATSI
- Develop a regional plan 2004 – 2006 for the Binjirru Council based on consultation with the Indigenous community
- Overall aim of the consultation was to

- identify community concerns
- get direction from the community for action by the council

Breadth of consultation

- Health
- Family Wellbeing
- Housing & Infrastructure
- Community and Capacity
- Law and Justice
- Education
- Economic participation
- Land, Sea, Culture & Heritage

Workshop process

- Workshops were held in Shepparton, Sale and Melbourne
- Designed to allow people to:
 - Arrive when they were ready
 - Allow people to determine their own agenda and issues
 - Open to all

Issues and challenges:

Key issues that arose in the consultation program were:

- Getting information out to the right people in the community about the consultation process
- Getting people to the consultation workshops
- Designing and running a workshop that allowed for people to come and go during the course of the workshop
- A workshop process was needed that would allow people to provide input into issues that were of concern to them rather than getting response to a pre-determined agenda
- The initial response from the community in each workshop was to identify all of the issues they are facing. The challenge to us was in working with participants to get them to provide direction to the Council on how to address these issues.
- The consultation occurred at a time of significant change, initially with the restructure of ATSIC into ATSIC and ATSSIS, and in the final stages of the project, the abolition of ATSSIS by the federal government.

How these issues have been managed will be addressed in the presentation and through discussion with delegates.

Presenter details

Fran Woodruff: *M App Sc-Social Ecology (in progress), BA Soc. Science Welfare Studies, Cert 3-Environ Change Management, Cert 4-Workplace Training & Assessment, Grad Dip Facilitation (in progress).* Fran Woodruff has thirteen years experience working directly with people. Prior to joining Context in 2003, Fran has been director of her own company, working in training, facilitation and project management of a variety of environmental, community, government and non-government projects. Her skills include facilitation, project management, strategic support, environmental initiatives, focusing on innovative organisational environmental cultural change.

David Speller: *BSc, Grad Dip in Education, Diploma in Training and Assessment Systems, Masters in Social Ecology.* David is an experienced facilitator who has been involved in strategic development programs in the community, government and business sectors for the past 9 years. His experience has included working with organisations to develop strategic plans, to design and implement strategic management systems, to evaluate programs, and recently, he has contributed to an industrial energy efficiency program that achieved great success because of the way in which people at all levels of each organisation were engaged. His experience has included coordinating the logistics of complex projects involving multiple stakeholders across wide geographic areas including both regional and metropolitan areas

Daphne Yarram: Co-presenter

Chairperson, Binjirru Regional Council

Daphne is the elected Chairperson of Binjirru Regional Council, representing Indigenous people living in the Eastern half of Victoria