

# Opening Statement

## Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council

### Introduction – Chairperson Annette Brown

I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we meet on today.

I also acknowledge the Honorable members of parliament and their staff.

Today WBACC board members are here as requested to discuss WBACC activities and housing matters happening in our community at Wreck Bay Village.

WBACC's forward plan is to work closely with other commonwealth agencies to upgrade Infrastructure in the community and construct new housing for tenants residing in Wreck Bay.

The 45.1 million which has been committed by commonwealth will improve health and wellbeing and provide multi-generational housing for families living in Wreck Bay Village.

Brief history.

In 1986 WBACC the body corporate was established to transfer title of land.

The corporate body also became responsible for social welfare and the commonwealth housing built in 1940s & 50s and attached to aboriginal land when transferred to WBACC.

Over the years we have worked tirelessly with commonwealth government to address social and economic issues affecting our members and will continue to do so.

WBACC has 465 registered members who reside throughout the nation.

WBACC's main functions include Community Housing, Management and Maintenance of Aboriginal Land, Community Services, Ranger Program, Clinic Management, Cultural Heritage, Daycare, and business enterprises.

One of the biggest challenges WBACC faces is that the Jervis Bay Territory is part of the Shoalhaven area which is governed by NSW. However the Jervis Bay Territory is ACT, and the nearest ACT services are 3 hours away. Whilst we can get some services from NSW to visit us at Wreck Bay we are treated differently from the rest of Shoalhaven. E.g. our RFS comes under the NSW RFS jurisdiction, however the Shoalhaven RFS crews are funded by Shoalhaven Council and our RFS is not.