



Opportunity for Knowledge Holders and story tellers

April 2021

Expressions of Interest

Aboriginal Exploratory Workshops Hexham Straight Widening

Who	Aboriginal Elders, leaders and creative thinkers with a connection to Hexham and the surrounding Newcastle area. This opportunity aims to integrate an Aboriginal narrative across within the Hexham Straight Widening project.
Why	We invite your contribution to help establish a local Aboriginal voice and narrative for this project.
What	We're inviting locally connected Aboriginal community members and diverse creative minds to attend a workshop to share the Aboriginal narrative in the area surrounding Hexham Straight.
When/where	We will be holding a workshop from 10am to 2pm on 4th May 2021 at the Yamuloong Centre: 71 Prospect Rd, Garden Suburb NSW 2289.
Apply	Spaces are limited. Please send us some brief information about your work, yourself and your connection to the areas listed above, along with your preferred workshop date to: info@balarinji.com.au
Paid	Successful applicants will be paid for their time.

To help us with organising the workshop please let us know if you're interested as soon as possible.



BALARINJI

for further information please contact the Balarinji studio on (02) 9908 2416 or email info@balarinji.com.au

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Hexham Straight Widening?

Transport for NSW (Transport) proposes to widen about six kilometres of the Pacific Highway/Maitland Road/New England Highway (A43) from four lanes to six lanes, from the intersection with the Newcastle Inner City Bypass at Sandgate, through to Hexham Bridge, in Hexham, NSW (the proposal). The section of road known as the 'Hexham Straight' is located in the suburb of Hexham within the Newcastle local government area.

Balarinji has been engaged by Jacobs on behalf of Transport for NSW in relation to the proposal to provide Aboriginal Cultural Interpretation of the proposed area based on a community-endorsed local Aboriginal narrative for the Hexham Straight Widening upgrade in the Hunter Valley.

Balarinji proposes to undertake consultation with the Aboriginal community to develop an overarching Aboriginal narrative for the proposal area that is community-driven and endorsed. Our approach is to work closely with local Aboriginal Custodians, to interpret the proposal areas Aboriginal history and its contemporary Aboriginal story by activating and celebrating the local Aboriginal narrative.

What is the purpose of these workshops?

These workshops will inform us about the Aboriginal culture and heritage of the Hexham and surrounding areas within the Newcastle local government area. This opportunity aims to integrate an Aboriginal narrative across the Hexham Straight Widening project.

Through this engagement we aim to:

- Highlight opportunities for the project to understand the Aboriginal context (cultural, physical and spiritual)
- Highlight opportunities to consider how Aboriginal culture and heritage can be considered
- Discuss what the local community think should be considered by the project team as it continues to develop the project.

Who is Balarinji and what is their involvement in the project?

Balarinji is a leading Aboriginal-owned strategy and design agency that has been based in Sydney for 20 years. With experience facilitating opportunities for local Aboriginal people to benefit from, and contribute to, major public projects. As a member of the project advisory team, we are facilitating the workshops. Our aim for the session is to listen to the community about how it wants to see the project develop a deeper understanding of the Aboriginal cultural significance of the Hexham Straight Widening Project.

How do I apply?

Please send us some brief information about your work, yourself and your connection to Awakabal, Wonnarua, Worimi and Darkinjung peoples to info@balarinji.com.au.

How will workshop attendees be selected?

We will use a range of criteria to select attendees including seniority in the community (local Elders), family links to the proposed corridor, involvement in the community and creative expertise. This is to ensure we have a diverse and inclusive representation.

How will Balarinji protect the intellectual property of the workshop participants?

The workshop is an exchange of ideas to ensure the Aboriginal voice is heard in relation to the project. Intellectual property such as knowledge, stories and designs remain with the creator of those works.



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