

ISLAND ARK

symposium

VII

Symposium workshop – Wednesday 7 September, 13:15 – 15:30

Session Chair – Dorian Moro

Facilitator - Liz Stinson

56 attendees

29 organisations or independent agency representations

Planning for a national island platform in Australia

Australia's approach to managing and conserving its offshore islands needs urgent review. In this workshop we want to discuss a range of models, key stakeholders, role descriptions and parameters for creating a national Australian Islands Alliance that can champion island conservation action, prioritise investments aligned to risks, and connect partners at a strategic level nationally.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country – Liz Stinson **13:15 – 13:20**

Introductory remarks to set some context – Derek Ball **13:20 – 13:30**

Workshop Discussion Questions

- | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| 1. What is the high-level objective or vision for an Australian Islands Alliance? | Large group | 13:30 – 13:45 |
| 2. Where are we now in moving toward this objective, and where do we want to be in 3-5 years? | Small groups | 13:45 – 14:00 |
| Report back | Large group | 14:00 – 14:10 |
| 3. What sort of organisational structure might be well suited to reach the 3-5 year target, and what would its scope/boundaries be? | Small groups | 14:15 – 14:45 |
| Report back | Large group | 14:45 – 15:05 |

4. How will we engage stakeholders?

Large group 15:05 – 15:15

5. Who is willing to help lead this work?

Large group 15:15 – 15:25

Next steps and close – Dorian Moro

15:25 – 15:30

What is the high-level objective or vision for an Australian Islands Alliance?

[notes collated from working tables]

- Incorporation – members, who can vote on priorities
- Nationally-regulated framework to identify priorities and attract funding
- Island representative council (support role, advocacy, not gate keeping)
- Influencing platform for policy, govt decision makers, advocacy
- Move from silos (research only to expand to arts/education/tourism etc)
- Collective that operates for national benefit of island nature conservation values (supporting fund rounds as partners)
- National portal to mainstream national-level communications: TOs & groups and principles on how to engage these, practitioners (govt funding bodies, philanthropy, community)
- Educating the next generation
- Long term funding opportunities
- Collective access to government
- Improve partnerships for sharing information and solutions/best practice approaches
- Sharing mistakes/learning from failure
- Platform to prioritise projects and funding, share outcomes
- Access to research databases and people/practitioners, managed at a national level (noting challenges of lack of contributions)
- Provision of expert review pre-project
- State of Environment reporting

Where do we want to be in 3-5 years?

[notes collated from working tables]

Current problem

- Uncoordinated
- Inefficient
- No national identity
- Lack of national priorities informed by experts
- Regional improvements could be better for island conservation initiatives
- Move away from a government funded model

In 5 years time

Table 1

- Australian Island Alliance has an identity/voice at a national level
- Attract funding streams, use interest from philanthropy to fund priorities

- National database including those who host other databases
- Central communication channel

Table 2

- Advisory /lobby voice to parliament
- Platform that identifies policy aligned to existing national strategies
- Education body to inform bureaucrats/State bodies
- Trust that hold funds and builds on the interest to support projects, match funding etc

Table 3

- Representative Council (advocacy and influences)
- An Alliance invited to represent national workshops and similar national discussions where islands are an important area for national discussion.
- Recognising local custodians, with a Country Plan developed for Sea Country and other islands with TO interest, respect, input and cultural safety.

Table 4

- Recognising TOs
- Support funding opportunities
- Support pre-project peer reviews for submissions to provide independence and integrity for govt decisions
- Increase the knowledge sharing opportunities

Table 5

- Coordinate national actions for island nature conservation and action
- Ignite islands in the public (incl islander) imagination
- Develop a national governance structure for islands
- Membership based alliance
- Support serious investment in island conservation and activities for nature conservation.

What sort of organisational structure might be well suited to reach the 3-5 year target, and what would its scope/boundaries be?

- Representative platform for islands at the national level
 - Alliance
 - Network
 - Society for island conservation, knowledge, action
 - Invasive Species Council as a model (but see Kark et al 2022)
 - Links to existing international groups?
 - Does it act as a National Island Landcare Group?
 - Board w a variety of working groups
- Legal structure (w website, banding, paid staffing)
- DGR status
- ACNC
- Not for Profit

- Incorporated (State)
- Auspiced by a legal entity
- Company limited by guarantee (national)
- Governance by a Board
- Member based that generates its own governance structure vs Alliance structure as a representative body that links existing organisations and networks (eg ALCA landcare model)
- Include associate members (eg NZ member base)
- Networks represented at the national level
- Clear Terms of Reference
- Don't exclude government voice
- Develop priorities for biosecurity actions
- Have representatives represent in the policy at national level

In-Scope

- Australian islands
- Biodiversity conservation as a focus item
- Perpetuating hope
- Data collation
- Island Arks Symposium
- Advice to community groups
- Advocacy for islands and climate change
- Representation from 'tag' groups (eg eradications, translocations, education)
- Paid staffing
- Natural and cultural heritage on islands
- Vision and strategy for island management
- Champions the credibility for islands nationally
- Maintaining island economies
- Supporting flexible funding
- Lobbying
- Social (communication and education)
- Leveraging philanthropy
- Only offshore islands
- Biosecurity as part of projects on islands
- Effective messaging of how conservation supports island communities
- Policy
- Communication platform

Out-of-Scope

- Waste management & infrastructure
- Social aspects of community that is not directly related to the island environment
- A process-driven platform only
- Speaking for TOs
- Funding body

- NZ and Pacific islands

On the fence/boundary/uncertain if in or out of scope

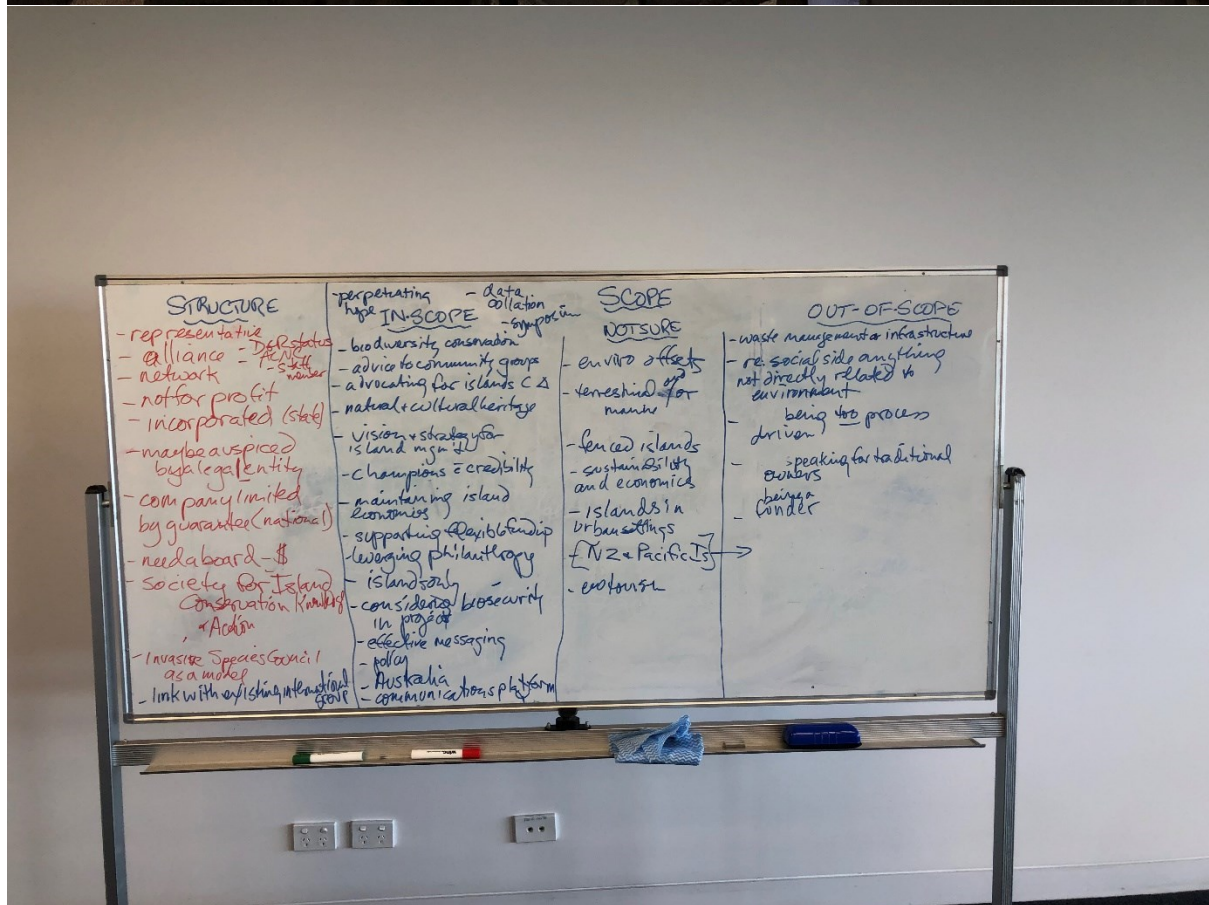
- Environmental offsets
- Inclusion of terrestrial only, marine only, or both aspects of environmental features
- Onshore fenced 'islands'
- Sustainability and economics
- Islands in urban settings
- Ecotourism

How will we engage stakeholders?

- Smaller national working group
- Develop a communication and marketing strategy w island stakeholders

Photos from the workshop



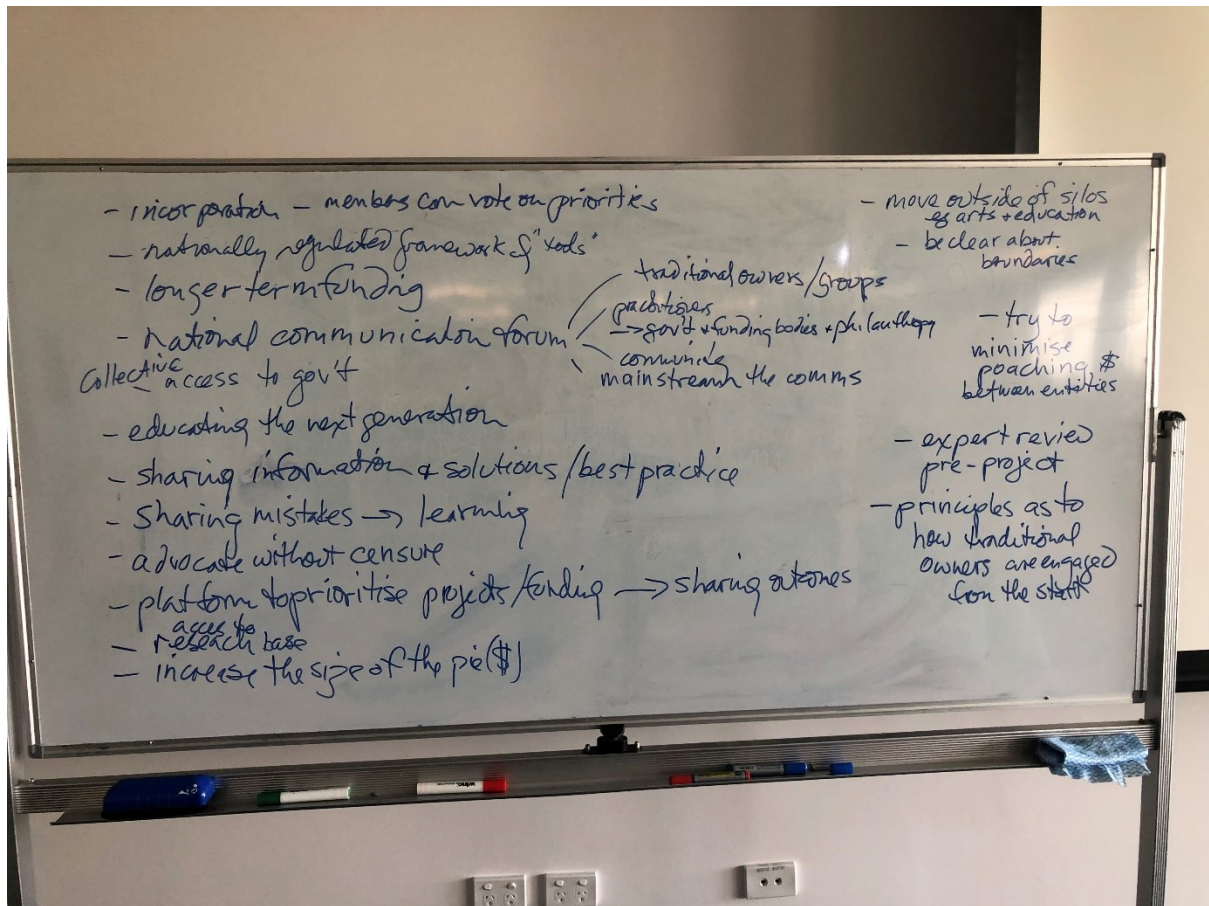




IN 5 YEARS

- an identity/presence → voice
- attract \$
- structure
- database including people/social ✓
- communication channels
- advisory/lobbying voice → parliament
- policy aligned to existing strat
- education body → inform bureaucrats
- schools liaison
- \$ \$ - staying in interest
- fund matching
- representative council - advocacy influence
- invitation to be involved/represented
- recognising all local customs
- Myalla Country Plan for every island
- identifying, recognising traditional owners
- \$ for as many islands as possible
- pre-project peer review!
 - integrity in gov't decisions
 - independence from gov't decisions
- ↑ in knowledge sharing
- prioritisation of actions/activities
- coordinated national actions
- fund social consultation upfront
- ignite islands in public imagination
 - include islands countries
- governance structure
- membership base - communication
- serious \$ \$
- more traditional owner input & cultural safety
- Pacific Islands?







List of workshop attendees

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