

October 2020

## Gippsland Lakes Participatory Design Process Workshop 2: Visions

On Tuesday 6 October, EJA held the second of three workshops building law reform and governance options for the future of the Gippsland Lakes. This workshop was all about visions for the future of the Gippsland Lakes. The workshop was attended by 26 participants from eight different community groups.

### GLaWAC presentations

The workshop began with presentations from Uncle Russell Mullett, Lisa Hocking and Daniel Miller from Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC). Russell observed that before we can look to the future of the Lakes, we need to look to the past. In situating the present and the future of the Lakes within a long history, Uncle Russell presentation described the archaeological, ecological and cultural landscape that has existed for thousands of years prior to colonisation.

Daniel described the realities of protecting cultural heritage, such as near camping areas on Lake Tyres. Lisa described some of the processes which are currently underway, including the regional and strategic partnership (RASP), a partnership between regional agencies and is established by Ministerial appointment under section 42 of the *Marine and Coastal Act*.

### Community presentations

Dr Jess Reeves highlighted the social, cultural and economic value of the Lakes, in addition to their ecological significance. She presented a vision of informed, community-led management of the Lakes. You can see her presentation [here](#).

Bumpy Favell presented on behalf of Gippsland Environment Group (GEG) with input from Ross Scott and Roger Bilney. GEG's vision is of a healthy Lakes system, achieved with an independent audit of the ecological function of the Gippsland Lakes system; reduced depth of the permanent entrance; and restored water for the environment. You can see their presentation [here](#).

### Discussions

Participants then elected to discuss either the governance, environmental or social and economic visions for the Lakes. These visions were drawn together in a plenary discussion and captured in the attached graphic recording by Sarah Firth:

# Gippsland Lakes Community Workshop: Visions



## Next steps

The final workshop in the participatory design process will involve choosing legal and governance models to work towards this vision. The workshop will be on Tuesday 10 November 5-7pm, contact:

[nicola.silbert@envirojustice.org.au](mailto:nicola.silbert@envirojustice.org.au).