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Introduction

Ochre-Rain Pty Ltd is an Aboriginal owned social enterprise that works to address inequality, improve and build capacity within our communities, and heal Country. Ochre-Rain develops and promotes collaborative ways of working with Aboriginal people and communities for projects and organisations, enabling Aboriginal cultural knowledge and practice to become embedded in the places, systems and communities we live in, in a way that is appropriate and culturally safe. This approach brings people together and results in shared outcomes; generating opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration, and reimagining relationships with Country and the places and spaces around us.

Ochre-Rain is contracted by DarkLab to facilitate Aboriginal community, group and individual contributions to the proposed Transformer public artwork and associated infrastructure on the Ida Bay State Reserve. As part of this arrangement, Ochre-Rain has considered the potential to explore Aboriginal cultural connections through this process; grounding the development of the site with Aboriginal cultural burning and the stories of the traditional owners, the Lylequonny people, as well as identifying significant and important ways Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities can benefit from the proposed development and its ongoing operation and maintenance. Meaningful, culturally appropriate and respectful engagement with Aboriginal communities, groups, and key Elders and knowledge holders forms an important part of this work.

Aboriginal cultural burning was first cited as a means to support the Transformer art installation through landscape rehabilitation, providing a contextual link to the 2019 Tasmanian bushfires, out of which this project was born, and recognition of traditional Aboriginal land management practice. Aboriginal cultural burning is now considered an integral part of the installation. Embedding the artwork into cultural practice and an ancient cultural landscape - paying homage to the many generations of peoples who lived on, and were returned to this Country. The skilful use of fire as a land management tool to mitigate against future high intensity fire activity will be a powerful message to share with the local community, who continue to live with the trauma of the 2019 fires. Aboriginal cultural burning at Transformer will also promote the health of Country and landscapes and reduce bushfire severity through fuel reduction and fuel modification.

May 2022

Ochre-Rain is working in collaboration with DarkLab to ensure Aboriginal cultural practices, histories, and knowledge of Country are considered in the context of any development. Ochre-Rain has proposed ways the Transformer development can effectively consider and explore the potential for basic experiences and programs for Aboriginal experiential learning, and engaging with schools and groups. Progressing this in some form as part of the initial development stage will provide a foundation and case to support any future relationships, promoting awareness of Aboriginal culture, knowledge of Country and opportunities for sharing and passing on knowledge and stories.

The progression of this development is being considered holistically with a view to exploring and pursuing opportunities to provide outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities. These opportunities may go beyond standard Aboriginal input practices, and instead embed Aboriginal people and cultural practice in innovative ways across the breadth of the site and experience - Providing meaningful opportunities demonstrates a deeper commitment to closing the gap in Aboriginal disadvantage.

This commitment has been demonstrated by the project proponents, DarkLab, through engaging an Aboriginal owned enterprise specialising in culturally respectful and appropriate Aboriginal community consultation and engagement.

Summary of Aboriginal Community Connections and Opportunities

Ochre-Rain has identified a number of opportunities for contributions from Aboriginal community members, creatives and cultural practitioners and embedding elements of Country, cultural connections, and storytelling within the Transformer site. Including these will enrich the visitor experience and provide spaces and opportunities for learning and sharing culture for Aboriginal people, the local community, and Transformer visitors.

With the support of Ochre-Rain, the Transformer project has been actively developing, progressing and implementing genuine opportunities for Aboriginal people, groups and communities to contribute and benefit from the Project in many ways.

As of May 2022, the following Aboriginal touch-points and opportunities have been progressed as part of the project:

(Ongoing) Regular Ochre-Rain / DarkLab onsite reading Country visits: An ongoing site visitation program to the Ida Bay Reserve to observe, learn from, and read Country. Including recorded flora and fauna observations, and increased broader understanding of the broader and surrounding cultural landscapes.

(Ongoing) Ochre-Rain membership on the Project Team providing oversight and guidance for the development of the Transformer Project. Including Aboriginal representation on the Project Team, ensures cultural and Aboriginal community considerations are valued appropriately and opportunities for Aboriginal participation and learning are valued by the team as a whole.

September 2021: Commissioning of paleoecological investigations at Ida Bay: Dr Ian Thomas was commissioned, through a partnership with the University of Tasmania to deepen the project team's understanding of Aboriginal occupation and land management practices in the area, to support the understanding and reading of Country for any future Healthy Country planning work for the site.

November 2021: Aboriginal community participation during broader cultural landscape investigations in the Far South: Local Aboriginal Elder Uncle Rodney Dillon and Ochre-Rain representatives accompanied the Project Team and provided critical cultural knowledge and advice during a series of site investigations across the Far South over multiple days - deepening the groups understanding of the areas rich cultural landscapes.

February 2022: Ceremony, Welcome to Country and cultural connection at the Ida Bay State Reserve: Uncle Rodney Dillon and AJ King provided a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony to welcome Californian based Transformer artist, Doug Aitken and DarkLab staff to Lyluequonny Country at the Transformer site. The ceremony was followed by a tour of the Far South including cultural connections and history.

March 2022: Aboriginal community participation in site seed harvesting and flora identification: Ochre-Rain provided an Aboriginal community member to accompany a local native seed harvester to harvest site specific native seed to be used during future stages of the development.

April 2022: Aboriginal Culture Burning at Lune River: DarkLab contracted Ochre-Rain to facilitate, plan, and execute an Aboriginal Cultural Burn on private property at Lune River opposite the Transformer site (the Cameron Burn) over three days, following a 'Reading Country' process and development of an Operational Plan. The intention of this burn was to demonstrate the cultural burning knowledge and skill of practitioners across the Aboriginal community (both contractors and Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) Working on Country Rangers) and for the first time in lutruwita / Tasmania facilitate a multi agency burn through a privately owned, Aboriginal led business. Both properties are part of the same cultural landscape with similar flora, fauna, geography and fire history. The preliminary burn supported significant relationship building with relevant PWS Fire Officers, Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) personnel and brigades as well as neighbouring land owners / managers. In total, over 44 people attended the three day event including Aboriginal cultural practitioners, Working on Country Rangers, PWS Fire Managers, Tasmanian Fire Service Personnel and Ochre-Rain support staff. DarkLab's support of this project has enabled Aboriginal cultural fire practitioners to undertake Aboriginal cultural burning practices through a fee-for-service model, for the first time in lutruwita / Tasmania. Enabling and building capacity in the Aboriginal community to meet the significant demand for this cultural practice as a professional service offering. The successful completion of this burn provides a solid learning platform and experience to proceed with cultural burning practices on the Transformer site.

These opportunities will be further developed during the ongoing planning and construction process; with current (May 2022) commitments and efforts underway to progress development of the narrative, stories, and histories of the Lylequonny and local Aboriginal people and community.

Other opportunities may be further explored as part of future planning for the site. Ochre-Rain has provided DarkLab with a series of guiding principles based around practices of designing for Country to further ensure this knowledge is present when decisions are made. Throughout the Transformer site, elements of Country and storytelling may be embedded in:

- Traditional land management practices .
    - Cultural Burning
    - Reading and walking Country
    - Ongoing land management and artwork maintenance
- Car Park and Transformer Landscaping.
- Using Aboriginal names, words, and phrases.
- Providing an onsite interpretative narrative and acknowledgement of the Lylequonny People .
- Using locally sourced materials to support connection to Country.
- Engaging and procuring local providers and Aboriginal owned businesses where possible to provide, design and inform site services and infrastructure.
- Facilities for schools and groups to attend to learn from Cultural Knowledge Holders and Practitioners.
    - Developing and delivering a cultural learning experience with local schools, including:
        - Sacred Heart Geeveston
        - St James Cygnet

- Huonville High school
- Dover district school

Ochre-Rain has also met with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) to discuss ways the Transformer project intersects with current efforts underway to develop a Healthy Country Plan for the broader Far South area. A Healthy Country Plan is a way to help achieve the local Aboriginal community's vision and goals for how their Country might be managed into the future. Ochre-Rain will continue to engage with and support this local planning process, involving Aboriginal organisations and people, to identify mutual opportunities for the health of Country and place, including the Ida Bay State Reserve.

As of May 2022, DarkLab has asked Ochre-Rain to progress and develop a staged proposal to develop a Healthy Country Plan for the Ida Bay State Reserve. Two Ochre-Rain staff were previously involved in progressing a Healthy Country Plan for nearby Recherche Bay. A Health Country Plan for Ida Bay (and surrounds) would also involve Aboriginal organisations, SETAC and Karadi, as well appropriate connections with relevant Government Agencies (Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, Natural Resources and Environment). Opportunities to connect the two local processes will be explored.

Aboriginal Community Consultation and Engagement

Ochre-Rain works with an understanding that Aboriginal community engagement for creative and community projects evolves over time with the input and involvement of people, and connection with Country. It is a process that needs to support the participation of Aboriginal people and undertaken in ways that are culturally safe and appropriate. The project proponent understands and supports meaningful and impactful engagement with Aboriginal people and their knowledge of Country and Culture as a means of appropriately embedding the Transformer development on Country and providing opportunities for Aboriginal people, groups, and communities.

This project acknowledges lutruwita / Tasmania's strong Aboriginal heritage, history, and story. Transformer is an opportunity for Tasmania's Aboriginal cultural practitioners to expand their reach and capacity, for Aboriginal people to connect and reconnect with Country and place at Ida Bay, and for visitors and local schools to learn more about the ancient story and people of the broader cultural landscapes of the area.

Ochre-Rain and DarkLab have commenced Aboriginal community engagement and consultation, particularly where it relates to the two Aboriginal focused opportunities currently being progressed (Aboriginal cultural burning and the story of the Lylequonny people). As the focus of

Transformer is the art installation and associated narrative, Aboriginal community consultation and engagement will be commensurate with the development, and the proponent's (and artist's) desire to appropriately and respectfully embed the development on Country, and in doing so be supported by local Aboriginal people, key knowledge holders, Elders and key Aboriginal organisations and groups. The proponent, where appropriate, will remunerate Aboriginal people for their time and contributions towards the project, including the provision of advice and knowledge.

Key Aboriginal Community Rightsholders

With the proposed location of the development on Lylequonny Country in Tasmania's Far South, the primary Aboriginal community stakeholders are locally based Aboriginal organisations, including:

- the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (SETAC);
- the Weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation; and
- Karadi Aboriginal Corporation;

Other important Aboriginal rightsholders may include:

- the Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (TAC);
- the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT) (Statutory Authority under the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*);
- Local Aboriginal people living in the Far South; and
- Key Aboriginal Elders and Knowledge Holders.

The proposed consultative approach will not be exclusive. Aboriginal people, organisations, and groups can engage with aspects of the proposed development that may be relevant to them or their members at the appropriate time. This will be particularly relevant for progressing a Healthy

Country Plan and within this, Aboriginal cultural burning, at Transformer where opportunities will be available for many different Aboriginal community organisations, groups, businesses and individuals based on their interest, skills, and capacity, rather than their locality or region. This will be similar for any Aboriginal creative components of the development. For cultural burning this may include:

- Truwuna Rangers from Cape Barren Island;
- Pakana rangers from ALCT / TAC;
- Pakana Services (private land management enterprise);
- patrula nayri cultural fire practitioners;
- Parks & Wildlife Service Aboriginal Fire Rangers and Work on Country Rangers;
- Karadi Aboriginal Corporation Mens' Group; and
- Individual Aboriginal cultural burning and land management knowledge holders.

Where contractors and suppliers are engaged for aspects of the project, providers will be encouraged to consult and engage with Aboriginal communities and people, including identifying opportunities. Ochre-Rain will provide ongoing support to ensure such engagement occurs in a culturally safe and appropriate way.

Next Steps

Aspects of this consultation and engagement work is underway and has included Ochre-Rain facilitating engagement with SETAC and key local Aboriginal Elders and knowledge holders. This has included on-Country visits in the Far South, and discussions about the aspirations of local Aboriginal people and future opportunities associated with the Transformer development.

Going forward and prior to the submitting of a revised Development Application to the Huon Valley Council, Aboriginal community engagement will be further progressed through directly engaging with Aboriginal community rights holders providing a status update on the project and

DarkLab's intention to submit a revised DA for the Project. This correspondence will highlight future opportunities for Aboriginal community contributions to the Project.

In collaboration with Elders and Community organisations and representatives, Ochre-Rain will continue to review plans and project briefs and identify elements that may be suitable for Aboriginal Community collaboration, input and creative outcomes, including identifying creative practitioners and knowledge holders for specific projects and opportunities.

Ochre-Rain will continue to support relationships between DarkLab stakeholders and staff and Aboriginal rightsholders in a variety of ways, including shared learnings and on-Country experiences that are woven throughout other DarkLab and Ochre-Rain organisational projects and initiatives involving Aboriginal people and communities, that have a wide-reaching and impactful benefit for Aboriginal Communities and people in lutruwita / Tasmania.