Community Consultation 2025

Burning Seed site and date · A record for Our History · Sunburnt Arts

> In 2025 Sunburnt Arts asked its members about moving the annual gathering from Matong and finding a new home. We explored the idea extensively with the community and tested Capertee as an option, which was ultimately found to be unsuitable. This record condenses the consultation page and FAQ we published in October 2025. It shows how we communicated with members during the process, as a members organisation. The full text of the page as published is in the Appendix, and the companion report, *What We Heard*, holds the full findings.

Why we consulted

In late 2025 Sunburnt Arts asked its community whether the annual gathering should move from Matong State Forest, its home for 15 years, to a private site at Capertee, and whether its dates should change. Survey responses and conversations had shown a community working hard to keep its ember glowing, with volunteers stretched and many members feeling disconnected.

The board described the decision as complex. It touched cultural legacy, volunteer capacity, accessibility, geographic fairness and the organisation's finances. Members were told plainly that their buy-in would decide whether any change could succeed, that theme camp organisers, artists, parents, regional burners, long-time crew and newcomers would each see it differently, and that open consultation was how trust would be rebuilt.

How the consultation ran

The core consultation ran for eight weeks from October 2025. A *What We Heard* report was promised in week six and a decision at the end of week eight, followed by change management support. Members could take part through:

- Focus groups for specific communities, starting in week three (20 October 2025).
- Community forums, online and in person.
- Regional town halls for Newcastle and the Hunter, Canberra and the ACT, and interstate members.
- Written feedback by email to tt@sunburntarts.org.au, an online form or anonymous submission.
- One-on-one conversations with the board on request.

Membership was welcomed but not required to have a say. The board made the final decision, weighing community feedback alongside operational feasibility, financial viability, legal and insurance matters, and alignment with community values. It committed to showing how feedback shaped both the options and the outcome.

The two sites as presented to members

	Capertee	Matong
Travel from Sydney	About 3.5 hours, 285 km	About 6 hours, 474 km
Roads and access	Sealed roads with 1 km of graded access. Easy 2WD and heavy vehicle access, flood-free.	Unsealed roads needing extensive maintenance. Restricted truck access and flood risk.
Site costs	A flat site fee plus a fixed rate per person over 500, with no maintenance overheads.	Permit fees plus tens of thousands of dollars a year in road, fire-trail and environmental works.
Infrastructure	Power conduits, telephone poles for shade, a back-of-stage shed, year-round container storage and early and late access.	Everything built from scratch each year, with limited storage and a full annual pack-out.
Emergency and medical	Firefighting tanker onsite, with a host who is a former RFS captain. Rylstone Medical 38 minutes, Nepean Hospital 3 hours.	Wagga Medical 50 minutes, Canberra Hospital 3.5 hours.

The board linked these differences to volunteer wellbeing. Building everything from scratch each year had contributed to burnout and to experienced volunteers stepping back, while existing infrastructure at Capertee could free energy for programming, community building and art. On finances, the board expected Capertee's predictable costs could give two to three years of breathing room to build reserves and invest in community programmes.

Capertee also carried some unknowns: learning a new site, development application approvals, layout and capacity, and how the community would feel about the change. Planned responses included site visits before the event and working with a host experienced in hosting festivals, at a site where similar events had welcomed more than 7,000 people.

What the community survey had shown

The FAQ drew on an earlier community survey. It reported that 83% of respondents prioritised a strong NSW community, 76% prioritised community and connection, and 70% saw access for Sydney-based participants as important. Financial sustainability and existing infrastructure were also high priorities. Participation had shifted towards NSW, with 69% of participants coming from NSW compared with 32% in 2015, centred on Sydney's Inner West.

Honouring Matong

Members were assured that Matong, the birthplace of Burning Seed, was not being left behind. The board proposed a cyclical model, such as two or three years at Capertee followed by a year back at Matong, as a bridge to sustainability. It also committed to honouring those who built the event at Matong, recording and commemorating the site's significance, and carrying the community's cultural practices and shared values to wherever we gather.

Dates

A date change was explored for better alignment with school holidays, weather better suited to burning, volunteer availability and interstate travel. Any options would be presented with analysis of school holidays across states, weather history, travel costs and clashes with other events. The board committed to giving well over a year's notice of any new dates, with clear reasons and support for members' planning. It acknowledged that a busier regional burn calendar meant some clashes could not be avoided, and aimed to space events at least four to six months apart for camps.

Community and identity

Cohesion and disagreement

The board committed to hearing every voice, recording dissenting views in its decision documents, supporting everyone through the outcome, and keeping space open for ongoing conversation. A Change Champions network and regular check-ins were planned for peer support.

A national community with a NSW base

Burning Seed began as a national regional burn and interstate burners remained welcome and valued. Planning reflected the members who were actively engaged and doing the work at the time, and interstate members were invited to help shape what came next.

The name of the event

With the organisation now called Sunburnt Arts, the name of the event was left open for members to discuss. A new name, such as the community suggestion Seed Embers, could signal a fresh beginning. Keeping Burning Seed would hold on to a much-loved identity as Australia's original regional burn. Either way, the board said the spirit of the event would stay the same.

Costs to participants and keeping members informed

The board promised analysis of ticket prices, travel by region, theme camp transport, off-site accommodation and financial assistance, noting that lower site costs could help keep tickets stable. Updates went out by weekly email, the website consultation page, the Sunburnt Arts Facebook page and Slack, with a commitment to reply to enquiries within 48 hours.

Where it led

The consultation gave members a real say in where the community gathers next. Through it, and through testing Capertee as an option, the community and the board found that Capertee was ultimately unsuitable as the gathering's new home. The search for a new location carried on with what members had told us, and the questions, figures and promises in this record are the foundation that work stood on.

Our commitment, as published

- Open, honest communication with no predetermined outcome.
- Consultation where members' voices shape the options, the decision and how it is carried out.
- Accessible and inclusive activities, and support for the community through whatever we decide together.
- Honouring our history while planning for a sustainable future.
- Decisions that put community benefit, volunteer sustainability and long-term viability first.

The page closed with this: *Your voice matters. Your participation shapes our future. The ember still glows because of people like you.*

Condensed from the Sunburnt Arts Community Consultation page and FAQ (last updated 27 October 2025). Prepared for the Our History page, October 2026. Full text follows in the Appendix. Companion document: *What We Heard* synthesis report.

Appendix: Full text as published

The Community Consultation page and FAQ · sunburntarts.org.au/community-consultation

> This appendix holds the full text of the Community Consultation page and FAQ as they appeared on our website, so the record of how we communicated with members during the search is kept whole. The wording is reproduced as it was published, and notes in square brackets describe page elements such as the embedded report, form and buttons. Archived 31 October 2026.

Community Consultation

What We Heard *[A nine-page PDF report, What We Heard (SBA_What_We_Heard_Synthesis), was embedded here with a Download PDF button.]*

About the Consultation: Burning Seed Site & Date

Why We Consulted

This isn't just about logistics or locations. Our community has faced significant challenges over recent years, and we've heard your voices through survey responses, informal conversations, and observation of declining participation. With 58% of our community identifying as or exploring neurodivergence, 31% feeling disconnected, and volunteer burnout threatening sustainability, we recognise that the decisions we make now will shape whether our ember continues to glow or fades away.

The considerations before us are genuinely complex. Moving from Matong to Capertee and potentially adjusting our dates isn't a simple administrative change—it touches on cultural legacy, operational sustainability, volunteer capacity, accessibility, geographic equity, and financial viability. These interconnected factors affect different community members in different ways, and no single perspective holds all the answers.

Our Community is at the Heart of Everything We Do

You are our community. The legitimacy and success of any change depends on your buy-in, your feedback, and your participation in shaping the path forward.

The decision is complex. Balancing site access challenges, volunteer sustainability, family and community needs, cultural legacy, financial considerations, and operational capacity requires diverse perspectives and careful consideration.

We've learned from the past. Top-down decisions without genuine community input don't work for burner communities. We're committed to doing this with your needs in mind.

Multiple voices matter. Theme camp organisers, artists, parents, regional burners, historical Burning Seed crew, volunteers, and newcomers all experience potential changes differently. Every perspective adds essential information.

Trust must be rebuilt. After recent challenges, transparent consultation where you genuinely shape outcomes is how we rebuild trust together.

Feedback Form : Have your say!

We want to hear from you *[An online form with Name, Email and Message fields and a Send button.]*

Add your questions, share your opinions.

Your perspective matters.

We're always keen to hear your voice, send us a note and we'll get back to you soon

Sunburnt Arts

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Why is this consultation happening?

Sunburnt Arts is beginning a comprehensive community consultation to explore potentially changing our event location from Matong to Capertee and adjusting our event timing. This is an 8-week process where YOUR voice will directly shape the decision. We're genuinely asking whether change is the right path and, if so, how to make it successful.

Question: Why are we considering this change?

Answer: After 15 years at Matong State Forest, we face a critical decision about sustainability. Several interconnected factors have brought us to this point:

Financial Burden: Matong requires tens of thousands of dollars annually in road maintenance, fire-trail repairs, site permit fees, and environmental compliance with costs rising each year and no ceiling.

Volunteer Strain: The high infrastructure burden at Matong (building everything from scratch annually, extensive maintenance work) limits programming capacity and has led to volunteer burnout and retention issues.

Infrastructure Reality: Matong has no standing infrastructure—everything must be built temporarily each year, with full builds required for power, shade, and stages.

Community Priorities: Survey data showed strong community desire for financial sustainability (83%), better accessibility (70% want events closer to Sydney), and reduced volunteer burden.

This consultation will help us understand whether change addresses these challenges effectively and how to implement any change in ways that honour our community and culture.

Question: Are we abandoning Matong?

Answer: No, we are not abandoning Matong. If we move to Capertee, we envision a cyclical model where we return to Matong on a rotating basis (for example, 2-3 years at Capertee, then 1 year back at Matong). Matong holds deep cultural significance as the birthplace of Burning Seed, and we're exploring ways to honor that legacy while addressing current operational challenges. The cyclical approach would allow us to maintain our spiritual and practical connection to Matong while exploring new possibilities that may better serve our community's current needs.

Question: How long will this consultation take?

Answer: The core consultation runs for 8 weeks, followed by ongoing change management support. We know 8 weeks is fast, which is why we're providing multiple participation channels, over-communicating throughout, and ensuring written feedback options for those who need processing time.

Question: How can I participate?

Answer: We've designed multiple ways to ensure everyone can have their voice heard.

Focus Groups - Targeted sessions for specific communities with direct invitations and multiple date/time options.

Community Forums - Open sessions for all community members, offered both online and in-person with multiple scheduling options.

Written Feedback - Submit your thoughts anytime via email (tt@sunburntarts.org.au), online form, or anonymous submission. Written feedback remains open throughout the consultation period.

Regional Town Halls - Location-specific sessions for Newcastle/Hunter region, Interstate participants, Canberra/ACT, and other geographic communities.

One-on-One Conversations - Available by request with SBA leadership for those who prefer private discussion.

Question: Who will make the final decision?

Answer: The SBA Board will make the final decision based on:

- **Community consultation feedback** from all participation channels
- **Operational feasibility** including volunteer sustainability and capacity
- **Financial viability** and long-term sustainability analysis
- **Legal and insurance considerations**
- **Alignment with community values** and cultural continuity

Your input will directly inform this decision. We commit to transparency about how community feedback shaped both the options considered and the final decision.

Question: Will you really listen to our feedback?

Answer: Yes, absolutely. This is genuine consultation. We will publish a "What We Heard" report in Week 6 showing all feedback themes, develop options based on your input, explain decision rationale that explicitly references community feedback, and continue engagement throughout implementation.

Question: Do I need to be a member to participate?

Answer: To participate in the consultation and have your voice count in this decision, you do not need to be a member but we really would love your support! Membership ensures you're a genuine community stakeholder and helps us distinguish community input from external observers. Head to the members page of this website to find out more.

Membership is open to anyone who supports our mission and values, and it connects you to the broader Australian burner community year-round, not just during events.

Current members will receive direct consultation invitations and updates. Become a member today! https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSes6Ratfj8ZSFetglbz51IjPpl-xsmqSPLW6bUoR_1TX0CD9Q/viewform

Question: Who can I contact to have my say?

Answer: Register your thoughts any time via email. Contact tt@sunburntarts.org.au and your voice will be added into the consultation.

In addition, you can register your questions and they will be added to this FAQ page. This page will be updated weekly.

This page was updated on Monday, 20th October, 2025.

Understanding Matong vs Capertee

Question: What are the key differences between Matong and Capertee as site options?

Travel Distance (from Sydney):

- Capertee: 3.5 hours, 285 km average
- Matong: 6 hours, 474 km average
- Capertee is 2.5 hours closer to Sydney, where 69% of our NSW-based community lives

Road Quality:

- Capertee: Sealed roads with only 1km of graded access
- Matong: Poor quality unsealed roads requiring extensive maintenance

Site Costs:

- Capertee: Competitive flat fee rate plus fixed per person rate over 500, no maintenance overheads
- Matong: High permit fees plus tens of thousands annually in road maintenance, fire-trail repairs, and environmental compliance

Infrastructure:

- Capertee: Power conduits throughout site, telephone poles for shade structures, back-of-stage shed, firefighting tanker onsite, onsite shipping container storage year-round, early/late access included
- Matong: No standing infrastructure, everything built from scratch annually, limited storage, annual pack out required

Medical Access:

- Capertee: Nepean Hospital 3 hours, Rylstone Medical 38 minutes
- Matong: Canberra Hospital 3.5 hours, Wagga Medical 50 minutes

Vehicle Access:

- Capertee: Easy 2WD access, heavy vehicles okay, flood-free
- Matong: Restricted truck access, flood risk, access restrictions

Question: What infrastructure already exists at Capertee?

Answer:

Capertee offers significant built-in infrastructure that would reduce volunteer setup burden:

Power Infrastructure: Electrical conduits are already installed throughout the site, ready for festival power distribution systems to be connected.

Shade Structure Support: Telephone poles are permanently installed across the site, providing ready mounting points for shade structures without requiring temporary pole installation.

Back-of-Stage Shed: A permanent structure available for equipment storage and operations center during the event.

Firefighting Capacity: A firefighting tanker is kept onsite, and the property owner is an ex-RFS captain with strong local Rural Fire Service connections.

Storage Included: Free onsite storage for equipment year-round, eliminating offsite storage costs and transport logistics.

Extended Access: Early setup and late pack down time included in the site agreement, reducing time pressure on volunteers.

This existing infrastructure means volunteers can focus energy on programming, community building, and creative work rather than building basic infrastructure from scratch each year.

Question: How does travel distance affect community participation?

Answer: Geographic accessibility is a key concern raised in community surveys, with 70% of respondents indicating that accessibility for Sydney-based participants is very or somewhat important.

Sunburnt Arts has noted that its engaged, responsive community has dramatically shifted toward NSW —69% of participants now come from NSW, up from 32% that Burning Seed saw in 2015. This is not a strategic approach taken by the organisation, rather it's potentially a response to the shifting landscape of Eastern Australian burns with many more local burns available for participants.

The current geographic epicenter is Inner Western Sydney. Capertee's location 2.5 hours closer to Sydney directly addresses this shift, potentially:

- Reducing travel fatigue and costs for the majority of our current engaged participants
- Making day trips or shorter stays more feasible
- Lowering barriers for newcomers considering their first event
- Reducing carbon footprint from travel
- Improving safety with better sealed roads

However, we recognise this affects regional participants differently, which is why regional consultation sessions are essential to understanding the full impact. It is our distinct goal to remain an inclusive event, while also recognising that the landscape has changed.

Question: How does travel distance affect community participation?

[This question appeared a second time on the page, with slightly different wording.]

Answer: Geographic accessibility is a key concern raised in community surveys, with 70% of respondents indicating that accessibility for Sydney-based participants is very or somewhat important.

The community has dramatically shifted toward NSW over the past decade—69% of participants now come from NSW, up from 32% in 2015. The geographic epicentre is Inner Western Sydney. Capertee's location 2.5 hours closer to Sydney directly addresses this shift, potentially:

- Reducing travel fatigue and costs for the majority of participants
- Making day trips or shorter stays more feasible for some families
- Lowering barriers for newcomers considering their first event
- Reducing carbon footprint from travel
- Improving safety with better sealed roads

However, we recognise this affects regional participants differently, which is why regional consultation sessions are essential to understanding the full impact.

Question: What about the volunteer workload difference?

Answer: Volunteer sustainability is one of the most critical factors in this decision. The infrastructure differences between sites have significant volunteer impact:

At Matong:

- Everything must be built from scratch annually
- Extensive road and fire-trail maintenance required (tens of thousands of dollars in labor/contractors)
- High setup burden limits capacity for programming and community building
- Maintenance work crowds out creative and cultural activities
- Documented volunteer burnout and retention issues
- Experienced volunteers leaving due to strain
- Innovation constrained by infrastructure needs

At Capertee:

- Existing infrastructure reduces setup burden significantly
- Lower maintenance overhead frees volunteer capacity
- More energy available for programming, community building, and creative work
- Potential to improve volunteer retention by reducing burnout
- Ability to innovate and experiment with community programming

The survey identified volunteer sustainability as a top concern. Capertee's infrastructure could directly address this by reducing the "effort vs. reward" imbalance that contributes to burnout.

Question: What are the financial implications of each site?

Answer: Financial sustainability is critical for our organisation's long-term viability.

Matong's Annual Costs:

- Road maintenance: Tens of thousands of dollars annually for repairs, grading, and drainage
- Fire-trail repairs: Tens of thousands of dollars annually for emergency works and compliance
- Site permit fees: High and rising with no control or ceiling
- Environmental compliance: Mandatory works with increasing requirements
- Full temporary infrastructure: High costs to build everything annually
- These costs have no ceiling and continue to rise each year

Capertee's Cost Structure:

- Competitive flat site fee plus fixed per person rate over 500
- No maintenance overheads
- Existing infrastructure reduces build costs
- Free onsite shipping container storage eliminates annual transport fees
- Predictable, controllable costs that enable financial planning

What This Means: Moving to Capertee could provide 2-3 years of financial breathing room to build organisational resilience, accumulate reserves, invest in community programmes, enable innovation and experimentation, and make decisions from strength rather than crisis.

The financial difference would allow us to redirect resources from maintenance and repairs into community programming, accessibility improvements, and cultural development.

Question: How does Capertee address community priorities from the survey?

Answer: The recent community survey identified five top priorities. Here's how Capertee directly addresses them:

1. Strong NSW Community (83% priority): Capertee is located in NSW and is 2.5 hours closer to the 69% of community members who are NSW-based, strengthening local participation.

2. Financial Sustainability (High priority): The proposed Capertee fee structure enables 2-3 years of financial recovery and stability.

3. Accessibility (70% want Sydney accessibility): 3.5 hours versus 6 hours from Sydney, 285km versus 474km average distance, better sealed roads improve access for the majority.

4. Community & Connection (76% priority): More volunteer capacity freed for programming and community building instead of infrastructure maintenance allows focus on connection.

5. Existing Infrastructure (High priority): Power conduits, shade poles, back-of-stage shed, firefighting tanker onsite, onsite storage included, and early/late access reduce volunteer burden.

Question: What are the risks of moving to Capertee?

Answer: We're committed to transparency about both opportunities and challenges:

Capertee's Manageable Unknowns:

- Learning curve with new site
- DA (Development Application) requirements and approval processes
- Community acceptance of change
- Site capacity and layout optimisation

Mitigations We're Planning:

- Site visits for community familiarisation before the event
- Property owner has festival experience and supportive relationship
- Survey data shows strong community support for addressing current challenges
- Similar events at Capertee have successfully hosted 7,000+ people

Matong's Known, Worsening Problems:

- Rising costs with no ceiling or control
- Volunteer burnout accelerating
- Infrastructure burden increasing
- Environmental compliance requirements expanding
- Road quality deteriorating

The consultation will help us understand whether Capertee's manageable unknowns are preferable to Matong's known, worsening challenges.

Question: What about emergency services and safety?

Answer: Emergency preparedness and medical access are critical safety considerations:

Capertee's Emergency Access:

- Nepean Hospital: 3 hours
- Rylstone Medical Center: 38 minutes
- Better sealed road access improves emergency vehicle response times
- Firefighting tanker onsite with ex-RFS captain owner
- Strong local Rural Fire Service relationships
- Flood-free site eliminates evacuation risks

Matong's Emergency Access:

- Canberra Hospital: 3.5 hours
- Wagga Medical: 50 minutes
- Poor road quality can delay emergency response
- Flood risk creates potential access restrictions
- Remote location complicates emergency coordination

Shorter travel distances to medical facilities, better road conditions for emergency vehicles, and flood-free site access all improve safety margins at Capertee.

Date Change Questions

Question: Why are we considering changing dates?

Answer: We're exploring date changes to address multiple community needs:

- **Family accessibility:** Better alignment with NSW school holidays to support parents and families
- **Weather optimisation:** Potential for improved conditions (temperature, rainfall patterns, ability to burn)
- **Volunteer availability:** Reduced conflicts with other commitments
- **Interstate participation:** Consideration of school holiday alignment across states
- **Community calendar**

Date options will be presented during consultation with comprehensive analysis of impacts on all community members.

Question: What date options are being considered?

Answer: We will present multiple date options during consultation with clear analysis including:

- School holiday alignment across NSW and other states
- Historical weather pattern analysis (temperature, rainfall, wind data)
- Interstate travel implications (flight availability, costs)
- Volunteer availability considerations
- Event planning timeline impact
- Conflicts with other community events

Your feedback will help us understand which trade-offs are acceptable to the community.

Question: How will date changes be communicated?

Answer: If dates change, we commit to:

- **Extensive advance notice:** Well over a year before any implemented date change
- **School holiday analysis** for all Australian states, not just NSW
- **Clear reasoning** about why specific dates were chosen
- **Impact analysis** on different community segments (families, interstate, regional)
- **Financial planning support** understanding that date changes may affect budgets
- **Ongoing communication** about implementation timeline

Cultural and Community Questions

Question: What about Burning Seed history and culture?

Answer: Our history and cultural legacy are precious. After 15 years at Matong State Forest, we recognise the deep significance of that place in building our community and tradition. We're committed to:

- **Honoring Burning Seed legacy** and those who built it over years at Matong
- **Cyclical model exploration** to maintain physical and spiritual connection to Matong
- **Cultural continuity practices** that travel with us regardless of location
- **Legacy recognition** including documentation and commemoration of Matong's significance
- **Shared values preservation** ensuring participation, immediacy, and radical self-expression continue

Culture is made by people as well as the places— we recognise place matters, which is why the cyclical model is central to our thinking. This is a strategic bridge to sustainability, not permanent abandonment of Matong.

Question: How will this affect community cohesion?

Answer: We recognise change can create division. Our approach to maintaining cohesion includes transparent and inclusive consultation where all voices are heard, acknowledgment of all perspectives including those who disagree, consensus-building where possible, respectful disagreement management, Change Champions network for peer support, and regular community check-ins.

Survey data showed concerning gaps in our community ecosystem, particularly 31% feeling disconnected and challenges with communication and inclusion. This consultation is designed to rebuild trust and connection through genuine participation in decision-making.

Question: What if I disagree with the final decision?

Answer: Healthy communities can navigate disagreement. We commit to:

- Hearing all voices, not just the loudest
- Acknowledging dissenting views explicitly in decision documentation
- Providing support for everyone through the outcome, regardless of their position
- Creating space for ongoing dialogue and adjustment
- Focusing on shared values that unite us even when we disagree on tactics

The goal isn't unanimous agreement—it's legitimate process, transparent decision-making, and community support through whatever we decide together.

Question: Is Sunburnt Arts changing focus to represent NSW only?

Answer: The burning landscape has changed, and we're responding to the community that's actively engaged right now.

While Burning Seed has always been a national Australian regional burn and we remain committed to that vision, we'd be remiss not to acknowledge that our currently engaged participant base is more NSW-centric than in previous years. The consultation process reflects who has shown up, stayed connected, and is actively contributing to rebuilding.

This doesn't mean we're closing doors to interstate participants - far from it. But it does mean:

- Our timing and planning decisions are being informed by the camps and individuals who are here and engaged now
- We're not making decisions based on hypothetical interstate participation that may or may not materialise
- We're building from where we actually are, not where we wish we were - while continuing to reach out to everyone that's got a connection to us

The reality is that some interstate participants have moved on to their own local burns, life circumstances have changed, or the gap since the last event has been too long. That's natural and okay.

For interstate burners who want to be part of Sunburnt Arts' future: you are absolutely welcome and valued. The national character of our community remains part of our identity. But we also need to be realistic and responsive to who is actually doing the work and showing up to planning conversations.

As the event re-establishes itself, we hope to rebuild in all ways. But right now, we're focused on delivering something achievable with the committed community we have, rather than overextending based on past participation patterns that may no longer reflect current reality.

If you're interstate and want to be part of shaping this, now is the time to engage.

Question: Will you change the name of Burning Seed?

Answer: This is still being discussed within the community.

The organisation is now called **Sunburnt Arts**, reflecting our broader mission beyond just the main burn event. However, the question of what to call the event itself remains open.

Some considerations in the conversation:

Arguments for a new name:

- Signals a fresh start and new chapter while honouring the past
- Sets appropriate expectations that the first event may be smaller or different than previous years
- The "Seed Embers" suggestion from community consultation captured this idea - symbolising "the beginning of another fire" rather than trying to immediately recreate what was
- Allows the event to evolve without the weight of direct comparison

Arguments for keeping Burning Seed:

- Strong brand recognition and emotional connection within the community
- It's still fundamentally the same event, same values, same community
- Changing the name might confuse people or make it harder for past participants to find us
- The name still reflects our identity as Australia's original regional burn

The reality: We're listening to community input on this. What's most important is that the event delivers on the values and experience that made Burning Seed special.

Whether it carries the Burning Seed name or evolves into something new, the spirit remains the same.

If you have strong feelings about this, we want to hear them. This is exactly the kind of decision the community should help shape.

Question: What if there is a date clash with another event?

Answer: This is an unfortunate reality of the current landscape - the Australian regional burn calendar is much busier now than it was in Burning Seed's early years.

We can't avoid all conflicts. With camps running their own events, multiple regional burns across the country, and various community gatherings throughout the year, finding a date that works for everyone is impossible.

Our approach:

- We're giving as much advance notice as possible so people can plan
- We're prioritising dates that work for the majority of actively engaged participants
- We're trying to avoid direct clashes with other major regional burns where feasible
- We're spacing our event to allow camps reasonable time between major commitments (generally 4-6 months minimum)

The reality: If there's a clash with another event you're committed to, you'll need to make a choice about which to prioritise. That's not ideal, but it's part of how the community has evolved. Some people will miss some events, and that's okay.

We'd rather have an event that some people can't attend due to scheduling than no event at all because we're paralysed trying to find the "perfect" date.

If you have concerns about a specific clash, let us know. We can't accommodate everyone, but we want to understand the landscape we're working within.

Practical Questions

Question: How much will this cost participants?

Answer: Financial accessibility remains a priority. We will provide comprehensive cost analysis including:

- Ticket pricing implications and how costs may shift
- Travel cost comparisons (fuel, flights, time) by region
- Theme camp transport costs and potential support mechanisms
- Accommodation costs for those who need off-site lodging
- Financial assistance programs and payment plan options

The lower site costs at Capertee may create opportunities to keep ticket prices stable or invest savings in community programmes and accessibility improvements.

Question: When will we know the final decision?

Answer: The decision will be announced at the end of Week 8 of the consultation process. You will receive:

- Official announcement via email to all community members
- Comprehensive rationale document explaining the decision
- "What We Heard" report showing how feedback shaped the outcome
- Decision-specific FAQ addressing implementation questions
- Change management resources to support transition
- Implementation timeline with clear milestones

Question: When do focus groups start?

Answer: Focus groups begin in Week 3 of the consultation process October 20, 2025, with registration opening prior.

You will receive direct invitations if you're part of targeted communities, registration links with session details, multiple date/time options to maximise participation, and format choices (online or in-person where available).

More details will be added in the coming weeks.

Question: Where can I submit written feedback?

Answer: Written feedback can be submitted through:

Email: tt@sunburntarts.org.au

Question: How will I stay informed?

Answer: We're using multiple communication channels:

- **Email updates:** Regular messages to all community members (weekly during consultation)
- **Website consultation hub (this page):** Central information source updated throughout
- **Facebook:** Posts on official SBA page with major updates
- **Slack:** Updates in relevant Burner workspaces

You can choose which channels work best for you—information will be consistent across all.

Question: Who can I contact with questions or concerns?

Answer: Multiple contact points are available:

- **General questions:** tt@sunburntarts.org.au
- **Membership questions:** via this website
- **One-on-one conversation requests:** Board@sunburntarts.org.au

We commit to responding to all inquiries within 48 hours during the consultation period.

Our Commitment to You

We commit to:

Transparent, honest communication throughout this process—no hidden agendas or predetermined outcomes

Genuine consultation where your voice shapes the options, informs the decision, and guides implementation

Accessibility and inclusion in all consultation activities

Honouring our history while exploring our future sustainability

Supporting the community through whatever decision we make together

Regular updates and responsive communication

Decision-making that prioritises community benefit, volunteer sustainability, and long-term viability

Ongoing evaluation and adjustment based on implementation feedback

Your voice matters. Your participation shapes our future. The ember still glows because of people like you.

CONTACT US *[button linking to board@sunburntarts.org.au]*

This FAQ will be updated regularly throughout the consultation process as new questions emerge.
Last updated: 27th October, 2025

Archived from sunburntarts.org.au/community-consultation on 31 October 2026, before the page was retired. Text is reproduced as published; notes in square brackets describe page elements such as the embedded report, form and buttons. Companion document: What We Heard (SBA_What_We_Heard_Synthesis), nine pages. Sunburnt Arts Ltd · ABN 76 672 941 276.