

SHELLHARBOUR CITY COUNCIL

Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting – 7 March 2017

**Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting
held Level 2 Meeting Room, Council's Administration Building
Shellharbour City Centre
on Tuesday 07 March 2017 commencing at 3:00 pm**

Present:

Cr Marianne Saliba (Joint Chairperson)	Mayor, Shellharbour City Council
Cr John Murray	Shellharbour City Council
Cr Peter Moran (arrived at 3:10pm)	Shellharbour City Council
Cr Kellie Marsh	Shellharbour City Council

Community Members

Mr Richard Davis	Community Representative
Aunty Lindy Lawler	Community Representative
Mr Barry Bird (arrived at 3:30pm)	Community Representative
Ms Jodi Edwards	Community Representative

In Attendance:

Ms Lauren Peters	Acting Manager Community & Cultural Life
Ms Bernadette Sharpe (part)	Strategic Planner
Ms Christine Matesic	Agenda/Administration Officer

Acknowledgement to Country

Shellharbour City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Land on which we are meeting and pays its respects to Elders past and present.

A Motion of condolence was passed by all present standing for one minute's silence on the passing of Aunty Muriel Davis.

On behalf of the ACLO, Lauren Peters advised that Agnes Donovan has verbally resigned from the Committee.

1. Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was tendered on behalf of Andrew Adams, Michael Willis, Veronica Bird and Agnes Donovan.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: That the apologies as tendered be accepted.

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2. Confirmation of Minutes

Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting 22 November 2016

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Marsh / Lawler

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 22 November 2016 as circulated be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED

PRESENTATION

Kristy Blackburn – Environmental Strategy Officer – Lake Illawarra

Kristy attended the meeting to address Item 3.5 – Community Uses and Values of Lake Illawarra.

Ms Blackburn introduced herself and her role. The first draft has been distributed on the "Lake Illawarra Community Uses, Values, Threats and Opportunities". Ms Blackburn reiterated the importance of community consultation and that feedback, comments and suggestions are highly regarded as part of the formation of the plan.

The next opportunity to speak with a consultant is early May about the development of the plan.

Ms Peters advised that she has spoken to Ms Bird and was advised that the Toolkit has been mentioned on page 13, 2.4 – Consultation with the Aboriginal Community and it should be clarified that the Toolkit was designed by three Councils (Shellharbour, Kiama and Wollongong) with Shellharbour City Council as the lead Council. An Aboriginal Heritage Chapter has now been included in Council's Development Control Plan (DCEP) containing sections of the Toolkit which will have a higher level link to plans, including the Coastal Zone Management Plan. On Page 26 Item 3.2 the reference to significant items were found during the construction activities related to the Shellharbour Marina is irrelevant and will raise it with the committee.

Aunty Lindy Lawler requested that the spelling of Wodi Wodi people be corrected. Wadi Wadi is incorrect.

Ms Edwards requested an extension to review the document and it was resolved that feedback from the committee be returned to Veronica Bird by the 14th March to enable Ms Bird time to put comments together to send to Ms Blackburn by the 21st March.

Ms Edwards requested that someone from the AAC committee attend the Lake Illawarra Estuary Community Meeting. It was agreed by the committee that Ms Edwards be the representative on behalf of the Shellharbour Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

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Ms Blackburn advised there will be another opportunity to review the plan prior to public consultation and the committee thanked Ms Blackburn for her attendance and she left the meeting.

Councillor Moran arrived at 3:10pm.

3.5 Coastal Zone Management Plan - Community Uses and Values of Lake Illawarra Chapter (10839409)

The Report attached to the business paper on Community Uses and Values of Lake Illawarra has been compiled as a precursor to the development of the CZMP. The report outlines the uses, values, threats and risks associated with the Lake. The Report includes an Aboriginal Culture & Heritage section and outcomes of the Aboriginal consultations conducted at the Stocklands Community Room that was held on Tuesday 29th November 2016.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Murray / Moran

That the AAC receive and note the Report on the Community Uses and Values of Lake Illawarra Chapter.

That Jodi Edwards be nominated as a representative from the AAC to attend the Lake Estuary Management Committee Meeting as an observer. The AAC does not have the right to nominate a member on the Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Staff Reports

3.1 2017 Reconciliation Event

2017 marks significant anniversary dates for the 1967 Referendum (50th Anniversary) and the High Court Mabo decision (25th Anniversary). The proposed date for the Reconciliation event is Monday 29 May 2017 and will be held at Little Park, Shellharbour Village.

Proposed activities will include the Sea of Hands (Sorry Day), activity on the 1967 Referendum (will include a mock ballot of the 1967 Referendum), High Court Mabo decision which will include text from the Mabo decision and exhibition, language activity which will include a Reconciliation statement read out in Dharawal language.

Ms Peters advised that internal planning has commenced and that letters to local schools seeking interest in participate will be issued shortly.

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Schools with a high Aboriginal population will be asked to sing a song/s or read a story as part the celebration.

The Mayor pointed out that the letters should include inviting all students to participate, not just Aboriginal children as it is about reconciliation and should involve others.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Murray / Marsh

That the AAC receive and note the Reconciliation Information Report update.

CARRIED

3.2 Aboriginal Chapter - Development Control Plan (10838360)

After reading the proposed Aboriginal Chapter of the DCP, the AAC members believed it would be beneficial to develop a plain English fact sheet so the local community could understand, not only why Council have a Development Control Plan, but how the Aboriginal Chapter works.

Bernadette Sharpe attended the meeting and advised she works as part of Strategic Planning and is working on the development plan. The fact sheet has been prepared with comments or general concerns sought on them. Ms Sharpe has requested comments back to her by 21st March. They can be sent via the ACLO (Veronica Bird).

Ms Edwards requested clarification on a picture / painting and Ms Sharpe advised that the picture was provided as part of the Development Control Plan.

Ms Sharpe left the meeting at 3:35pm.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Marsh / Moran

That the AAC receive and note the fact sheets relating to the Aboriginal Chapter of the Development Control Plan.

CARRIED

3.3 Shellharbour Civic Centre Aboriginal Public Art - Update (10837431)

Following the resignation of Terrence Wright from the project, an alternate artist, Warwick Keen, has been engaged.

Warwick will be creating a large-scale visual artwork for the Customer Service Area of the new Council Administration building.

Approval is sought for Warwick Keen to be appointed and this was supported by the Committee.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Murray / Edwards

That the AAC receive and note the Information Report update on the resignation of Terrence Wright from the Civic Centre Artworks and the engagement of Warwick Keen.

CARRIED

3.4 Welcome to Country Protocol (10837835)

Shellharbour City Council's 'Welcome to Country' protocol has been in operation for ten years. Council have over the years attempted to provide an opportunity for recognised Elders in the local Aboriginal community to provide the 'Welcome' to SCC events.

It has been recommended that a list of Elders or appropriate Traditional Owners be created to assist Council's ACLOs to provide options to Council staff when a 'Welcome' is required and in particular when the ACLO is absent and unable to fill this role.

As a way to enhance public speaking skills the Mayor suggested a group workshop be held offering our Elders that opportunity.

The Committee determined that they are to review the list of Elders that are currently drawn from for the Welcome to Country and provide feedback and input into this.

The Mayor advised that it is important to give others within the community an opportunity.

Mr Davis expressed concern that who does 'Welcome to Country' has some significance and has contributed to community in some way.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Davis / Murray

1. That the AAC approve the 'Welcome to Country' Protocol and Checklist.
2. That the Elders and Traditional Owners list that Elders are selected from to do the 'Welcome to Country' at official Council events and where Council is a major sponsor be brought to the next AAC meeting for endorsement.

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4. General Business

4.1 NAIDOC Week

This is a standing item on the agenda. Any developments will be reported to the meeting.

Ms Peters advised that Shellharbour City Council has still been working with the other neighbouring Councils on the NAIDOC dinner. We are also looking at holding an event in the LGA which will most likely be held at the Barrack Heights Community Garden.

4.2 Employment

4.2.1 Review of Council's Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2012 - 2015 (10838015)

The review of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES) was conducted by staff from Community Connections, Organisational Development and external employment advisors who assessed the strategies and actions in the AES against their targets.

Ms Peters advised that we did exceed some targets, however some were not met and work is still being done.

Ms Marsh left the meeting at 4:00pm.

As a way of increasing the number of opportunities available under each directorate Cr Moran suggested that a percentage of people are able to work under each Directorate giving Aboriginal people greater opportunities and more variety.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Moran / Davis

That the AAC receive and note Information Report on the review of Council's Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2012 – 2015.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.2.2 Council Appointment of Permanent Part-time Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (10838355)

Council is currently recruiting for a permanent part-time Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer to join the Community Connections team.

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Ms Peters advised that Ms Bird has reduced her hours to 21 hours per week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays). Interviews have been conducted and Sharon Randall has been appointed and has accepted the 14 hour per week position. She will commence in the position Thursday and Fridays from next week.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Edwards / Lawler

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Council appointment of a permanent part-time ACLO

CARRIED

4.3 Bass Point Interpretive Centre

4.3.1 Update on the Bass Point Interpretive Centre (BPIC)

The BPIC Steering Committee have met twice already in 2017 and are currently finalising the BPIC Business Case Tender/EOI. It is anticipated the development of the BPIC Business Case that will include community engagement will proceed for the duration of 2017 with hopefully a draft of the Business Case provided by the end of 2017.

Agnes Donovan has resigned from the BPIC Committee therefore a vacancy exists in that committee.

The Committee suggested that Iriaka Ross may be interested since she has expressed interest in the past. The ACLO will determine whether she was previously approved to sit on the AAC when a vacancy came up. If this is the case, a suggestion by the Mayor was that a letter of invitation to be sent to Iriaka to fill the position on the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

The AAC determined that another person be appointed and there be a casual vacancy advertised for the next meeting allowing sufficient representation with Jodi Edwards and Richard Davis.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Murray / Moran

1. The AAC receive and note the Information Report update on the Bass Point Aboriginal Interpretive Centre.
2. The AAC fill the vacancy on the BPIC Steering Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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5. Items for Information

Ms Edwards wanted to raise the acknowledgment of Queen Rosie. Funding has become available through the Arts Council and it would be a great opportunity to use some of this funding to commemorate Queen Rosie. A suggestion would be to acknowledge her commitment by way of workshops, dancing and traditional activities, similar to that being held in Sydney for Barangaroo.

The Mayor asked that Lauren liaise to with Jodi to pursue this further.

6. Next Meeting

9 May 2017

Meeting closed 4:20 pm