

SHELLHARBOUR CITY COUNCIL

Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting – 5 October 2021

**Note: These recommendations are subject to adoption
at Councils next Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for 26 October 2021**

Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting held via Teams webcast video link

on Tuesday 5 October 2021 commencing at 3.03pm

Present:

Mayor, Cr Marianne Saliba (Chair)	Shellharbour City Council
Cr Moira Hamilton	Shellharbour City Council
Cr Peter Moran	Shellharbour City Council
Cr Robert Petreski	Shellharbour City Council

Community Members:

Aunty Lindy Lawler	Community Elder
Mr Richard Davis	Community Representative
Mr William Henry	Community Representative
Ms June Lowe	Community Representative
Ms Jodi Edwards	Community Representative
Mr Barry Bird	Community Representative

In Attendance:

Ms Kathryn Baget-Juleff	Group Manager Community Connections
Ms Bonnie Hittmann	Manager Community Life
Mr Shane Venables	Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer
Mr Chris Comer (part)	Snr Health Planner, Capital Works
	Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District
Ms Kate Kelly (part)	Project Communications and Engagement Officer
	Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District
Ms Kelly Stehr (part)	Group Manager Human Resources
Ms Toni Lindwall (part)	Team Leader Communications and
	Engagement
Mr Bryce Hammond (part)	Assets Officer
Ms Christine Matesic (Minutes Taker)	Corporate Meetings Officer
Ms Christie Bryan	Corporate Meetings Officer

1. Acknowledgement to Country

Shellharbour City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal Country and recognise their continued connection to the land we meet on today. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region and extend our recognition to their descendants who continue to live on country.

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2. Apologies / Leave of Absence

There were no apologies recorded at the meeting.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting 3 August 2021

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Petreski / Davis

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 3 August 2021 as circulated be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Interest

Nil

5. Presentations

5.1 Shellharbour Hospital Redevelopment Project

Presenters:

Mr Chris Colmer
Snr Health Planner, Capital Works
Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District

Ms Kate Kelly
Project Communications and Engagement Officer
Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District

Mr Colmer and Ms Kelly provided the committee a comprehensive overview of the Planning, Design and Delivery scope of the new Shellharbour Hospital. Engaging with the Aboriginal community as part of their consultation process is still in the early planning stages, however with Country in mind will ensure it meets the needs of local Aboriginal communities.

Moving forward the ISLHD objectives will assist in developing culturally sensitive models of care and proposed services. The new Shellharbour Hospital will play a significant role in the Districts service network.

The committee supported the strategies however suggestions more consultation with local Aboriginal community members is essential moving forward. Another suggestion was to have certain wards named after Aboriginal names/people.

Action – Shane Venables will provide contact information for a range of groups from with the local area for consultation.

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5.2 Introduction from Human Resources and Aboriginal Employment at Council

Presenter: Ms Kelly Stehr
Group Manager Human Resources
Shellharbour City Council

Ms Stehr introduced herself and provided an inclusive presentation on Council's current Human Resources team. It included a summary of recruitment questions and answers, employment registrations, HR support and learning and development opportunities.

It is envisaged that future Aboriginal employment initiatives will be captured within a broader Diversity and Inclusion Employment Strategy however this will need to be guided by the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which will commence shortly within the Community Life Team.

Action: Ms Stehr will investigate whether previous figures and historic numbers based on past Aboriginal Employment Strategies are available.

The Mayor handed over to Mr Richard Davis to chair the meeting.

The Mayor returned to the meeting to continue to chair the meeting.

5.3 Suburb Entry Signage Project

Presenters: Ms Toni Lindwall
Team Leader Communications and Engagement
Shellharbour City Council

Mr Bryce Hammond
Assets Officer
Shellharbour City Council

Funding has been allocated as part of a 2021/2022 capital works program for the renewal of suburb entry signs. As part of a staged process 20 of the 47 signs will be replaced and the remaining over time in future capital works projects.

Via Council's Lets Chat page four different options were presented and the Committee were encouraged to go on line, vote for their preferred option and share with networks.

Ms Jodi Edwards joined the meeting at 3:45pm.

Mr Barry Bird joined the meeting at 4:01pm.

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5.4 Update on the Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Project

Presenter: Ms Bonnie Hittmann
Manager Community Life
Shellharbour City Council

Ms Hittmann provided an update on the development and status of the Aboriginal Interpretive Centre.

A Council report will be prepared for the 26 October 2021 Council meeting seeking an amendment to a Council resolution regarding the preferred site. The recommendation will also include to pursue the acquisition of the land, create a business case for the AIC and develop a governance model.

Ms June Lowe left the meeting at 4:16pm.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Lawler / Petreski

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the presentations listed as Item 5.1 to 5.4 above.

CARRIED

6. Staff Reports and General Business

6.1 Update on the Bass Point Tourist Road Renewal Report (11741000)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Richard / Hamilton

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Bass Point Tourist Road Renewal Report.

CARRIED

6.2 Community Facilities Strategy Update Report (11741001)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Robert Petreski / Aunty Lindy

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Community Facilities Strategy Update Report.

CARRIED

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Prior to finalising the meeting Ms Edwards raised a Notice of Motion which was accepted by the Mayor to be included as a Notice of Motion for consideration during the development of the Reconciliation Development Action Plan.

Notice of Motion submitted by Community Representative, Jodi Edwards.

Consideration to change acknowledgement and celebration of Australia Day on 26 January.

Ms Edwards read out a statement that has been released by Surf Coast Shire Council regarding their decision to stop marking Australia Day on 26 January as a sign of support and healing for Australia's First Nations people. The statement read:

“Council will no longer participate in celebratory events and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags will fly at half-mast on 26 January.

We will conduct a citizenship ceremony on this day as it is a federal government requirement to do so, but we will advocate for this requirement to change.

We will also engage with the Wadawurrung Aboriginal Corporation and the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation regarding the potential of future mourning or survival events on 26 January.

We acknowledge that 26 January is a difficult day for First Nations People as it represents a date that Europeans settled in this country and commenced the decimation of their ancestors and culture.”

Ms Edwards urged Shellharbour City Council to take similar action. Discussion took place that highlighted that broader community engagement would take place in the coming months in support of the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan and that this would provide an appropriate opportunity to explore this matter further.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Edwards / Bird

That Jodi Edward's Notice of Motion be referred to the committee as a recommendation for the Reconciliation Action Plan.

CARRIED

Due to time constraints the Mayor requested the following items be deferred to the 4 November 2021 meeting.

6.3 Development of a Reconciliation Action Plan Report (11741002)

6.4 Elsa Dixon Update Report (11740999)

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- 6.5 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Membership Renewal Report
(11741003)**
- 6.6 NAIDOC Events Update Report (11740998)**
- 6.7 Request for Nomination to Coastal Management Advisory Committee
(11743770)**

7. Items for Information

8. Next Meeting

4 November 2021

– please note this is a Thursday instead of the usual Tuesday.

Meeting closed at 4:33pm