



BUSINESS PAPER

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* of the below mentioned meeting.

Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 11 February 2026

Commencing at 4:00 PM

Shellharbour Civic Centre

AGENDA

- 1 Acknowledgement to Country**
- 2 Apologies / Leave of Absence**
- 3 Confirmation of Minutes**
- 4 Disclosures of Interest**
- 5 Presentations**
- 6 Reports**
 - 6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)
 - 6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)
 - 6.3 Shellharbour City Centre State Led Rezoning - Aboriginal Stakeholder Engagement Workshop
 - 6.4 Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day Update
 - 6.5 Bass Point Tourist Road Improvements – Aboriginal Site Officer
 - 6.6 Proposed Change to Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting Day
- 7 General Business**
- 8 Next Meeting**
- 9 Meeting Closed**

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.

2. Apologies / Leave of Absences

3. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meetings held on 3 December 2025 be received and noted.

**Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting
of Shellharbour City Council held in the Ground Floor Training Room
on Wednesday, 3 December 2025 commencing at 4:00 PM**

Attendance

Present:

Mayor Chris Homer (Chair)	Councillor
Cr Lou Stefanovski	Councillor
Cr Robert Petreski	Councillor
Cr Kellie Marsh	Councillor (online)
Aunty Lindy Lawler	Community Representative
Jodi Edwards	Community Representative
Anne-Maree Fohrman	Community Representative
Suzanne Clapham	Community Representative

In Attendance:

Matt Sutherland	Executive Manager Community and Creative Services
Bonnie Hittmann	Community Development Manager
Lauren Peters	Team Leader Community Planning
Mathew Rawson	Growth Planning Manager (part)
Sheree Gillen	Capital Works and Design Manager (Online)
Paul Gallina	Senior Project Delivery Officer (Online)
Jacob Lia	Strategic Planner (Online)
Rylee Goodman	Governance Officer (Minute Taker)
Evelyn Ivinson	Manager State Rehoming – DPIE (part)
Summer Senes	Senior Planner – DPIE (part)
Connor Burke	Planning Officer – DPIE (part)

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.

2 Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was tendered on behalf of Uncle Richard Davis, Community Representative.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Cr Stefanovski / Anne-Maree Fohrman

That the minutes from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meetings held on 8 October 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED

4 Disclosures of Interest

Nil

5 Presentations

5.1 Presentation from NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPIE)

DPIE - Manager State Rehoming, Evelyn Ivinson, Senior Planner, Summer Senes and Planning Officer, Connor Burke provided a presentation to the Committee regarding plans for an Aboriginal Stakeholder Workshop. The Committee provided advice on the necessary Aboriginal stakeholders to invite.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the presentation from Planning Officers of NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and provide input and share knowledge to inform the consultation activity.

CARRIED

Note: At 4.38pm Matt Rawson, Evelyn Ivinson, Summer Senes and Connor Burke left the meeting.

6 Reports

Mayor Homer requested the Committee to receive and note items 6.1 and 6.2 collectively which was agreed to by the Committee.

6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)

6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Cr Petreski / Cr Stefanovski

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the update on items 6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update and 6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update.

CARRIED

6.3 2026 NAIDOC Community Day - Consideration for Change of Event Location

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Jodi Edwards / Aunty Lindy Lawler

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note this report and that the 2026 NAIDOC Community Day event be held at the Shellharbour City Stadium in Croom.

CARRIED

Note: At 4.56pm Suzanne Clapham left the meeting.

7 General Business

Update on Bass Point Tourist Road Project

Note: At 5.01pm Suzanne Clapham re-joined the meeting online.

Council's Projects Team gave a verbal update on the Bass Pint Tourist Road Improvements Project. The Committee requested that an Aboriginal Site Officer be appointed to the project as the Bass Point Reserve is a site of Aboriginal Significance.

Action: Council staff investigate establishing a position of Site Officer for the Bass Point Project. Staff to provide a response at a future meeting.

Note: At 5.17pm Sheree Gillen, Paul Gallina and Jacob Lia left the meeting.

8 Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

Meeting Closed: 5.21pm.

4. Disclosures of Interest

Note: Councillors and staff who declare an Interest at the Meeting are also required to complete a Declaration of Interest form.

5. Presentations

6 Reports

6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)

Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Executive Manager Community and Creative Services
(Acting)

Approver: Kate Jessep, Executive Director Community and Culture

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Aboriginal employment within Council.

Council has commenced the recruitment for the Aboriginal Cultural Advisor position (previously the Aboriginal Community Planner). Interviews were conducted in December 2025 with local Aboriginal community service manager, James Mulholland, on the panel. Short-listing has been conducted and final probity checks are in progress with the aim to have a candidate appointed within a month.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Aboriginal Employment Update Report.

Attachments

None

6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)

Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Executive Manager Community and Creative Services
(Acting)

Approver: Kate Jessep, Executive Director Community and Culture

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Aboriginal Interpretive Centre (AIC) project.

There are no updates to report for this meeting, as no sub-committee meetings were held during the reporting period. The next sub-committee meeting is scheduled for March 2026 and will focus on planning visits to comparable, similarly scaled Interpretive Centres.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the update report on the proposed Aboriginal Interpretive Centre.

Attachments

None

6.3 Shellharbour City Centre State Led Rezoning - Aboriginal Stakeholder Engagement Workshop

Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Executive Manager Community and Creative Services
(Acting)

Approver: Kate Jessep, Executive Director Community and Culture

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Shellharbour City Centre State Led Rezoning - Aboriginal Stakeholder Engagement Workshop.

The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure are leading a State Led Rezoning project across the Shellharbour City Centre. An overview of this project was provided to the Committee at the meeting on 3 December where the project team sought advice on who should be invited to a future Aboriginal Stakeholder Engagement Workshop.

The Workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday 10 February, 9:30am-1:00pm at the Shellharbour City Civic Centre with invitations being sent to:

- Aboriginal Advisory Committee members
- Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation
- Illawarra Local Aboriginal Lands Council
- Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Services
- Gawura Corporation
- SACYA
- Gumarra Aboriginal Experiences
- Juborsay Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG South)
- Southern Youth and Family Services.

This workshop is being delivered by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure project team with Council assisting to identify necessary local stakeholders for consultation.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Shellharbour City Centre State Led Rezoning - Aboriginal Stakeholder Engagement Workshop Report.

Attachments
None

6.4 Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day Update

Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Executive Manager Community and Creative Services
(Acting)

Approver: Kate Jessep, Executive Director Community and Culture

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day event.

At the Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting on 3 December 2025, the Committee supported a recommendation that the Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day event be relocated to the Croome Road Sporting Complex as it will offer a better site for a variety of both indoor and outdoor activities.

This venue has been booked for Monday 6 July and further updates will be provided as planning for this event progresses.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day Update report.

Attachments

None

6.5 Bass Point Tourist Road Improvements – Aboriginal Site Officer

Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Executive Manager Community and Creative Services
(Acting)

Approver: Kate Jessep, Executive Director Community and Culture

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Bass Point Tourist Road project.

At the Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting on 3 December 2025, the Committee recommended that an Aboriginal Site Officer be appointed to observe the entirety of the project given Bass Point is registered as an Aboriginal Place of Significance.

This report is to advise that an Aboriginal Site Officer has been appointed to the project through the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Lands Council.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Bass Point Tourist Road - Aboriginal Site Officer update report.

Attachments

None

6.6 Proposed Change to Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting Day

Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Executive Manager Community and Creative Services
(Acting)

Approver: Kate Jessep, Executive Director Community and Culture

The purpose of this report is to discuss a proposed change of day for future Aboriginal Advisory Committee meetings.

At the Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting held on 3 December 2025, several Committee members raised challenges with attending meetings scheduled on Wednesdays due to conflicting responsibilities.

Following these concerns, Council staff consulted with the two Committee Elders regarding alternative meeting arrangements. As a result of this consultation, Thursday afternoons from 4.00pm have been identified as the preferred time for future meetings.

The following lists the proposed meeting dates for 2026 are:

- 23 April
- 11 June
- 27 August
- 22 October
- 3 December

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee support to change the meeting day to Thursday afternoons.

Attachments

None

7. General Business

8. Next Meeting

9. Meeting Closed