



# **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**

**Thursday, 11 June 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)
- 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 23 April 2026 be received and noted.

**Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting  
of Shellharbour City Council held in the Ground Floor Training Room  
on Thursday, 23 April 2026 commencing at 4:00 PM**

**Attendance**

**Present:**

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cr Kellie Marsh (Chair) | Councillor               |
| Cr Robert Petreski      | Councillor (online)      |
| Aunty Lindy Lawler      | Community Representative |
| Jodi Edwards            | Community Representative |
| Anne-Maree Fohrman      | Community Representative |
| Suzanne Clapham         | Community Representative |

**In Attendance:**

|                 |                                                            |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Claire Killeen  | Executive Director Community and Culture (Acting)          |
| Bonnie Hittmann | Executive Manager Community and Creative Services (Acting) |
| Lauren Peters   | Team Leader Community Planning                             |
| Michelle Toms   | Aboriginal Cultural Advisor                                |
| Lisa Davey      | Governance Manager                                         |
| Allison Bonaz   | Corporate Meetings Officer (Minute Taker)                  |

**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 Mayor Chris Homer and Cr Lou Stefanovski.

## **3 Confirmation of Minutes**

Committee Recommendation: Suzi Clapham / Aunty Lindy Lawler

That the minutes from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meetings held on 11 February 2026 be received and noted.

CARRIED

## **4 Disclosures of Interest**

Nil

## **5 Presentations**

Nil

## **6 Reports**

### **6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)**

The following questions were asked by the Committee and taken on notice:

- Was an Aboriginal person on the panel for the positions?
- Can the Committee receive an update on Council's Aboriginal Employment Policy, specifically what the target is and how it is reported?

Committee Recommendation: Suzi Clapham / Jodi Edwards

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

CARRIED

### **6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)**

Committee Recommendation: Jodi Edwards / Aunty Lindy Lawler

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

CARRIED

### **6.3 Reconciliation School Flag Walk Event Update**

Committee Recommendation: Aunty Lindy Lawler / Anne-Maree Fohrman

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

CARRIED

#### **6.4 Naming Reserve 143 in Albion Park and the creek using Dharawal language - update**

Committee Recommendation: Suzi Clapham / Anne-Maree Fohrman

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee approve the recommendation to:

1. Submit the naming of Reserve 143 and creek at Albion Park 'Thampa Reserve' to the NSW Geographical Names Board for their consideration.
2. That, if approved by the NSW Geographical Names Board, that a sign be erected explaining the name.

CARRIED

#### **6.5 Aboriginal Interpretive Signage Walk**

Committee Recommendation: Anne-Maree Fohrman / Suzi Clapham

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the 'Aboriginal Interpretive Signage Walk' report.

CARRIED

### **7 General Business**

Investigate the inclusion of Elders from the Aboriginal Lands Council on the Heritage and Culture Sub-committee.

### **8 Next Meeting**

11 June 2026 – 4:00pm

### **9 Meeting Closed**

4:48pm

#### **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:** Claire Killeen, Executive Director Community and Culture (Acting)

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The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the previous Aboriginal Employment Strategy.

At the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting of 23 April 2026, the Committee requested 'to receive an update on Council's Aboriginal Employment Policy, specifically what the target is and how it is reported?'.

The last specific Aboriginal Employment policy or strategy was the 'Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2012-2015' (AES). The Aboriginal employment target within the AES was 2.6% of the Shellharbour City Council workforce and during the term of the Strategy, Aboriginal employment fluctuated with a majority of the term sitting above the 2.6% target.

The Aboriginal employment target was generally reflective of the percentage of Aboriginal community members in the Shellharbour population at the time of the Strategy development. The most recent Census data reports that 5.0% of the Shellharbour population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021).

Following the completion and review of the AES, Council has endeavored to incorporate all employment initiatives into the mainstream policies and procedures, including Aboriginal employment, employment for people with disabilities, and other target groups - for example Anti-Discrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and the Equal Employment Management Plan 2022-2026.

A verbal update will be provided on the current Aboriginal employment numbers within Council.

**Recommendation**

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

**Attachments**

None

## **6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)**

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

**Approver:** Claire Killeen, Executive Director Community and Culture (Acting)

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

Council staff have liaised with Australian Museum and the First Nations Senior Collections Officer to seek approval to visit and view the Aboriginal artefacts that are being held on behalf of the local Aboriginal community and Council. Clarity has been sought regarding size, content, release and management of the artefacts. We are awaiting a response to the most recent enquires.

A further verbal update will be provided.

### **Recommendation**

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

### **Attachments**

None

**7. General Business**

**8. Next Meeting**

27 August 2026 - 4:00pm

**9. Meeting Closed**