



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, 23 April 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 Reconciliation School Flag Walk Event Update
 - 6.4 Naming Reserve 143 in Albion Park and the creek using Dharawal language - update
 - 6.5 Aboriginal Interpretive Signage Walk
- 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 11 February 2026 be received and noted.

**Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting
of Shellharbour City Council held in the Ground Floor Training Room
on Wednesday, 11 February 2026 commencing at 4:00 PM**

Attendance

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Kate Jessep	Executive Director Community and Culture
Bonnie Hittmann	Executive Manager Community and Creative Services (Acting)
Lauren Peters	Team Leader Community Planning
Rylee Goodman	Governance Manager (Acting)
Allison Bonaz	Corporate Meetings Officer (Minute Taker)

1 Acknowledgement to Country

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2 Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was tendered on behalf of Councillor Kellie Marsh, Councillor Robert Petreski and Community Representative, Uncle Richard Davis.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Committee Recommendation: Cr Stefanovski / Aunty Lindy Lawler

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

CARRIED

4 Disclosures of Interest

Nil

5 Presentations

Nil

6 Reports

The Chair asked that Items 6.1 to 6.5 be received and noted en bloc.

Committee Recommendation: Suzi Clapham / Jodi Edwards

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note Items 6.1 to 6.5.

CARRIED

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

ACTION: Council to communicate with the NSW Planning Department the need to provide earlier notice to community of workshops and consultation events and to provide clearer information about their purpose, objectives, and what will be discussed or decided.

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

Committee Recommendation: Jodi Edwards / Anne-Maree Fohrman

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

CARRIED

7 General Business

Community Representative, Suzi Clapham asked if Council could include the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group in workshops and information via email. Suzi will provide the email address of the secretary of the group.

8 Next Meeting

Thursday, 23 April 2026 at 4pm.

Meeting Closed: 4:25pm

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)

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

Council is pleased to advise that we have recently appointed two new Aboriginal staff members into Council positions.

Michelle Toms commenced in the Aboriginal Cultural Advisor position (identified), within the Community Planning team, in February. This role will help to provide Council with guidance and support on how we can deliver culturally appropriate services to community and enhance the cultural awareness and inclusion across Council staff.

Additionally, Jake Settree commenced in the Team Leader - Bush Regeneration (targeted), within the Open Spaces team, also in February. This role is designed to lead bush care and regeneration activities in the Shell Cove area, including Bass Point.

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

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

The Sub-Committee met on 19 March 2026.

A summary of information presented for discussion is as follows:

Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Objectives

As drawn from the brief history document review further below, the objectives of the proposed Aboriginal Interpretive Centre arise from advocacy by the Aboriginal Community through the Council's Aboriginal Advisory Committee, the artefacts salvaged during the Shell Cove Project and from the Bass Point Reserve Conservation Plan of Management.

The objectives of the proposed Aboriginal Interpretive Centre are:

1. Create a keeping place to accommodate Aboriginal artefacts;
2. Provide a place for intergenerational knowledge transfer for the Aboriginal and broader community that supports an in-depth education and understanding of local Aboriginal Culture;
3. A meeting place for Aboriginal community;
4. A site for the delivery of land management services for Bass Point Reserve such as Aboriginal Land and Sea Ranger Program;
5. Create Aboriginal employment opportunities;
6. Provide Bass Point Reserve, and general, visitor information; and
7. Provide allied services including income earning opportunities to fund the Aboriginal Interpretive Centre costs.

Estimated Floor Space

The Aboriginal Interpretive Centre business case is being prepared based on a proposed stage 1 minimum functional areas, for the purpose of indicative costing – subject to change, as follows:

- 40 m² reception/lobby / visitor information centre / booking counter and/or e-kiosk
- 80 m² interpretive centre space – portion is restricted access

- 24 m2 x 3 community meeting room/s – with bifold walls between plus 12 m2 for furniture storage plus 8 m2 for hidden kitchenette = 90m2 – available for commercial hire.
- 30 m2 kiosk with store
- 70m2 deck/outdoor space - building width and 4m deep, cantilever roof over e.g. 2-3m
- 24 m2 staff amenity (kitchenette, lunch table, lockers)
- 36 m2 public toilets – male and female each: 2 standard and 1 ambulant), one accessible (composting or tankering)
- 30 m2 office space (for up to 4 persons)
- Total building 331m2 plus deck
- Rainwater tanks (minimum 40,000L for self-sufficiency)
- Solar Panels and batteries (off-grid)
- XX car parks including XX accessible (as required by development application approval requirements)
- Landscaping (low maintenance) including yarning circle (possibly on the Crown Land across the road near the ocean).

Preliminary sketch (being developed – not presented)

Possible allied functions and facilities – important for a future operator to be able to

generate revenue streams to cover the ongoing costs of the AIC.

The site could accommodate additional facilities subject to a need, acceptable cost/benefit ratio and appropriate probity over process to enter into agreements, such

as:

- Office space for Native Title – Prescribed body corporate
- Aboriginal Health Centre
- Australiana Marine Science Institute – including rehabilitation Centre for Marine Animals – large ocean pools (or old Shellharbour Village ocean marina).
- Organisations that don't have a home like ORCA
- Training Rooms
- Burial protocols for Cultural Authority office.
- Indigenous Tourism Business office space

Noted: Importance of multiple users/partners for the AIC to make it financially viable and resilient to organisational change.

Case Study

Researched two cultural centres for lessons learnt with the best-case study

being Yarrawarra.

It was agreed the priority is completing the business case for consideration by Council noting the opportunity for visiting a number of existing Cultural Centres for staff could be explored for their learning at an appropriate stage in the project.

Recommendation

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

Attachments

None

6.3 Reconciliation School Flag Walk Event Update

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

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

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Reconciliation School Flag Walk Event.

The 2026 Reconciliation School Flag Walk Event will be held at Reddall Reserve, Lake Illawarra, on Monday 1 June. The event will follow the same format as previous years, starting at the Warilla Surf Club, walk 500 metres along the pedestrian footpath, and finish at Reddall Reserve East for the ceremony and activities (shown below in **Image 1**).

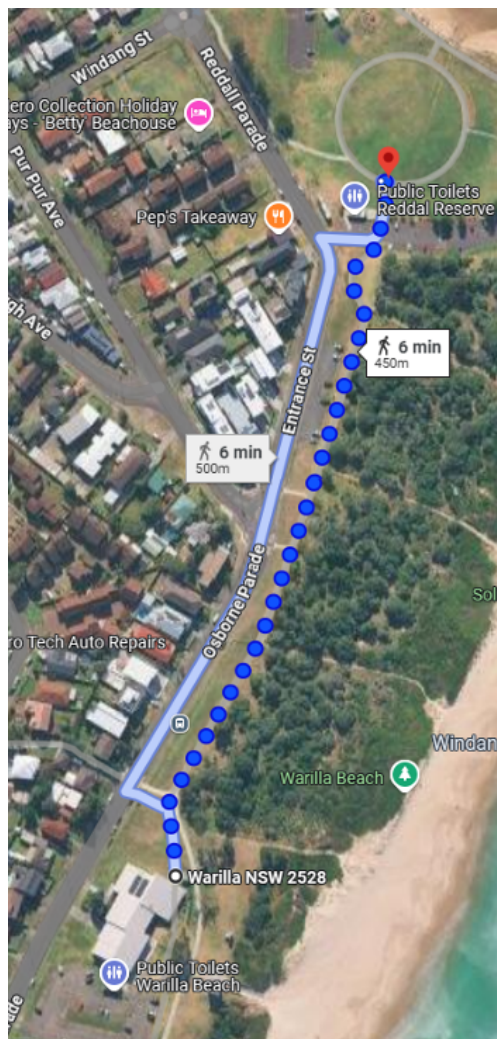


Image 1

The event will include:

- Flag walk from Warilla Surf Club to Reddall Reserve
- Welcome to Country with Uncle Gerald Brown (Uncle Gee)
- Smoking ceremony, dance performance and ochre with Gumarra
- Koorin Parsons-Campbell will lead the walk with the yidaki
- Flag exchange ceremony
- Cultural workshops provided by Gadhungul Marring
- Barbecue lunch.

Invitations to be distributed shortly.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the report.

Attachments

None

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

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

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

The purpose of this report is to recommend the Dharawal name 'Thampa' for Reserve 143 and the creek at Albion Park.

At the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting of 8 October 2025, Council staff requested the recommendation of Dharawal language words or names for the naming of a creek that runs through Reserve 143 in Albion Park and the subsequent use of that creek name for the naming of Reserve 143. The un-named creek commences near Jamberoo Road on private land in the south and runs north through public reserves until it joins with Frazers Creek near Ashburton Drive. The recommended words or names would then be recommended to the NSW Geographical Names Board for endorsement.

The AAC recommended that:

- 1. Receive and note the Reserve 143 and Creek naming report;*
- 2. Provide recommendations for suitable Dharawal language words or names to be used for naming Reserve 143 Albion Park and the creek that flows through it.*

Further consultation has occurred and the recommended Dharawal name is 'Thampa', pronounced 'Dhamba' meaning spread.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee approve the recommendation to name the Reserve 143 and creek at Albion Park 'Thampa Reserve' and for this recommendation be submitted to the NSW Geographical Names Board for their consideration.

Attachments

None

6.5 Aboriginal Interpretive Signage Walk

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

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

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Aboriginal Interpretive Signage Walk project.

Council is committed to recognising and respecting local Aboriginal culture and heritage. As part of this commitment, we have developed an Aboriginal Interpretive Signage Walk (Walk) that flows along the southern side of Lake Illawarra and connects back at [Yirran Murru](#) – the Aboriginal Interpretive play space located at Shellharbour Civic Centre. The Walk aims to acknowledge and respect the local Aboriginal communities by sharing and celebrating local stories and history.

There are 4 main themes that are explored in the signage:

- Creation Stories
- Artefacts and technology
- Dharawal Language
- Native Flora and Fauna.

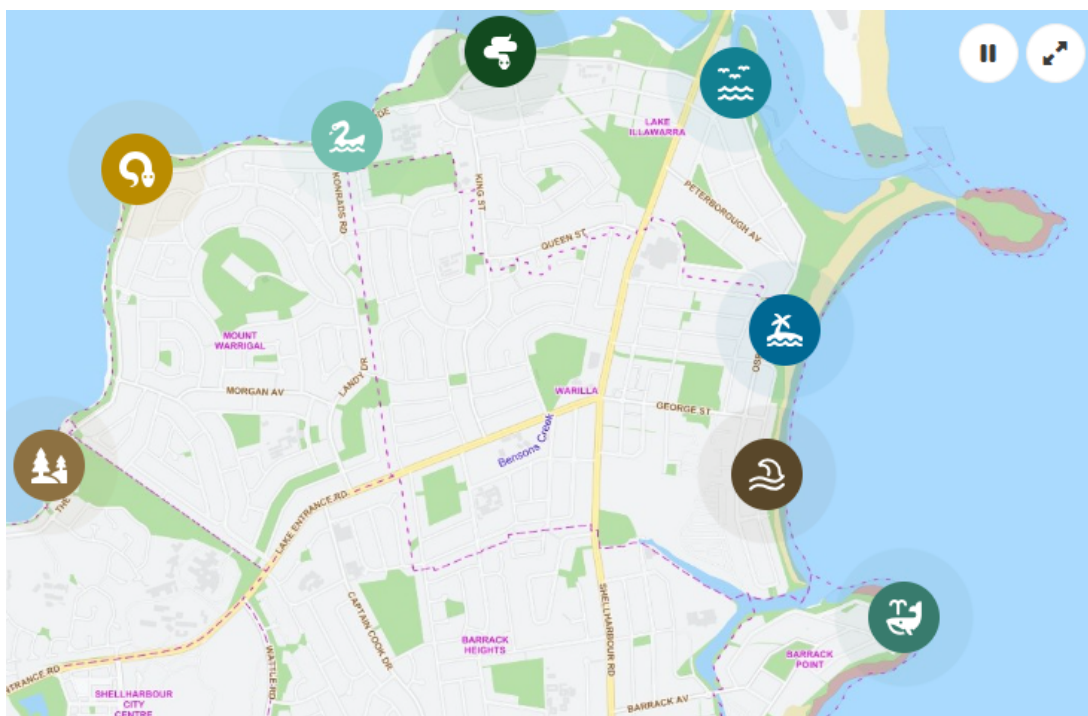


Image 1 - Aboriginal Interpretive Signage Map

Full details of the Aboriginal Interpretive Signage Walk can be found at [Aboriginal Interpretive Signage Map | Let's yarn about Interpretive Signage | Let's Chat Shellharbour](#)

A launch and media opportunity will be arranged for the coming weeks - all AAC members will be invited once details have been finalised.

Recommendation

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

Attachments

None

7. General Business

8. Next Meeting

9. Meeting Closed