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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**3. Confirmation of Minutes****3.1 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting 4 May 2021**

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 4 May 2021 as circulated be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

4. Disclosures of Interest**5. Presentations****5.1 Public Art**

Presenters – Jamie Dawson and Carmelina Nunnari
Shellharbour City Council

6. Staff Reports and General Business

6.1 NAIDOC Events update (11705341)

The purpose of this report is to provide event updates for the NAIDOC community day and the Local Government Regional NAIDOC awards.

Community Day

Due to the 2 week COVID-19 lockdown imposed on the Shellharbour LGA on 26 June 2021 a decision was made to cancel the event. The working party for the event will meet to discuss rescheduling the event. The AAC will be provided with an update by email.

Although Council could not host the NAIDOC Community Day, we celebrated and promoted NAIDOC week in a number of other COVID safe ways:

- Displayed NAIDOC flags at the Civic Centre;
- Included the NAIDOC week email banner to staff email signatures;
- Social media posts promoting the theme 'Heal Country';
- Shared links to activities and shows that celebrate Aboriginal culture, Aboriginal authors and books;
- Promoted NAIDOC through the Child and Family and Library networks.

Local Government Regional NAIDOC awards

The extension of the lockdown period announced on 7 July has impacted the delivery of the Regional NAIDOC awards. The event has been rescheduled to 23 October 2021.

The majority of the event has been organised and MC, Uncle Gee, Gumaraa, entertainment and catering have all been informed and are available for the rescheduled event.

A total of 26 nominations were received across the 8 categories. The selection panel met on 6 July and have selected the award winners.

The Regional awards committee will reconvene once the public health orders are lifted to finalise promotion and ticketing for the event.

The AAC will be provided with an email update.

Recommendation

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the NAIDOC events update report.

Report prepared by: Shane Venables, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 3 August 2021

6.2 Aboriginal Interpretative Play Space (11705342)

The purpose of this report is to update the Aboriginal Advisory Committee on the progress of the Aboriginal Interpretative Play Space at the Shellharbour Civic Centre.

At the meeting of 4 May 2021 Landscape Architect Fiona Robbe consulted with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to discuss the project and to set the theme for the Aboriginal Interpretative Play Space.

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee endorsed the theme ‘the movement and journey of the local Aboriginal people’.

Since this meeting the following community engagement has taken place:

- 171 students at the Reconciliation Walk;
- 11 Elders at the Reconciliation Walk;
- 44 Aboriginal Students at Albion Park Rail Primary School;
- 38 Aboriginal Students at Oak Flats Primary School;
- 40 Aboriginal Students at Mt Warrigal Primary School.

The main emerging themes from the engagement activities included:

- Nature play – create your own adventures using natural materials;
- Aboriginal language and storytelling – there is a desire to gain greater understanding about our local Aboriginal heritage;
- Animals and sounds;
- Interactive fun signage/storytelling;
- Challenging – majority of participants commented or voted for activities where they could climb, look from a viewing point or build their own hut.

The information from the above community engagement has been collated and sent to the Landscape Architect to develop the concept plan. The draft concept plan is expected to be provided to Council by the end of August 2021.

Recommendation

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Aboriginal Interpretative Play Space report.

Report prepared by: Katrina Owers, Civic Centre Activation Manager

Responsible Manager: Kathryn Baget-Juleff,
Group Manager Community Connections

Date of Meeting: 3 August 2021

6.3 Windang Island Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Update (11705338)

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the progress of the Windang Island Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Shellharbour City Council engaged Biosis in April 2021 to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment of Windang Island in order to consider any infrastructure works on the Island, such as stair access.

Recently, Biosis released a public notice and an invitation for community to register to participate in consultation. That resulted in 17 Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) contacting Biosis to register their interest.

The next stage will be to arrange a survey of the study area with a representative from the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Lands Council. Shellharbour City Council have requested Biosis to conduct a walk on country for a site visit with the listed RAPs but due to the current restrictions with COVID-19 we are unable to set a date for this. A date will be set once restrictions are eased.

Biosis will complete a survey and provide draft reports to Shellharbour City Council, and the RAPs for review and comment and further updates will be provided to the AAC at later dates.

Recommendation

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Windang Island Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment update report.

Report prepared by: Bronwyn Anderson, Bush Regeneration Leading Hand

Responsible Manager: Natalia McGregor, Manager Environment

Date of Meeting: 3 August 2021

6.4 Acknowledgement of Country for Council's communications and facilities (11705340)

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the opportunity to adopt a standardised written wording for Acknowledgements of Country for use in Council's documents, communications and facilities and to seek endorsement of appropriate wording.

Background

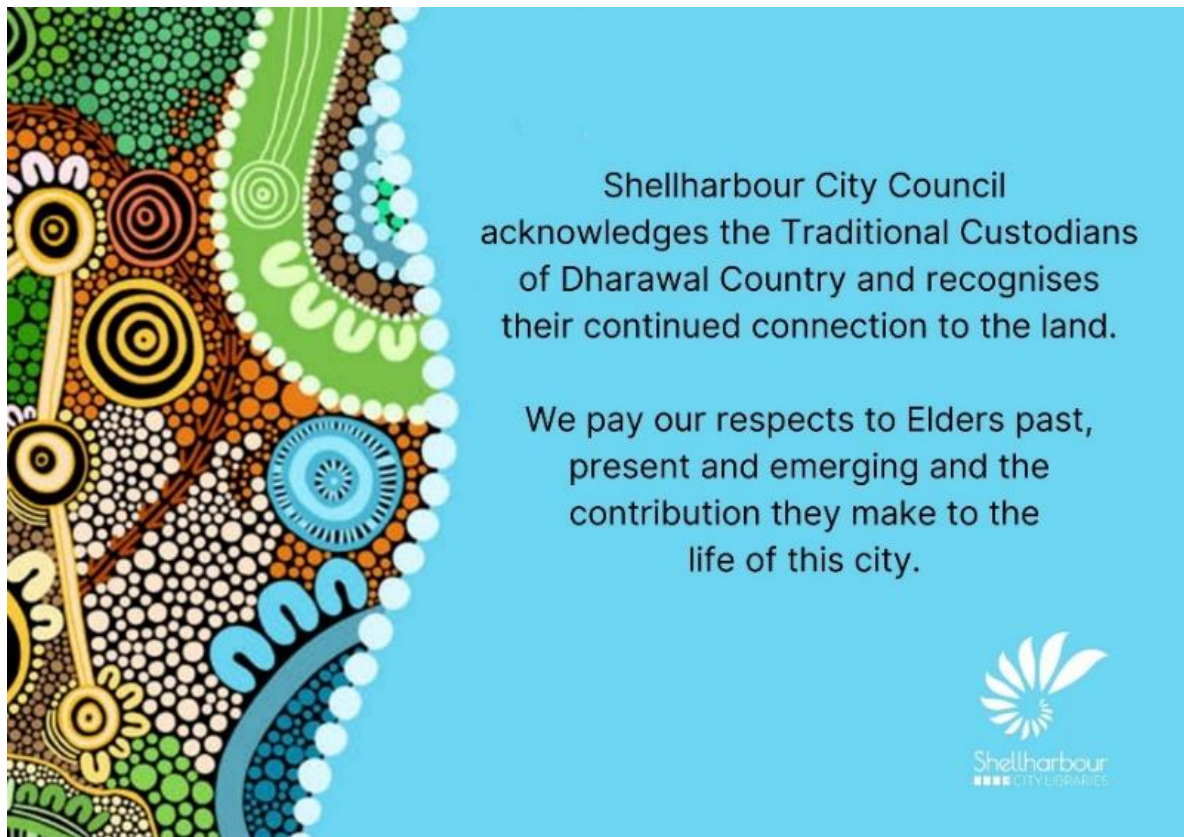
At the meeting of 19 May 2020, Council adopted the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Protocols* and the *Welcome / Acknowledgement of Country and Elders Protocols*. These documents provide guidance on the when, where and how to deliver a verbal Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country at events, activities and meetings. What these documents do not provide is specific wording to display an Acknowledgement of Country in:

- Council documents – eg. Plans and strategies, master plans, reports, etc;
- Public art – eg. Murals and sculptures;
- Signage on/in Council buildings and facilities – eg. Blackbutt Youth Centre, Airport, Libraries, Illawarra Koori Men's Support Group;
- Suburb and City Entrance signage;
- Email block signature;
- Websites.

Council would like to develop and adopt a standardised written Acknowledgement of Country for use in Council's documents, communications and facilities and proposes the following:

'Shellharbour City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Dharawal Country and recognises their continued connection to the land.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and the contribution they make to the life of this city.'

Figure 1 – Example of a written Acknowledgement to Country

This has highlighted the opportunity to create wording for different forms of an Acknowledgement as listed above and add these into our Cultural Protocols. This will facilitate consistency of wording across Councils documents, communications and facilities and build on Councils ongoing commitment to Reconciliation.

Recommendation

That:

- 1. the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Acknowledgement of Country for Council's communications and facilities report;**
- 2. the Aboriginal Advisory Committee endorse the proposed wording for a written Acknowledgement or provide advice for alternate wording; and**
- 3. the recommended wording for a written Acknowledgement be added into the Cultural Protocols upon their endorsement by the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.**

Report prepared by: Shane Venables, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 3 August 2021

6.5 Reconciliation Schools Flag Walk (11705339)

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the delivery of the 2021 Reconciliation Schools Flag Walk.

In celebration of Reconciliation Week, Council hosted the annual Reconciliation Schools Flag Walk on Monday 31 May 2021.

The event location was changed this year to Pelican View Reserve, Lake Illawarra. Approximately 500 school students and staff from 27 schools in our city participated in the event. They were joined by local Elders; the Mayor and Councillors; Council staff; Aboriginal organisations and community members.

The walk started at Lake Illawarra PCYC, Reddall Parade and was lead by a Yidaki player, Elders and Councils ACLO. The walk concluded with participants walking through a Smoking Ceremony, Welcomed by Uncle Gee and dances from Gumaraa. The flag exchange ceremony included representatives from schools, Elders, Councillors, Council Directors, Shellharbour Citizen of the Year and Aboriginal Advisory Committee members.

The event also included the following activations – a Corey Pickett performance, Sea of Hands, Reconciliation chalk drawings, Elders tent, BBQ lunch, Aboriginal Interpretive play space consultation and music by DJ Munch. The event had media coverage from the Mercury and Win news.

Positive feedback was received from Community and we look forward to building on this year's successes for next year's event.

Recommendation

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Reconciliation Schools Flag Walk report.

Report prepared by: Shane Venables, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 3 August 2021

6.6 Use of Traditional Place names as part of Council's postal address (11705343)

The purpose of this report is to provide information and request advice on the use of Traditional Place names as part of Council's postal address.

To mark NAIDOC week in November 2020, Australia Post updated their Addressing Guidelines (**Attachment 1**) to include Traditional Place names in postal addresses.

Council has the opportunity to make similar inclusions when listing our address on things such as our email signature, website, business cards etc.

If Council were to implement the inclusion of Traditional Place names as part of our address, the suggestion would be 'Dharawal Country', in line with the place names included in our Cultural Protocols. An example of what that could look like is provided in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 - Draft example of Council's address in staff email blocks



Recommendation

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

- 1. receive and note Use of Traditional place names as part of Council's postal address; and**
- 2. endorse the use of Dharawal Country as the Traditional Place name to be included on Councils postal address.**

Report prepared by: Shane Venables, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 3 August 2021

Attachments:

- 1. Australia Post guidelines for the use of Traditional Place names – Page 12**

Attachment 1 - Australia Post guidelines for the use of Traditional Place names**Including Traditional Place names**

To acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land your item is being delivered on, you can include those place names in the address field.

To find Traditional Place names, check [AIATSIS](#), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Councils, or Cultural Centres in your local area.

When sending items you can include a Traditional Place name in either the address you're sending from, or in the recipient's address.

In the 'from' address when sending

To ensure that the item will be delivered correctly we recommend that the Traditional Place name is included below your name or company name, but above the street address.

In the 'to' address when sending

When addressing a parcel or letter, place the Traditional Place name after the recipient's name, but before the street address, suburb or town.

When receiving items

As a recipient you're welcome to include a Traditional Place name when providing your delivery address, either online or in person. To acknowledge Traditional Custodians, include the Traditional Place name below your name, but above your street address.

At Australia Post, we have a long and proud history of promoting and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture and implementing measures that contribute to a lasting reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.



To make sure the item will be delivered correctly we recommend that the Traditional Place name is included below the recipient's name but above the street address.

6.7 Verbal Report – Bass Point Interpretive Centre

A verbal update will be provided the Manager Community Life, Ms Bonnie Hittmann.

6.8 Verbal Report – Employment Update

A verbal update will be provided by a member of Council's Human Resources team.

7. Items for Information

8. Next Meeting

5 October 2021