



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, 27 August 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**
 - 5.1 Coastal Management Program – Development Update and Consultation on Drafted Management Options
 - 5.2 Climate Action Week 2027
 - 5.3 Cultural Database
 - 5.4 Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day 2027 collaborating with Gumaraa Aboriginal Experience
- 6 Reports**
 - 6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)
 - 6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)
 - 6.3 Overview of the 2026 NAIDOC events
- 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 of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meetings held on 23 April 2026 and the notes from the 11 June 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)

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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

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

Attendance

Present:

Mayor Chris Homer (Chair)	Councillor
Aunty Lindy Lawler	Community Representative
Uncle Richard Davis	Community Representative
Jodi Edwards	Community Representative (online)
Anne-Maree Fohrman (part)	Community Representative (online)

In Attendance:

Claire Killeen	Executive Director Community and Culture (Acting)
Katrina Owers	Executive Manager Community and Creative Services (Acting)
Bonnie Hittmann	Community Development Manager
Michelle Toms	Aboriginal Cultural Advisor
Allison Bonaz	Corporate Meetings Officer (Minute Taker)

It was noted that as quorum was not reached, the meeting would continue and notes would be taken rather than minutes.

1 Acknowledgement to Country

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Uncle Richard Davis requested the Committee have a minute silence for the passing of Aboriginal Elder Eric 'Uncle Rick' Pagett. The Committee agreed and held a minute silence.

2 Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was tendered on behalf of Councillor Kellie Marsh, Councillor Robert Petreski, Councillor Lou Stefanovski and Community Representative, Suzi Clapham.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

The Mayor called for a mover and seconder, however as quorum was not reached, the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 23 April 2026 will be carried over to the next meeting for confirmation.

4 Disclosures of Interest

Nil

5 Presentations

Nil

6 Reports

6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)

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

6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)

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

7 General Business

The Mayor raised inviting Dr Ngaire Brown to the next AAC to discuss things that may be beneficial about the feasibility of the proposed Aboriginal Interpretive Centre moving forward and the committee agreed.

Community Development Manager, Bonnie Hittmann provided the following update on Events:

- The Reconciliation Walk was held on Monday 1 June 2026 with approximately 770 students and teachers in attendance. Feedback from the event has been positive.
- NAIDOC Community Day is Monday 6 July 2026 at the Shellharbour City Stadium, Croom
- The Local Government NAIDOC Awards are being held in Wollongong this year. Tickets are now available.

At 4:31pm Anne-Maree Fohrman joined online.

Community Development Manager, Bonnie Hittmann provided the following information:

- The organiser of the Aboriginal artwork at the new Shellharbour Hospital is happy to be contacted. Their details will be included in an email with the Minutes of the meeting.

Community Representative, Jodi Edwards acknowledged Shellharbour City Council's support, in conjunction with Wollongong City Council through the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group, of the following projects:

- The [Marine Estate Champions](#) Project
- Creation and release of the short film [Nhandi](#) as part of the TIDES Project. The film will be shown at the [First Nations Film Festival Opening Night](#) (10 July 2026)

8 Next Meeting

27 August 2026 - 4:00pm

9 Meeting Closed

4:47pm

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

5.1 Coastal Management Program – Development Update and Consultation on Drafted Management Options

A presentation on the Coastal Management Program will be provided to the Committee.

5.2. Climate Action Week 2027

A presentation on Climate Action Week 2027 will be provided to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

5.3. Cultural Database

A presentation will be provided by Michelle Toms, Aboriginal Cultural Advisor (Shellharbour City Council) on the Cultural Database

5.4. Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day 2027 collaborating with Gumaraa Aboriginal Experience

A presentation will be provided and is for Gumaraa Aboriginal Experience to share their proposal on collaborating with Shellharbour City Council for the 2027 Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day

6 Reports

6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)

Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Community Development Manager, Mathew Rawson,
Executive Manager Strategic Planning & Environment (Acting)

Approver: Michael Park, Executive Director Planning and Environment

There are no updates on Aboriginal Employment for this meeting.

Attachments

None

6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)

Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Community Development Manager

Approver: Michael Park, Executive Director Planning and Environment

The purpose of this item is to provide a verbal update on the Aboriginal Interpretive Centre (AIC) project.

Recommendation

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

Attachments

None

6.3 Overview of the 2026 NAIDOC Week Events

Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Community Development Manager

Approver: Michael Park, Executive Director Planning and Environment

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the 2026 NAIDOC Week events supported by Shellharbour City Council.

Shellharbour City Council participates annually in two key NAIDOC celebrations: the Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day and the Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards.

Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day

The 2026 Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day was held at the Shellharbour City Stadium on Monday, 6 July 2026. This was the first year the event was relocated from the Civic Centre to the Stadium, providing a successful indoor venue and all-weather option for the community.

The event featured a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and cultural performance by Gumaraa, along with live performances from Kya Mitchell, Doojar Thomas and Alara Livingstone. Attendees also enjoyed a free community barbecue hosted by Gawura and Rotary, food trucks, and 38 free activities and workshops.

The event was well attended, with an estimated 900 community members participating and positive feedback received from attendees, exhibitors and performers.

Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards

The 2026 Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards were hosted by Wollongong City Council at the University of Wollongong on Saturday, 18 July 2026.

The event was again highly successful, celebrating the achievements and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, organisations and community leaders across the region. Award recipients for 2026 included:

- Aunty of the Year: Aunty Barb Nicholson
- Uncle of the Year: Uncle Peter Button
- Community Member of the Year: Dr Justin Cain
- Aboriginal Community Volunteer of the Year: Aunty Margaret Mongta
- Young Achiever of the Year: Elle Stewart-Reid and Emily Hollingsworth

- Organisation of the Year (Business): Rip Mentoring
- Organisation of the Year (Not-for-Profit): Bars Behind Me
- Caring for Country and Culture: Cullunghutti and Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation
- Outstanding Contribution to Reconciliation (Aboriginal): Marring
- Outstanding Contribution to Reconciliation (Non-Aboriginal): ECTARC and Gordan Sterjovska

The hosting responsibilities for the Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards will now pass to Kiama Municipal Council, which will host the event in 2027.

Both events were well attended and demonstrated the strength of Aboriginal culture, community connection and regional collaboration. Council's continued involvement supports recognition, celebration and reconciliation outcomes across the Shellharbour and Illawarra communities.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the 'Overview of the 2026 NAIDOC Week Events' report.

Attachments

None

7. General Business

8. Next Meeting

22 October 2026 - 4:00pm

9. Meeting Closed