



BUSINESS PAPER

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* of the below mentioned meeting.

Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 26 July 2022

Commencing at 3:00 PM

Shellharbour Civic Centre

Ground Floor Training Room

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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 - 3 May 2022**

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 3 May 2022 as circulated be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

3.2 Extraordinary Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting - 14 June 2022

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 June 2022 as circulated be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

4. Disclosures of Interest**5. Presentations****5.1 Shellharbour Rocks – March 2023**

Presentation by Shane Venables, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer and Sarah Townend, Arts and Cultural Development Officer.

6. Staff Reports**6.1 Standing Item - Aboriginal Employment****6.2 Standing Item – Bass Point Interpretive Centre**

6.3 Standing Item – Projects / Assets Update**6.4 Co-naming of Shellharbour City Wards in Dharawal language**

The purpose of this report is to provide information and seek endorsement to investigate co-naming of Shellharbour City Wards in Dharawal language.

There are four (4) wards in Shellharbour City, currently identified using the alpha numeric system – Wards A, B, C and D. There is an opportunity to investigate the naming of the wards in Dharawal language.

As an example, in October 2021, Canterbury-Bankstown co-named their five wards in Darug language. The Aboriginal reference group of Canterbury-Bankstown recommended two names for each of the five wards based on the theme of local native flora and fauna. The community were then asked to vote over a two month period on the names within the ward that they live. The Ward names are displayed in the image below.

Image 1 – Darug language ward names in Canterbury-Bankstown local government area



The co-naming of Shellharbour City Council's wards is another opportunity to continue to respect, celebrate and acknowledge our local Aboriginal community and culture.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

- 1) Receive and note the Co-naming of Shellharbour City Wards in Dharawal language report.**
- 2) Endorse, support and advise in the co-naming of the wards in Dharawal language.**

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 26 July 2022

6.5 Update on the naming of Gadhu Beach

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the naming of the southern split of South Shellharbour Beach.

At the Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting of 8 March 2022, the Committee recommended:

1. *That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee endorse the naming of the southern split of South Shellharbour Beach to be called Gadhu Beach.*
2. *That Mr Chiodo report the outcome back to the committee.*

In response to recommendation, the Aboriginal Advisory Committee are advised that the proposed name of Gadhu Beach is currently out on public exhibition ending 30 June. Full details of that public exhibition can be found at:

[Public exhibition | Shellharbour Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition)

If there are no opposing submissions, the naming will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board for its consideration and subsequent advertising and gazetting.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Update on the naming of Gadhu Beach report.

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 26 July 2022

6.6 Reconciliation Action Plan update report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of Councils Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

At the Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting of 4 November 2021 the Committee recommended:

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee endorse a recommendation to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for Shellharbour City Council to establish a Reconciliation Action Plan.

Progress to date

Council's Executive Leadership Team endorsed the development of a Reflect RAP at its meeting of 19 October 2021. Following that endorsement, Council has registered with Reconciliation Australia (RA) and received the required resources and templates to develop our own Reflect RAP.

A Reflect RAP clearly sets out the steps Council should take to prepare for reconciliation initiatives in future RAPs. The Reflect RAP will provide Council with the opportunity for scoping and developing relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, as well as deciding on Council's vision for reconciliation and exploring our sphere of influence, before committing to specific actions or initiatives. This process will help to produce future RAPs that are meaningful, mutually beneficial and sustainable.

An internal RAP working group has been established and they are responsible for the development, implementation and reporting phases of the RAP. The working group we will achieve this by:

- Having a whole of organisation approach, this ensures the RAP does not sit within one team and implementation does not fall to First Nations staff - reconciliation is everyone's business.
- Being guided by First Nation knowledge and perspectives, and ensure First Nations people are engaged in decision-making, to build a culturally appropriate approach and to work through complex and / or sensitive issues. First Nation staff and community representatives should not be expected to drive the RAP but guide the process.
- Identifying and working through any barriers to the RAP implementation
- Raising the profile of reconciliation as a priority for Council to the 4 C's.

The RAP working group members include a cross section of indoor and outdoor staff, First and Second Nations staff members and managers. It is Co-chaired by the Group Manager Community Connections and the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO).

The working group has met three times. The initial meeting provided an overview of Reconciliation and the RAP process including an overview of the Reflect RAP template. The following two meetings were workshop based sessions that addressed the requirements of the RAP template. The first workshop addressed Council's:

- Core business
- First Nations partnerships
- Existing reconciliation activities.

The following sessions addressed allocating timeframes and responsibility to the mandated actions and deliverables under the pillars of Respect, Relationships, Opportunities and Governance. Information gathered in these workshops has been used to draft the Reflect RAP.

Community Engagement

Currently, there have been two key approaches to the community engagement for the Reflect RAP. The ACLO has been directly contacting AAC members and Aboriginal community organisations advising that Council are in the process of developing our RAP and seeking input into the vision for the RAP, what they see Council are doing for reconciliation and identifying future reconciliation initiatives for the City.

Additionally, a Lets Chat page has been launched providing the wider community with information on Council's RAP process, to capture their ideas on what reconciliation initiatives they see in Shellharbour and what they would like to see in the future.

[Reconciliation Action Plan | Let's Chat Shellharbour \(letschatshellharbour.com\)](https://letschatshellharbour.com)

The first draft of the Reflect Rap was submitted to Reconciliation Australia on 30 June. Council will receive feedback by July 31. This is the first of up to three feedback cycles with Reconciliation Australia.

Next Steps

- Continue to liaise with RA in regards to the draft.
- Renew membership of the RAP working group to ensure commitment to the implementation phase of the RAP (July 2022 – December 2023)
- Development of a First Nations reference group to provide advice and support for implementation of RAP actions and deliverables
- Councillor, Senior Management Team and ELT update briefings
- Conditional endorsement (with edits) received from Reconciliation Australia
- Make RA edits and submit to Council with request to exhibit
- Draft Reflect RAP open for comment
- Close for comment and update RAP with feedback
- Final Endorsement from Reconciliation Australia received.
- Final adoption RAP commences
- Final adoption of Council

Recommendation

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Reconciliation Action Plan update report.

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 26 July 2022

6.7 Closing the Gap – Stocktake of Partnership Agreement

The purpose of this report is to provide information on Council's contribution to the Closing the Gap - Stocktake of Partnership Agreement.

Background

The former NSW Premier signed the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap in July 2020, alongside the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (CAPO) and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). Local government is a party to the Agreement through ALGA and plays a key role in its success.

In this National Agreement, governments agreed to do things differently – by working in partnership and share decision making with Aboriginal organisations and communities to improve outcomes for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The National Agreement is centred on four priority reforms to shift the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

- Formal partnerships and shared decision making
- Building the community controlled sector
- Transforming government organisations
- Shared access to data and information at a regional level.

NSW has developed a fifth priority reform on employment, business growth and economic prosperity.

The National Agreement also contains 17 socio-economic targets across education, employment, health and wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, languages and digital inclusion.

The first NSW Implementation Plan sets out a pathway to action commitments.

Call for Action

The NSW Government is seeking local government support to identify partnerships between councils and Aboriginal partners which do not include the NSW Government.

The stocktake will assist the NSW Closing the Gap Partnership to identify gaps and opportunities to build on existing successes by expanding and strengthening shared decision-making arrangements in NSW.

Local councils play a direct role in the day-to-day lives of Aboriginal people in their communities and it would be best practice to align the Closing the Gap targets into Council plans and operations.

On 18 May 2022, Council submitted the Closing the Gap Partnership Stocktake form. The following partnerships were identified:

- AAC
- Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards Committee
- Lake Illawarra Management Program – Implementation group

- Coastal Management Committee

Further information can be found at:

[NSW-Implementation-Plan-2021-22.pdf](#)

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Closing the Gap Stocktake of Partnership Agreement report.

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 26 July 2022

6.8 Uluru Statement from the Heart

The purpose of this report is to inform the AAC of the resolution to show support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

At the Council meeting of 28 June 2022, in response to a Mayoral Minute, Council resolved:

That Council provide a response of support to the Co-Chairs of the Uluru Dialogue for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Council will submit a response of support to the Uluru dialogue. Council is also committed to working with the AAC to investigate ways that we can implement the sentiments of the Uluru Statement from the Heart at a local level in Shellharbour City.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Uluru Statement from the Heart report.

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 26 July 2022

6.9 NAIDOC Event updates

The purpose of this report is to provide the AAC with an update on the NAIDOC Community Day and Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards events.

NAIDOC Community Day

On 4 July, Council successfully celebrated the opening of NAIDOC week by delivering the NAIDOC Community Day at the Civic Centre. Approximately 500 people attended on the day including Elders, Mayor, Councillors, Council staff, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations and community members.

The event opened with a cultural performance by Gumaraa and a Welcome to Country by Uncle Richard Davis. Jodi Edwards gave a NAIDOC address which was followed by the Mayors Welcoming speech. Attendees were treated to a performance by Matty Walker and Kyarna-Rose as well as music across the day by DJ Meeli Mel. There were 20 service providers supplying community with information and fun activities across the day. Local Aboriginal artist Hannah Jensen facilitated a live paint across the day. There are plans to display this artwork across the City's Libraries and Community Centres.

Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards

This year the Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards are being hosted by Wollongong City Council on 30 July at the Fraternity Club Fairy Meadow. Tickets are \$75 each and are available at [Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards Dinner 2022 Tickets, Sat 30/07/2022 at 5:30 pm | Eventbrite](#)

20 Elders tickets have been allocated to Elders within our LGA.

Nominations for the awards have closed.

The entertainment for the night includes Terra Firma, Nooky and Matty and Kyarna will have Luke Carroll as the MC.

Recommendation

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the NAIDOC Event updates report.

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 26 July 2022

7. General Business

8. Items for Information

9. Next Meeting

6 September 2022