



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

Wednesday, 30 August 2023

Commencing at 3:30 PM

**Shellharbour Civic Centre
Ground Floor Training Room**

AGENDA

1. Acknowledgement to Country	3
2. Apologies / Leave of Absence	3
3. Confirmation of Minutes	3
3.1 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting 22 June 2023	3
4. Disclosures of Interest	3
5. Presentations.....	3
5.1 Responding to Deceased Marine Animals	3
6. Staff Reports	3
6.1 Standing Item - Aboriginal Employment	4
6.2 Standing Item – Bass Point Interpretive Centre	5
6.3 Standing Item – Projects / Assets Update	5
6.4 Reconciliation Action Plan update report.....	6
6.5 Aboriginal Community Events Update Report	7
6.6 The Voice to Parliament update report.....	10
7. General Business	13
8. Items for Information	13
9. Next Meeting	13

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 22 June 2023

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 22 June 2023 as circulated be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

4. Disclosures of Interest

5. Presentations

5.1 Responding to Deceased Marine Animals

Presentation by Council's Environment Team (Coastal Grants Officer, Lusiana Vulatha and Coastal Programs Coordinator, Leslie Reid).

6. Staff Reports

6.1 Standing Item - Aboriginal Employment

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Aboriginal Employment opportunities within Council. The newly developed Aboriginal-targeted role has been established as a Library Program Officer.

A full-time position of **Library Programs Officer (First Nations Targeted)** has been established within the Libraries & Museum Team with the approval of the Executive Leadership Team and advised to Council's Workplace Consultative Committee.

The NSW Anti-Discrimination Board has approved an exemption under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)* to recruit for this position 'targeted' to people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Council has been successful in applying for the exemption and will recruitment for the position over the coming months.

Recommendation:

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

Report prepared by: Maiquilla Brown
Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann
Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 30 August 2023

Attachment
Nil

6.2 Standing Item – Bass Point Interpretive Centre

6.3 Standing Item – Projects / Assets Update

6.4 Reconciliation Action Plan update report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Council's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The final draft of the Reflect RAP was presented to the AAC for endorsement on 22 June 2023. The draft document was received with positive support and endorsed unanimously.

On 27 June 2023 Shellharbour City Council was presented with the draft Reflect RAP for consideration and endorsement. The draft Reflect RAP was adopted by Council and will commence for the period of 2023 – 2024.

The final steps for attaining approval through Reconciliation Australia is transitioning from conditional approval to formal approval, which is an administrative process which follows Council's formal adoption of the RAP.

Council officers have commenced working on actions outlined in the RAP and will continue using the action plan as a framework for future opportunities for reconciliation.

Recommendation:

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

Report prepared by: Maiquilla Brown
Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann
Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 30 August 2023

Attachment
Nil

6.5 Aboriginal Community Events Update Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of Aboriginal-focused events that have recently taken place.

During July Council supported a series of events that celebrated the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and culture, including both local and regional events. An update on these events is provided below.

Event Summary - NAIDOC Community Day – Monday 3 July

This year's NAIDOC Community Day was held on Monday 3 July and was located at the Shellharbour Civic Centre. The event took place on the front lawns of the Civic Centre, as well as carrying through into the library and exhibition space inside.

The event was comprised of a flag raising ceremony on the front lawns and was followed by a free BBQ lunch and a community fun day which saw over 22 stallholders from local services and organisations.

It is estimated that over 600 community members attended the event, which is the largest attendance recorded in recent years.

This year's theme was 'For Our Elders' and aimed to celebrate the role Elders have played and continue to play in our community. All local Elders living and working in and around Shellharbour were invited to attend as special guests. Fourteen local Elders attended on the day and were treated to a VIP Elder area with morning tea and coffee. Elders were also provided with free transport to support their attendance at the event.

Regional NAIDOC Awards – Saturday 29 July

The Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards took place at the Kiama Pavilion on Saturday 29 July 2023. Kiama was the host Council for the 2023 event and supported by the Planning Committee made up of representatives from the three partnering councils – Shellharbour, Shoalhaven and Wollongong.

The event was well attended with an estimated 220 guests on the night including up to 60 local Elders from across the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions. In attendance was also local Aboriginal organisations and community

members, members of the wider community, Council leaders and representatives, and sponsors.

The event included performances such as a cultural performance by Gumarra, and singing performances by Bandria McCleod and Matty Walker, and a comedy performance by Andy Saunders, who also MC'd the event.

The award recipients included:

NAIDOC Regional Awards 2023 Winners list		
<i>Award Category</i>	<i>Winner</i>	<i>Local Government Area</i>
Aboriginal Community Volunteer of the Year	Korin Koutsomihalis	Kiama
Aboriginal Community Representative of the Year	Richard Ardler	Shoalhaven
Aboriginal Elder of the Year - Female	Aunty Annette Lonesboruogh	Shoalhaven
Aboriginal Elder of the Year - Male	Uncle Tom Brown	Shoalhaven
Aboriginal Organisation of the Year	Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation	Wollongong
Aboriginal Young Achievers of the Year	Amelia Wall	Kiama
	Emma McMahon	Shoalhaven
Outstanding Contribution to Reconciliation	Tullimbar Public School	Shellharbour

Update Request – Reconciliation Walk Evaluation and Future Opportunities

A report is being prepared for the next AAC meeting outlining an evaluation of recent Reconciliation Flag Walk events, and possible future options for modifying the event to accommodate the growing interest and participation.

Recommendation:

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Aboriginal Community Events Update Report.

Report prepared by: Maiquilla Brown
Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann
Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 30 August 2023

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Nil

6.6 The Voice to Parliament update report

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding actions Council has taken in relation to The Voice to Parliament.

This year the Federal Government will hold a referendum to allow all Australians to vote on potential changes to the Constitution, which will recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. These changes will mean the establishment of an independent and permanent advisory body that would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Council plans to respond to the upcoming referendum by sharing campaign neutral resources which educate the local community on what the referendum will be asking, and further links to federal government resources.

In anticipation of the upcoming referendum Council will participate in the following communications and engagements with the local community:

- Established a page on Council's website providing links to key resources for the community to read and become better informed prior to the referendum
- Run a politically neutral social media campaign educating the community about the upcoming referendum and where they can access information to make an informed decision, providing links back to Council's webpage
- Install pop up educational material at libraries and community centres across the city to educate and inform the local community, and to provide a summary of some of the key pieces of information that are related to the referendum.

Council's webpage is accessible through the link below:

[The Voice to Parliament | Shellharbour Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au/voice-to-parliament)

Recommendation:

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the From the Heart Campaign update report.

Report prepared by: Maiquilla Brown
Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Responsible Manager: Bonnie Hittmann
Manager Community Life

Date of Meeting: 30 August 2023

Attachment

1. Shellharbour City Council's Webpage Image Capture

Attachment 1. Shellharbour City Council's Webpage Image Capture

[Home](#) / [Council](#) / [The Voice to Parliament](#)

The Voice to Parliament

About us >

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The Voice to Parliament



Later this year, the Federal Government will hold a referendum to allow all Australians to have their say and vote on whether changes should be made to the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

These changes would mean the establishment of an independent and permanent advisory body that would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As with all areas of life, people will have differing views and will want different things. It is important that as a community, we approach this referendum with respect and compassion for one another, and it is important that we take the time to learn, ask questions and become informed before we vote.

The information here is aimed to provide some of the key resources that are available to help educate and inform and to provide a summary of some of the key pieces of information that are related to the referendum.

The Voice to Parliament

In late 2023, the Australians will have their say in a referendum about whether to change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body. It would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have called for members of the Voice to be chosen by First Nations peoples based on the wishes of local communities.

- [The Voice Principles](#)
- [Community Toolkit](#)

Uluru Statement from the Heart

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation to the Australian people from First Nations Australians. It asks Australians to walk together to build a better future by establishing a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution, and the establishment of a Makarrata Commission for the purpose of treaty making and truth-telling.

- [View the Statement](#)
- [The History of the Statement](#)
- [The Dialogues](#)
- [FAQs](#)

Referendum - The Australia Electoral Commission

To change the Australian Constitution a referendum has to be held to seek approval of Australian voters.

- [Understanding the Constitution](#)
- [What is a Referendum](#)
- [The 2023 Referendum](#)

Referendum Council

How to best recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution is a topic for all Australians. On 30 June 2017, the Referendum Council handed down its report to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition.

- [Final Report of the Referendum Council](#)
- [Get the facts](#)

7. General Business

8. Items for Information

9. Next Meeting

Thursday, 30 November 2023 at 3:30pm