

**Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting
of Shellharbour City Council held in the Ground Floor Training Room
on Wednesday, 20 August 2025 commencing at 4:00 PM**

Attendance

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Kate Jessep	Executive Director Community and Culture
Bonnie Hittmann	Acting Executive Manager Community and Creative Services
Lauren Peters	Team Leader Community Planning
Jesse Evans	Library Programs Officer
Matthew Apolo (part)	Executive Manager Technical and Recreation Services
Ian Lee (part)	Recreation Project Officer
Allison Bonaz	Corporate Meetings Officer (Minute Taker)

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.

Committee Recommendation: Cr Petreski / Suzi Clapham

That Standing Orders be suspended in order for Item 6.8 Oak Flats Aquatic Facility Masterplan Project, be considered here in the agenda.

CARRIED

6.8 Oak Flats Aquatic Facility Masterplan Project

Committee Recommendation: Aunty Lindy Lawler / Anne-Maree Fohrman

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

1. Provide In principle support for the Oak Flats Aquatic Facility Masterplan Project to be submitted under the Regional Precincts and Partnership Program (RPPP) Stream One: Precinct Development and Planning.
2. Accept a role on the Oak Flats Aquatic Facility Masterplan Project Advisory Committee and nominate a committee member for the project.
3. Accept a role on the Oak Flats Aquatic Facility Masterplan Project Working Party for this project and nominate a committee member for the project.
4. Choose representatives once appropriate funding is received and the matter is brought back to the Committee.

CARRIED

Executive Manager Technical and Recreation Services, Matthew Apolo and Recreation Project Officer, Ian Lee left the meeting at this point.

2 Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was tendered on behalf of Uncle Richard Davis and the Leave of Absence from Cr Stefanovski was acknowledged by the Committee.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting-21 May 2025

Committee Recommendation: Suzi Clapham / Anne-Maree Fohrman

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 May 2025 be received and noted.

CARRIED

4 Disclosures of Interest

Nil

5 Presentations

Nil

6 Reports

Mayor Homer asked the Committee to receive and note Items 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 en bloc, which was agreed to by the Committee.

6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)

6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)

6.3 Capital Projects Update (Standing Item)

6.4 Aboriginal Community Events Update

Committee Recommendation: Jodi Edwards / Suzi Clapham

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note Items 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4.

CARRIED

6.5 Reconciliation Framework Update

Following discussions, the Committee agreed to proceed with a Local Action Plan to include goals tailored to the Shellharbour community.

Committee Recommendation: Jodi Edwards / Aunty Lindy Lawler

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

1. Receive and note the Reconciliation Framework Update report;
2. Agreed to proceed with a Local Action Plan with ideas/topics to be researched and brought back to the Committee for further discussion.

CARRIED

6.6 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Sub-committees

Acting Executive Manager Community and Creative Services, Bonnie Hittmann, confirmed that Uncle Richard Davis, whilst an apology, did provide his verbal agreement to remain on both sub-committees. The Committee supported Uncle Richard Davis's appointment to the two sub-committees.

The Committee also agreed to removing the word 'temporary' for both sub-committee positions and for the Terms of Reference for both sub-committees to be brought to a future meeting.

Committee Recommendation: Cr Petreski / Aunty Lindy Lawler

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

1. Endorse Uncle Richard Davis and Dr Jodi Edwards as the Aboriginal Interpretive Centre sub-committee positions;
2. Endorse Uncle Richard Davis and Dr Jodi Edwards as the Aboriginal Culture and Heritage sub-committee positions; and
3. Agree that the Terms of Reference documents for both sub-committees be reviewed and brought to a future meeting.

CARRIED

Cr Petreski left the meeting at this point, confirming his agreement with Item 6.7.

Quorum for the remainder of the meeting was not met.

6.7 Review of Alcohol-Free Zones and Alcohol-Prohibited Areas

The Committee discussed this report and raised concerns with public consumption of alcohol and anti-social behaviour at some local sports grounds. Staff advised this is most relevant to the liquor licence for the sports clubs involved rather than an AFZ/APA matter. Staff will investigate the liquor licence matters and report to the relevant authorities.

Committee Recommendation: Jodie Edwards / Suzi Clapham

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Review of the Alcohol-Free Zones and Alcohol-Prohibited Areas report.

CARRIED

7 General Business

Community Representative, Aunty Lindy Lawler asked questions about the art displayed in the Civic Centre and the artists permitted to display traditional work.

- The questions relate to Council's public art policy and were taken on notice. Further information will be brought back to the Committee.

8 Next Meeting

8 October 2025 at 4pm

9 Meeting Closed

5:12pm