

**Minutes / Notes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting
of Shellharbour City Council held in the Ground Floor Training Room
on Wednesday, 28 February 2024 commencing at 3:30 PM**

Attendance

Present:

Mayor Chris Homer(Chair)	Councillor (part)
Cr Colin Gow	Councillor (part)
Aunty Lindy Lawler	Community Representative
Jodi Edwards	Community Representative
Ann-Maree Fohrman	Community Representative (part)

In Attendance:

Matt Sutherland	Executive Manager Community & Creative Services
Bonnie Hittmann	Manager Community Life
Maiquilla Brown	Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer
Lisa Davey	Governance Manager
Allison Bonaz	Corporate Meetings Officer (Minute Taker)
Trudy Costa	Coastal Environment Officer (Wollongong City Council) (part)

Note: A section at the beginning and end of the meeting did not have a quorum.

The Minutes/Notes will be considered for formal endorsement at the next meeting with a quorum.

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

An apology was tendered on behalf of Councillor Lou Stefanovski and Community Representative, Uncle Richard Davis.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 29 November 2023 will be confirmed at the next meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, due to a lack of quorum.

4 Disclosures of Interest

Council's Governance Manager, Lisa Davey provided a presentation on the Code of Conduct obligations for members of the Committee.

No Disclosures of Interest were declared.

5 Presentations

5.1 Lake Illawarra Projects Update

Coastal Environment Officer, Trudy Costa provided some information on events such as the Short Film Festival 2024 (Topic 'water'), UOW and DPI Fisheries are supporting a UOW Honours student to complete a study on Cockle Fisheries, a Lake Entrance Study is also being undertaken.

Coastal Environment Officer, Trudy Costa to provide Community Representative, Jodi Edwards the contact details of both studies. Trudy and Jodi to work together on her project recently awarded on Cultural Mapping from Bruny Island to K'gari Island.

6 Reports

6.1 Standing Item - Aboriginal Employment Update

Suggestions were provided by the Committee on additional ways to promote the position.

Ann-Maree Fohrman joined the meeting (online) at 3.57pm. **The Meeting now had a quorum.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Jodi Edwards / Cr Gow

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Aboriginal Employment Update report.

CARRIED

6.2 Standing Item - Bass Point Interpretive Centre Update

Executive Manager Community and Creative Services, Matt Sutherland provided a verbal update on where this matter is up to, detailing that an inspection of the artefacts and items currently held in storage for a future keeping place is to be conducted to inform options.

This matter was discussed by the committee with the following recommendation being put forward.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Jodi Edwards / Cr Gow

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the verbal update on the Bass Point Interpretive Centre and that the subcommittee be included, if possible, to attend the inspection.

CARRIED

6.3 Standing Item - Projects / Assets Update

Executive Manager Community and Creative Services, Matt Sutherland mentioned that there were no items to update for this meeting.

Community Representative, Jodi Edwards asked if an update on SACYA Hall (Oakleigh Hall) could be provided to the next meeting.

6.4 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Update Report

Community Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Maiquilla Brown spoke to this item. Following discussion, it was agreed that each member of the committee advise of their interest in contributing to the RAP Reference Group.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Jodi Edwards / Ann-Maree Fohrman

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

1. Receive and note the 'Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) update report;
2. Advise of their interest in contributing in the RAP Reference Group.

CARRIED

6.5 Civic Centre Room Names

Community Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Maiquilla Brown spoke to this item and asked for any assistance with the Dharawal names.

Community Representative, Jodi Edwards provided some updated information on the current Dharawal Names to Corporate Meetings Officer for Council (Attachment 1).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Jodi Edwards / Cr Gow

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee endorse the proposed Dharawal words to be incorporated for room names at the Shellharbour Civic Centre (Attachment 1).

CARRIED

6.6 Suburb Entry Signage Project Update

The community representatives provided the following information and noted the follow up required in relation to the Dharawal names for the six remaining suburbs:

Calderwood – use Dharawal name for Albion Park

Dunmore – Follow up investigation required

Yellow Rock Ridge – Use Dharawal name for Tullimbar

Oak Flats – Follow up Uncle Richard for Dharawal name

Tullimbar – Follow up if Dharawal name is spelt as Tullimbah

Tongarra – Dharawal name Tongarra

The preference of the community representatives on how the Dharawal names for Tullimbar and Tongarra should be displayed on the signage was acknowledge the original names - with follow up required as to the spelling of the Dharawal name for Tullimbar.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Jodi Edwards / Ann-Maree Fohrman

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

1. Receive and note the 'Suburb Entry Signage Project Update' report;
2. Note the follow up information required regarding the six remaining suburbs which were not addressed in previous reports;
3. Approve that original Dharawal names be acknowledged on the signage for Tullimbar and Tongarra, with follow up required as to the spelling of the Dharawal name for Tullimbar.

CARRIED

6.7 Rutledge Collection Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment Progress Update

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Ann-Maree Fohrman / Jodi Edwards

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Rutledge Collection Preliminary Cultural Heritage Assessment Progress Update report.

CARRIED

Mayor Homer and Councillor Gow left the meeting at 4.52pm. **There was now a lack of quorum for the remainder of the meeting.**

6.8 Aboriginal Community Events Update

Community Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Maiquilla Brown spoke to this item, followed by discussion around potential future events.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Jodi Edwards / Cr Gow

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

The above Committee Recommendation will be considered at the next meeting due to a lack of quorum.

7 General Business

Grants Officer, Matt Williamson provided some early design details for committee support. The preliminary drawings and details will be provided to the Committee for support for Council to apply for funding grants.

Community representative Jodi Edwards raised some matters for further discussion by the Aboriginal Advisory Committee as follows:

- A whale event being held in the City
- Acknowledging the massacre that occurred by the Minnamurra River.

Manager Community Life, Bonnie Hittmann, stated she will meet with Jodi to obtain further details.

8 Next Meeting

17 April 2024

Meeting Closed: 5:32 pm

Attachment 1 – Civic Centre Room Names (Dharawal language)

Dharawal Names

(Previously Endorsed – Spelling Corrected)

- **Sea Life**
 - Orca Whale = Gawura
 - Dolphin = Juraangah/Baruwaluwu
 - Octopus = Djungah
 - Fish = Dhanj

- **Land Animals**
 - Brush Possum = Gurawara
 - Kangaroo = Buru
 - Dog = Mirigaan
 - Koala = Garilwa
 - Red Belly Snake = Warabinjinandagari

- **Birds**
 - Willi Wag Tail = Djidjiriwa
 - Emu = Biraban
 - Hawk = Biburnungga
 - Pelican = Garunggaba
 - Crow = Warawanj
 - Kookaburra = Gugara

Additional words for endorsement:

- **Sky**
 - Cloud = Garru
 - Star = Djindjingara
 - Sky = Mindjigari
 - Falling Star = Duruga

- **Sea Life**
 - Shark = Ungah
 - Starfish = Gunaagaan
 - Kingfish = Gumbarringal