

**Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meetings
of Shellharbour City Council held in the Ground Floor Training Room
(12 March and 2 April 2025)**

Attendance: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 - 4:00 PM

Present:

Mayor Chris Homer(Chair)	Councillor
Cr Lou Stefanovski	Councillor
Cr Robert Petreski	Councillor (online)
Jodi Edwards	Community Representative
Anne-Maree Fohrman	Community Representative (online)

In Attendance:

Matt Sutherland	Executive Manager Community and Creative Services
Bonnie Hittmann	Manager Community Life
Maiquilla Brown	Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer
Lisa Davey	Governance Manager
Dean Adams	Infrastructure Officer-Programs
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.

2 Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was tendered on behalf of Cr Murphy, Aunty Lindy Lawler, Aunty Dawn Bell, Uncle Richard Davis and Suzanne Clapham.

The required number of committee members to achieve quorum was not reached. The decision was made to carry over the agenda and extend the 2 April meeting.

The Reconciliation Flag Walk, as part of Item 6.5 Aboriginal Community Events Update, was discussed to obtain feedback on the route the event would take.

After some discussion, the consensus was that Council staff would investigate the potential use of the pedestrian bridge at Elliott Lake - Little Lake or would utilise the same route in 2025 as was undertaken in 2024.

Meeting Closed: 4:51pm

Meeting Reconvened: 3:30pm on 2 April 2025

Attendance: Wednesday, 2 April 2025 - 3:30 PM**Present:**

Mayor Chris Homer(Chair)	Councillor
Cr Lou Stefanovski	Councillor
Cr Robert Petreski	Councillor
Aunty Lindy Lawler	Community Representative
Jodi Edwards	Community Representative
Suzanne Clapham	Community Representative

In Attendance:

Matt Sutherland	Executive Manager Community and Creative Services
Bonnie Hittmann	Manager Community Life
Lisa Davey	Governance Manager
Allison Bonaz	Corporate Meetings Officer (Minute Taker)

Part Attendance:

Aara Welz	Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council
Dean Adams	Infrastructure Officer - Programs
Katie Gilbey	Environmental Compliance and Assessment Officer
Lusiana Vulatha	Coastal Grants Officer
Kate Jessep	Executive Director Community and Culture

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2 Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was tendered on behalf of Community Representative, Anne-Maree Fohrman and Cr Kane Murphy.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Committee Recommendation: Jodi Edwards / Cr Lou Stefanovski

That the minutes from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 19 June 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED

4 Disclosures of Interest

Nil

5 Presentations

5.1 Role of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee

A presentation on the expectations and code of conduct was provided to the committee from Governance Manager, Lisa Davey. This was followed by a presentation on the committee's role and previous outcomes from Community Development Manager, Bonnie Hittmann.

ACTION: Update the first paragraph in the Terms of Reference, adding the following words in red:

The purpose of the Shellharbour City Council's Aboriginal Advisory Committee is to provide professional and strategic advice to Council on issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples **within the Shellharbour Local Government Area**

5.2 Infrastructure Planning Projects / Assets Update Presentation

ACTION: Council staff to check that a Sites Officer will be present onsite when works for the roadway within Bass Point Reserve at sensitive Midden sites are occurring.

ACTION: Council staff to consider partnership opportunities supporting Aboriginal participation outcomes in line with State Government procurement initiatives.

5.3 Shellharbour City Council Environment Team Update

ACTION: Council staff to note there is known Bull Shark activity in the area noted for dredging feasibility during presentation 5.1.
Committee to investigate opportunity for a tracking beacon to be obtained for study purposes at this location.

Committee Recommendation:

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee

1. receive and note presentations 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3,
2. that the Terms of Reference be updated as per the Action.

CARRIED

6 Reports

6.1 Selection of Aboriginal Advisory Committee Members for subcommittees and representation

Committee Recommendation: Cr Rob Petreski / Cr Lou Stefanovski

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee

1. select the following members as per the below table:

Aboriginal Advisory Committee Member	Title of Subcommittee/Group
Jodi Edwards Uncle Richard Davis	Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Subcommittee
Jodi Edwards	Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program Implementation Group

2. carry over the decision for members on the Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Subcommittee to the next meeting.

CARRIED

6.2 Aboriginal Community Events Update

Committee Recommendation: Jodi Edwards / Suzi Clapham

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

1. receive and note the 'Aboriginal Community Events Update report';
2. seek consultation with the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation and the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council on changing the event name to Wonwin NAIDOC Community Day and bring the outcome back to the committee.

CARRIED

6.3 Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) update

Committee Recommendation: Jodi Edwards / Suzi Clapham

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

1. Receive and note the 'Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)' update report
2. Consider options for reconciliation pathways, which can be discussed at the next Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting.

CARRIED

6.4 Oakleigh Park Draft Master Plan

Committee Recommendation: Cr Lou Stefanovski / Jodi Edwards

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee

1. receive and note the Oakleigh Park Draft Master Plan update report and presentation
2. that a further presentation be brought back to the Committee providing more information on:
 - a. Park Design Opportunities including:
 - i. Opportunities for amalgamation of building components into a single shared structure for primary tenants,
 - ii. Closer alignment of internal weights and gym areas with outdoor gym/stretch facilities,
 - iii. Consideration of flooring surfaces to deal with anticipated uses e.g. football studs and dance.
 - b. Consideration of placement of Youth areas next to onsite facilities with liquor licences,

- c. Consideration of vehicle entry and exit points including risks of closer proximity to traffic signals and intersections.
- d. Consider potential for alternate entry/exit routes through rear of park site toward bowling club,
- e. Crime Prevention strategies with dense garden and vegetation areas bordering key site infrastructure,
- f. Provision of undercover area for cultural dance and activities,
- g. Proximity of basketball and sports courts closer to residential properties, and
- h. Provision of lighting for extended operating hours of infrastructure and safety.

CARRIED

6.5 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)

Committee Recommendation: Cr Lou Stefanovski / Jodi Edwards

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee

1. Grant their support to Council to access information on the Shell Cove Artefact Collection, which will be formalised in a written statement of support.
2. Encourage Council to set a target for completion of this project by the end of the current term of Council.

CARRIED

6.6 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)

Committee Recommendation: Jodi Edwards / Cr Lou Stefanovski

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

CARRIED

7 General Business

Nil

8 Next Meeting

21 May 2025 commencing at 4pm

9 Meeting Closed

6:40pm