

SHELLHARBOUR CITY COUNCIL

Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting – 6 September 2022

Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting held via Teams webcast video link

on Tuesday 6 September 2022 commencing at 3.04pm

Present:

Mayor Chris Homer (Chair)
Cr Colin Gow

Shellharbour City Council
Shellharbour City Council

Community Members:

Ms June Lowe
Uncle Richard Davis
Ms Michelle Toms
Ms Toumanda Fohrman

Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative

In Attendance:

Ms Bonnie Hittmann
Ms Katrina Owers
Ms Allison Bonaz (Minute Taker)

Manager Community Life
Civic Centre Activation Manager
Corporate Meetings Officer

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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

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Cr Colin Gow / Uncle Richard Davis

An apology was tendered on behalf of Councillor Lou Stefanovski, Councillor Robert Petreski and Group Manager Community Connections Kathryn Baget-Juleff.

The Mayor acknowledged the recent passing of Uncle Ruben Brown. A minutes silence was recommended, supported unanimously and observed by the Committee. The Mayor thanked the Committee.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting 26 July 2022

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Cr Colin Gow / Aunty Lindy Lawler

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held on 26 July 2022 as circulated be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings with the addition of the recommendation below for the use of language in Council documentation.

That when using the term First Nation for Aboriginal people, that non-Aboriginal people be referred to as non-Aboriginal and not as Second Nation.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Interest

Nil

5. Presentations

Nil

6. Staff Reports and General Business

6.1 Aboriginal Employment

A verbal report was provided by Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life regarding Councils Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan and related policies going to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 6 September 2022.

The Committee discussed the possibility of Council offering a targeted cadetship or something similar, like councils such as Wollongong and Shoalhaven Cities. This would need to include appropriate support from a cultural mentor.

6.2 Bass Point Interpretive Centre

A verbal report was provided by Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life.

6.3 Projects/Assets Update

An update was provided on the Aboriginal Interpretive Play Space at the Civic Centre by Katrina Owers, Civic Centre Activation Manager.

6.4 Uluru Statement from the Heart Update

A verbal report was provided by Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life. The Committee agreed that Ms Hittmann would forward the Statement to the Co-chairs for signature and the Committee would be advised.

6.5 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Update

A verbal report was provided by Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life advising that Council have received feedback from Reconciliation Australia. The RAP will be updated and returned and then further feedback will be provided.

6.6 Regional NAIDOC Awards Event Update

A verbal report was provided by Bonnie Hittmann, Manager Community Life.

The event was a great success and we had some of our local community celebrated on the night:

- Jodi Edwards for Aboriginal Community Representative of the Year
- Aidan Whitehall for Aboriginal Young Achiever of the Year (male)
- Illawarra Koori Men's Support Group for Aboriginal Organisation of the Year.

7. General Business

Mayor Homer raised that the Killalea State Park has been added to the NSW national parks estate from 1 July 2022, under the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The link below is to a media release from National Parks and Wildlife Service in late June that references the consultation and plan of management that will be undertaken in due course.

[Killalea joins the national park estate | NSW Environment and Heritage](#)

8. Items for Information

Nil

9. Next Meeting

Date: 8 November 2022

Meeting closed at 3:54PM