

**Notes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting
of Shellharbour City Council held in the Ground Floor Training Room
on Thursday, 27 August 2026 commencing at 4:00 PM**

Attendance

Present:

Cr Lou Stefanovski (Chair)	Councillor
Aunty Lindy Lawler	Community Representative
Uncle Richard Davis	Community Representative
Jodi Edwards	Community Representative
Suzanne Clapham	Community Representative (part)

In Attendance:

Michael Park	Executive Director Planning and Environment
Bonnie Hittmann	Manager Community Development
Lauren Peters	Team Leader Community Planning
Michelle Toms	Aboriginal Cultural Advisor (part)
Lisa Davey	Governance Manager
Mathew Rawson	Acting Executive Manager Strategic and Community Planning
Ryan Stirling	Executive Manager Waste Services (part)
Jim Fraser	Environment Manager (part)
Sam Bianco	Coastal Grants Officer (part)
Anett Faustman	Environmental Sustainability Officer (part)
Aara Welz	Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council (part)
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 Mayor Chris Homer, Councillor Robert Petreski and Anne-Maree Fohrman, Community Representative.

It was noted that quorum was not reached and that the meeting would continue with Notes to be taken.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Councillor Stefanovski called for a mover and seconder, however as quorum was not reached, the minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meetings held on 23 April 2026 and the notes from the 11 June 2026 will be carried over to the next meeting for confirmation.

4 Disclosures of Interest

Nil

5 Presentations

5.1 Coastal Management Program – Development Update and Consultation on Drafted Management Options

Environment Manager, Jim Fraser, introduced Aara Welz from Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council to give a presentation on the Coastal Management Program.

A copy of the presentation will be provided for the Committee.

5.2 Climate Action Week 2027

Environment Manager, Jim Fraser gave a presentation on the Climate Action Week 2027 events to be conducted in conjunction with the Sydney program.

A copy of the presentation will be provided for the Committee.

Ryan Stirling, Jim Fraser, Sam Bianco, Anett Faustman and Aara Welz left the meeting at 5:01pm.

5.3 Aboriginal Cultural Database

Aboriginal Cultural Advisor, Michelle Toms gave a presentation on the potential creation of an Aboriginal Cultural Database.

Following discussion, a number of suggestions and questions will be investigated and the matter will be brought back to the Committee.

Suzie Clapham left the meeting at 5.15pm

5.4 Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day 2027 collaborating with Gumaraa Aboriginal Experience

This item was moved to the next meeting.

6 Reports

6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)

No update to report at this meeting.

6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)

A verbal report and subsequent discussion occurred.

Michelle Toms left the meeting at 5:36pm

6.3 Overview of the 2026 NAIDOC Week Events

This report was received and noted.

7 General Business

- Community Representative, Jodi Edwards asked Council to contact Stockland regarding the missing artefacts at Calderwood.
 - Executive Director Planning and Environment, Michael Park stated that he will raise this matter with Stockland.
- Bonnie Hittmann raised that a letter had been received from Transport for NSW on feedback being sought on planned works. This will be distributed to the Committee for their consideration.
- Lauren Peters mentioned that Yirran Muru will be closed in September to allow maintenance to occur.

8 Next Meeting

22 October 2026

9 Meeting Closed

6:02pm