



# **BUSINESS PAPER**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 of the below mentioned meeting.

## **Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, 8 October 2025**

**Commencing at 4:00 PM**

**Shellharbour Civic Centre**

# **AGENDA**

- 1 Acknowledgement to Country**
- 2 Apologies / Leave of Absence**
- 3 Confirmation of Minutes**
- 4 Disclosures of Interest**
- 5 Presentations**
  - 5.1 Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program (CMP) Implementation Group
- 6 Reports**
  - 6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)
  - 6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)
  - 6.3 Naming Reserve 143 in Albion Park and the creek using Dharawal language
  - 6.4 Destination Management Plan Workshop
  - 6.5 Capital Projects Update (Standing Item)
- 7 General Business**
- 8 Next Meeting**
- 9 Meeting Closed**

## **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 Absences**

### **3. Confirmation of Minutes**

That the minutes from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meetings held on 20 August 2025 be received and noted.

**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**

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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

#### **4. Disclosures of Interest**

Note: Councillors and staff who declare an Interest at the Meeting are also required to complete a Declaration of Interest form.

## **5 Presentations**

### **5.1 Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program (CMP) Implementation Group**

A presentation will be provided by Trudy Costa, Coastal Environment Officer from Wollongong City Council on the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group meetings between Wollongong and Shellharbour City Councils.

## 6 Reports

### 6.1 Aboriginal Employment Update (Standing Item)

**Manager:** Bonnie Hittmann, Community Development Manager

**Approver:** Matt Sutherland, Executive Manager Community and Creative Services, Kate Jessep, Executive Director Community and Culture

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The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Aboriginal employment within Council.

#### *Aboriginal Targeted Team Leader Bush Land Management*

Council recently advertised for an Aboriginal targeted Team Leader Bush Land Management role. The position has now been filled with an internal applicant who commenced in the position on Monday 15 September. The successful candidate has been promoted from a Bush Care Labourer to the Team Leader role and is settling in well.

#### *Aboriginal Cultural Advisor*

Council will soon commence recruitment for the Aboriginal Cultural Advisor role (was previously the Aboriginal Community Planner). The position will provide key cultural advice and support across Council and Community, with the vision to enhance cultural awareness, inclusion and reconciliation. The role will be advertised on Council's website and other recruitment platforms and will be supported by a targeted social media campaign.

### Recommendation

**That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Aboriginal Employment Update Report.**

### Attachments

None

## 6.2 Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Update (Standing Item)

**Manager:** Matt Sutherland, Executive Manager Community and Creative Services

**Approver:** Kate Jessep, Executive Director Community and Culture

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The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Aboriginal Interpretive Centre (AIC) project.

Council held an Aboriginal Interpretive Centre (AIC) Sub-Committee Meeting on Friday 5 September.

Attendees included:

- Mayor Chris Homer (Chair)
- Uncle Richard Davis (AAC)
- Dr Jodi Edwards (AAC)
- Matt Sutherland (Executive Manager Community and Creative Services)
- Bonnie Hittmann (Manager Community Development)
- Madeline Cartwright (Principal Town Planner)
- Ian Lee (Recreation Project Officer)
- Bailey Angeloski (Project Delivery Officer)
- Justine Ledwidge (Executive Assistant).
- Note: Kate Jessep (Executive Director Community and Culture) was an apology for the meeting.

A summary of agenda items, actions and next steps is as follows:

### 1. Introductions

- Introduction of Council staff currently working on project items and the Committee were conducted.

### 2. Proposed Uses / Services from AIC Site

- A workshop on the planned activities and proposed uses/services to occur from this site was conducted with broad agreement to the currently identified possible uses of this location. It was acknowledged this may develop and change as the project takes shape and project planning will work to allow changes throughout the project.

### 3. Planning Pathways

- A verbal report was provided on the planning approval pathways and processes for the current AIC site which enabled discussion. This

incorporated prohibited versus permissible use definitions under legislation and which intended activities to be delivered by the AIC would fall into the different planning definitions and process. It was acknowledged planning pathways will be an ongoing discussion item throughout the project as the AIC project progresses.

#### 4. Engineering and Site Assessment Update

- An Overview of the site assessment activities completed to date and key findings was presented to the Committee alongside a summary of upcoming intended site investigations and review activities. Reports will be brought to future Committee meetings as they are available.

#### 5. Key Project Stakeholders

- Initial identification of key stakeholders in project delivery and site operations was discussed and agreed.

#### 6. Brief Artefacts Update

- A brief overview of the current known information by Council concerning existing artefacts as may be kept within the AIC was shared. An in-depth presentation including updated information will occur at the next Committee meeting.

#### 7. Possible Ownership and Operating Models

- This discussion item and workshop on ownership and operating models was carried over to the next Committee meeting.

A future meeting of the Aboriginal Interpretive Centre Sub-Committee and relevant Council staff and subject matter experts has been scheduled for 30 October 2025 (to be confirmed).

### **Recommendation**

**That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the update report on the Aboriginal Interpretive Centre.**

### **Attachments**

None

### **6.3 Naming Reserve 143 in Albion Park and the creek using Dharawal language**

**Manager:** Marcello Chiodo, Executive Manager Technology and Corporate Services

**Approver:** Scott Bridgement, Executive Director Corporate Services

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The purpose of this report is to request recommendation of Dharawal language words or names for the naming of a creek that runs through Reserve 143 in Albion Park and the subsequent use of that creek name for the naming of Reserve 143.

A resident and member of a local Bushcare group has written to Council suggesting the reserve and creek be named using Dharawal language. The Bushcare group intend to use that name as they enhance and restore native habitat along the creek.

The un-named creek commences near Jamberoo Road on private land in the south and runs north through public reserves till it joins with Frazers Creek near Ashburton Drive.

The NSW Geographical Names Board is the authority for naming reserves and creeks and require support from the community and Council for the proposal. The recommendation from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee will be reported to Council, advertised for public comment and forwarded to the GNB for their consideration.

#### **Recommendation**

**That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:**

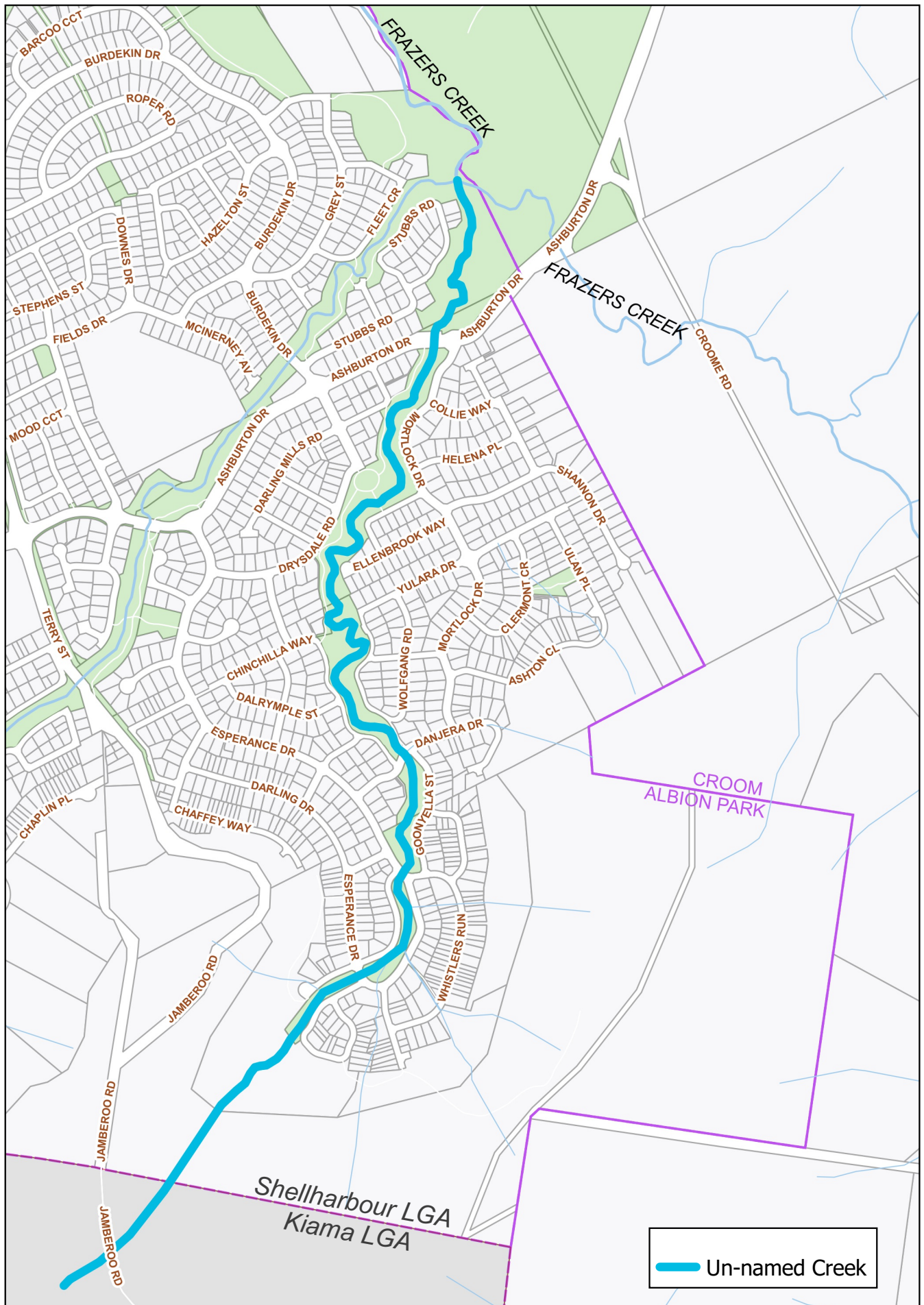
- 1. Receive and note the Reserve 143 and Creek naming report;**
- 2. Provide recommendations for suitable Dharawal language words or names to be used for naming Reserve 143 Albion Park and the creek that flows through it.**

## **Attachments**

1. Site Map Reserve 143
2. Site Map Un-named Creek







## 6.4 Destination Management Plan Workshop

**Manager:** Claire Killeen, Executive Manager Marketing and Communications

**Approver:** Kate Jessep, Executive Director Community and Culture

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The purpose of this report is to seek input from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee on the future direction of tourism in Shellharbour and to explore key opportunities and challenges that may influence its development.

As Shellharbour continues to grow as a visitor destination, Council is seeking guidance from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee on the following key questions:

- What does the future of Shellharbour tourism look like?
- How can tourism in Shellharbour evolve in a way that is inclusive, culturally respectful, and reflective of our community values?
- What are the game changers?
- What initiatives, trends, or opportunities have the potential to significantly shape the future of tourism in our region?

Council recognises the importance of Dharawal culture in shaping the identity of Shellharbour and acknowledges that the voices, knowledge, and leadership of Aboriginal people are essential to creating meaningful and authentic visitor experiences.

The Committee's insights will help ensure that tourism planning reflects and respects Indigenous heritage, values and aspirations.

### Recommendation

**That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee consider and provide feedback on the discussion questions outlined in this report.**

### Attachments

None



## 6.5 Capital Projects Update (Standing Item)

**Manager:** Bonnie Hittmann, Community Development Manager

**Approver:** Matt Sutherland, Executive Manager Community and Creative Services, Kate Jessep, Executive Director Community and Culture

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on capital projects that have been referred to the Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Sub-committee for review.

Since the last Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting on 20 August, the following capital projects have been referred:

Project	Referral Reason	Project Lead
<b>Notification of Works - Croom Sporting Complex Multi-Sport Courts</b>	To advise that the Croom Sporting Complex Multi-sport Courts Project is in the scoping phase and that the due diligence has recommended there is a low risk level relevant to Aboriginal culture and heritage items.	Lochie Shepherd - Infrastructure Officer
<b>Notification of Works - Reddall Reserve Footpath Erosion Repairs</b>	To advise that the Reddall Reserve Footpath Erosion Repairs Project is in the scoping phase and that the due diligence has recommended there is a low risk level relevant to Aboriginal culture and heritage items. Dr Jodi Edwards has provided feedback on the current draft plans for repair.	Lochie Shepherd - Infrastructure Officer
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for Lot 40 Basin, Calderwood - by Austral Archaeology</b>	Austral Archaeology are seeking expression of interest from interested Aboriginal stakeholders to be consulted as part of the broader ACHA.	Adam Cahill - Austral Archaeology
<b>Bass Point Coastal Track Erosion Works - Planning Phase.</b>	To advise that the Bass Point Coastal Track Erosion Works are in the planning phase and that the due diligence has recommended there is a low risk level relevant to Aboriginal culture and heritage items.	Margaret Fletcher - Works Engineer

## **Recommendation**

**That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive and note the Capital Projects Update report.**

## **Attachments**

None

## **7. General Business**

## **8. Next Meeting**

TBC

## **9. Meeting Closed**