

# MINUTES

## ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP

9.30AM ON WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2023



PRESENT	
Cr Cath Blakey	Leanne Olive
Brad Anderson	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Armando Reviglio – Chair	Sophie McCrea – Community Engagement Officer
Emma Bedwin – Community Engagement Coordinator	Vimala Colless – Community Development Officer
Dale Wright – Community Engagement Officer – Aboriginal Services	Carly Pascoe – Community Development Officer
	Kristeen Sandercock – Minutes

### 1 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

### 2 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cr Gordon Bradbery, Sue Savage, Ali Bradford, Brendan Newton, Aunty Shaz Robinson, Aunty Shelly Moore, Jacinda Marando

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - NIL

### 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST 2023

### 5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

West Dapto – plan for two shopping areas at West Dapto, is there a plan for housing to be offered in West Dapto area through the Housing Trust supportive housing scheme? Maybe a loan/Bonds to enable people to move into housing? Dale will follow up with Council officer looking after affordable housing in our LGA.

### 6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

**HILL 60** – Stage 1 under construction. Upgrades to amenities, car parks, viewing platforms as per the Master Plan handed out to the members. Interpretive signage for the Ngaraba-aan trail is being removed and new signage to be added telling true story of Hill 60, both good and bad stories, will be installed.

**DOGS ON BEACH POLICY REVIEW – SANDON POINT.** No major changes can be made to this Policy, however, how can we better protect that area, some feedback has been:

- Dogs should be on leash due to the sensitivity of this area to Aboriginal Culture.
- Aboriginal Rangers to be employed along the coast.
- Educational “pieces” to be added to the website link “search of dogs on beach” offering information on why they should be on a leash at Sandon Point.

**WARRAWONG LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTRE** – planning for the new Centre is well underway. Members were asked for Aboriginal culturally appropriate ideas on how the Warrawong area could be represented inside and outside of the building:

- Artwork/engraving in the footpath
- Statues
- Coomaditchie people to be represented

**ABORIGINAL CULTURE CELEBRATION 2024**, members were asked for ideas on when to hold this day, before or after Australia Day, what would they like to see on that day:

- Smoking ceremony
- Corroboree
- Educate the broader community on how we feel about Australia Day
- Inclusiveness
- Non-Aboriginal people be involved.

**FLOOD STUDIES** – Wollongong City Council are recommending changes to be made to avert flooding in certain catchment areas.

**Allans Creek Catchment** – Map of this area was handed out showing the proposed areas to be widened. Will this take away the natural path flow of the water through the catchment? There are Aboriginal cultural sensitivities around this area further up the mountain.

**Fairy & Cabbage Tree Creek** – Map of this area was handed out showing recommended changes to be made including debris control structures (marked in red). A basin would be built in the street alongside the Fairy Meadow Leisure Coast Fruit market as this area floods very quickly.

Maintenance of the vegetation on banks in catchment areas managed as below:

Council responsible for public catchment areas. Private property owners responsible for any banks on their property.

## 7 CULTURE MIX

Vimala spoke about Culture Mix which will be held on Saturday 21 October 2023 with planning and arrangements well underway. Vimala handed out pamphlets and posters for members to circulate amongst their working groups. Tina McGhee has been working with the Wollongong City Council team about Aboriginal input for this event. More information is available on the website. Mark Rees, Community Transport Aboriginal Officer, has invited Elders to attend.

There'll be stalls, food, dancing, creative art, a women's area, a quiet area, learn to cook, learn to paint and lots of other cultural activities people can watch or participate in.

The program of events and times is available on the Wollongong City Council website, or you can scan the QR code on the pamphlet and it will take you to the link.

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible at this event sharing in the different Cultures that make up Wollongong.

## 8 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

**Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)** – Carly Pascoe advised the current RAP ends in November 2023. The RAP is not driven by Aboriginal people but by Council staff. Some deliverables have been achieved and some are still a work in progress. Council is taking time to look at this properly before moving forward.

We have a RAP Working Group, however, Reconciliation Australia have changed their pro forma around this working group. The working group will be made up of Wollongong City Council staff from the General Manager down to everyday staff and together they will develop an implementation plan for each deliverable. This needs to be approved by August-October 2024.

Just to note a Respect RAP is current for 12 months and an Innovate RAP is current for 2 years.

**Illawarra Aboriginal Business Expo** – will be held on Thursday 12 October 2023 at the Wollongong Art Gallery. The Expo provides an opportunity for Indigenous businesses to exhibit what they do and to network with local business. Over 300 businesses have been invited to come and view the Aboriginal exhibitions at the Expo and notifications were included in both State and Local Government business newsletters.

This first Business Expo is a small start, and we are planning a bigger exhibition for 2024.

## 9 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED AT THE NEXT MEETING

If you would like to propose an item for discussion please forward the information to Armando or Dale for inclusion at the next meeting.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

Signs have been placed around Coomaditchie asking people not to swim in the lake due to presence of Algae. Council and the local Environment groups are working together to fix the issue with Algae.

Armando advised members he is taking Long Service Leave for 12 months commencing Friday 1 December 2023. He will advise the Reference Group members who will be Chair for the group once the decision has been made.

11 NEXT MEETING – **WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023** FROM 9.30AM TO 11.30AM

The meeting concluded at 11.45am.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 9.30am on Wednesday 13 December 2023.

2023 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Wednesday 13 December	Level 10 Committee Room 2 & 3	9.30am – 11.30am

2024 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Wednesday 14 February 2024	Level 10 Committee Room 2 & 3	9:30am – 11:30am
Wednesday 10 April 2024	Level 10 Committee Room 2 & 3	9:30am – 11:30am
Wednesday 12 June 2024	Level 10 Committee Room 2 & 3	9:30am – 11:30am
Wednesday 14 August 2024	Level 10 Committee Room 2 & 3	9:30am – 11:30am
Wednesday 9 October 2024	Level 10 Committee Room 2 & 3	9:30am – 11:30am
Wednesday 11 December 2024	Level 10 Committee Room 2 & 3	9:30am – 11:30am

## ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
	Update from the Engagement Team about the West Dapto archaeological survey at next meeting, 13 December 2023	Dale Wright	