

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP



2PM ON WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2018

PRESENT

Lord Mayor Cr Gordon Bradbery	Cr Vicky King
Uncle Richard Archibald	Aunty Bev Armer
Aunty Sharralyn Robinson	Leanne Olive
Scott Winch	

IN ATTENDANCE

Sofia Gibson, Community & Cultural Development Manager (Acting)	Armando Reviglio, Coordinator Community Partnerships & Safety
Beck Simon, Community Development Officer	Annie Edgar, PA to Manager CCED (Acting) – minutes
Kristy Blackburn, Environmental Strategy Officer (20mins)	

1 WELCOME

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None declared.

4 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Kerry Hunt and Sue Savage

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22 AUGUST 2018 - Accepted.

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 5 – A discussion was held as to who should be on the list to perform smoking ceremonies and that Brad Bevis name should be reinstated on the list for Council. It was agreed to resolve the issue by referring to the Aboriginal Community for advice as to whose name/s should be on such a list.

It was also put forward that the Council officers will consulting further with the Aboriginal Community as to name/s that can be included on Council's Welcome to Country list. Performers and artists are appointed through difference processes and protocols relating to Council's procurement for services.

7 LAKE ILLAWARRA COMMITTEE UPDATE

Kristy addressed the meeting with the update from the Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee – a copy is attached to these minutes.

Also discussion around:

- Recent work at Calderwood, filtration traps and certification
- Vegetation around the lake mangroves and casuarina trees – how they repair and mend environments
- Reports of homeless in tents around lake.

8 WELCOME TO THE GALLERY SIGN IN LANGUAGE

John Monteleone, the Wollongong Art Gallery Coordinator is asking the Reference group members what their thoughts are about a 'Welcome to the Art Gallery' sign in language. Response: is a great idea, the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council can provide appropriate information that follows protocols in regards to language that is respectful of the three language groups and has been found to be a good process. It was noted signage in the suburbs is lagging behind. It was mentioned that a proposed signage strategy is in the Draft Cultural Plan.

It was agreed it is appropriate for Council officers to also approach people we know in the Aboriginal Community that have the knowledge and expertise in regards to language that could be used for the sign.

Cr King advised she will be putting forward a motion for the February Council meeting for a signage strategy which recognises Aboriginal language and a budget allocation to implement it. She believes there is a whole lot of funding out there – Council's approach needs to be done in a more strategic way.

9 ILLAWARRA LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL – RESPONSE TO PROPOSED GARREEAIRA PARK NAME

Naming of Wongawilli Reserve. Council has received a response letter from the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council recommending the spelling "Garreeaira" which is the phonetical spelling of the Aboriginal word that Council can use to take to the Geographical Names Board for the reserve at Wongawilli.

10 RECREATIONAL SPACES FOR DOGS POLICY REVIEW 2018

Aboriginal members of the Reference group strongly object to McCauley's Beach being an off leash area for dogs as it is a burial site and the dogs go into the dunes. If you not going to change you have to bring in greater controls. This is another case of ignorance of the cultural significance of this place. Signs are to be erected onto poles (Aboriginal Place Boundary) about building a broader understanding for the community.

- Access beach needs to be formalised.
- Conditional – better supervised, look at proper management plan.
- Put strong words together – Bellambi Point – Sandon Point and McCauley's Beach

Motion by the Lord Mayor and Cr King: The Aboriginal Reference Group expressed its objections and concerns regarding the off leash dog areas at Sandon Point, Bott Street Bellambi and McCauley's Beach.

Yes – Motion Moved.

Action – Chair to forward this groups' submission as feedback.

II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

Council's draft Cultural Plan is coming together – consultation has included such stakeholders as the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and Coomaditchie. Feedback has included:

- Interpretive signage / performance / events / Viva La Gong

Engagement – Mount Keira Draft Plan of Management out for comment. Some feedback has been:

- Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council is doing a great job of getting their message out
- The mountain bike community had limited information on the significance of this site
- Important to get comments in on time – National Parks are very strict on timeframes
- Respect of Aboriginal values – broadening the understanding of the significance of this place
- Broader escarpment may be used but not Mt Keira or Mt Kembla
- Re-classify the land
- 82 kilometres of mountain bike tracks
- No tracks on our sacred site
- Frustrated not consulted in the initial stakeholders group
- Ignorance is no excuse
- Policy direction on sacred sites
- Consultation time to be pushed out to be longer

Recruitment apprentice / traineeships:

- Warrigal etc
- Library – no one applied.

Reconciliation Conference was extremely successful and resonated with early childhood sector:

- Yarning Circles – 23 elders
- Local Government Aboriginal Network (LGAN) – a recognition award for Wollongong City Council
- Stalls, markets and linked up with local artists.

Sandon point signage will be ready shortly.

Meeting in a fortnight to progress the Aboriginal designated space at Kembla Grange cemetery

- Plans have been laid out as to where the road will be put in.
- An allocation of 30 year plots for 100 years.
- Check how they manage the process at Shellharbour – who was on their working group?
- Decisions need to be made as to who will give the authority to approve that a person is Aboriginal or a partner of an Aboriginal person so that they can be buried or cremated there.

Cultural Tourism Data Base – Council is developing data base which will cover:

- Aboriginal Businesses
- Aboriginal Artists
- Cultural Tours
- Smoking Ceremony
- Welcome to Country
- Providers of Food
- Aboriginal Performance
- Aboriginal Art
- EOI to be put into the data base will go out once a year – please provide your details to me
- Destination Wollongong to use local Aboriginal providers for the Cruise ships when they arrive

Note: Place consider this for the next meeting – do we go ahead with a Cultural Tourism Data Base – we need to improve access to the broader community.

Revise the Aboriginal Reference Group charter as to whether the three Aboriginal organisations should continue to have a position on the group as none of their representatives have attended any meetings for the past year.

If the Aboriginal Organisations' nominated members do not attend the February 2019 meeting, the Reference group needs to consider if it wants to put out another expression of interest for community members.

12 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

As discussed earlier Council officers will seek consultation with Aboriginal Elders and the community as to further developing the list of names Council already has for organisations/people who can conduct a Welcome to Country.

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

Bellambi Reconciliation Walk.

- The walk is from Bellambi Public School to Holy Spirit school with over 2,000 attending this year
- Traffic management requirements mean that the organises of the walk will have to hire public traffic controller contractors
- \$3,000 for a road closure/traffic controllers for the duration of the walk
- The Southern suburbs of Wollongong have also requested financial support to hold a Reconciliation Walk. They expect the same level of financial support given to Bellambi to be given to them if they hold a Walk.
- Motion: Councillors may consider recommending an extra \$6000 in the Council budget for these 2 events
- Bellambi has been going for 5 years

Discussion on Cultural Markets

- Black Markets is a wonderful opportunity – the drive to develop them would have to come from the Aboriginal Community, Council officers can provide advice and information only.
- Illawarra Aboriginal Youth Fest – Killalea State Park – 9 December 2018.

The meeting concluded at 4pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 2pm on Wednesday 27 February 2019

2019 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Wednesday 27 February	Level 10 Committee Room 2	2pm – 4pm
Wednesday 22 May	Level 10 Committee Room 3	2pm – 4pm
Wednesday 28 August	Level 10 Committee Room 3	2pm – 4pm
Wednesday 27 November	Level 10 Committee Room 3	2pm – 4pm

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR LAKE ILLAWARRA



Update for the WCC Aboriginal Reference Group 28 November 2018

- The term for current members of the Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee ended on 31 Oct 2018. At your last meeting, it was agreed that Aunty Sharralyn would continue to be the ARG representative and she has confirmed her availability to do so. This term is until the CMP is certified.
- At the last LIEMC meeting (19 Sept) members choose a logo for the Committee. Keep an eye out for it on future LIEMC publications.



- The LIEMC were also presented with the latest Lake Illawarra water quality results. A snapshot is available online at:
<http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/services/sustainability/coastalandestuarymanagement/Pages/LIEMC.aspx>

The main findings of the water quality report are:

- Water quality and the estuary health conditions are variable across the lake.
 - There is significant nutrient enrichment in the more enclosed north-east and south-west sections of the lake. The rest of the lake does not appear to have this issue.
 - The condition of the lake appears to decline in high rainfall years, suggesting that catchment runoff plays a major role in determining estuary health.
 - The lake appears to have become more saline since the permanent lake entrance was installed.
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- The Committee continues to walk a section of the foreshore every month. Next month (6 Dec) we are walking from Windang Bridge to the Nth breakwater.
 - The Committee, including ARG rep Aunty Sharralyn, participated in a half day bus tour looking at stormwater management within the Shellharbour LGA Lake Illawarra catchment on 21 Nov. This included Calderwood and Tullimbar.
 - There has been a delay in the drafting of the CMP. This is because of the changes to the State Government's Coastal Management legislation. We have a variation request with OEH at the moment and are awaiting permission to spend an additional \$37,000 in OEH funds to complete the new draft.
 - AAC members and the broader Aboriginal community have the chance to provide comments into the Draft CMP when it goes on public exhibition. This is expected to take place in mid-2019. There will be a series of consultation events during this period.

Public exhibition of Draft CMP.	Mid 2019
CMP endorsed by both Councils.	Late 2019
CMP is gazetted and starts to be implemented.	First half of 2019

- Once the Coastal Management Program (CMP) is approved by both Councils and certified by the State Government it becomes the guiding document for all relevant activities within the catchment. It will also help to determine funding allocations to projects. So it's important that we get it right.