

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP



11.00AM ON TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2020 – HELD ON LEVEL 1, LAB ROOM IN THE LIBRARY

PRESENT	
Lord Mayor Cr Gordon Bradbery – from 12.00pm	Aunty Sharralyn Robinson
Aunty Bev Armer	Leanne Olive

IN ATTENDANCE	
Armando Reviglio – Chair	Erin Masters – Community Development Worker
Ali Bradford – Community Development & Engagement Manager	Kristeen Sandercock – Minutes

1 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cr Cox, Scott Morgan, Beck Simons (resigned), Lord Mayor will be late.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – NIL

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25 AUGUST 2020 – LEANNE OLIVE & AUNTY SHARRALYN

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Armando forwarded copy of “Dogs on Beaches and Parks Council Policy” to Aunty Sharralyn as requested. Submission to be written and submitted to Council regarding off-leash area at McCauley’s Beach before the Policy is reviewed.

6 ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP – NEW MEMBERS THROUGH EOI PROCESS

Armando acknowledged the dedication and commitment to the Reference Group over many years by Aunty Bev, Aunty Sharralyn and Leanne. Continuity of new members in recent years has not been successful. Council’s Reference Groups extended operation for 12 months until the next Council elections in September 2021, an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to recruit new members was undertaken.

Armando advised several expressions were received and he presented them to the meeting. It was agreed to accept Errolyn Strang and Brad Anderson as community members to the Group. Suggestion was made to see if Paul Knight and Cheryl Davis wanted to consider becoming members of the Group. Another EOI was received which the existing Reference Group members raised some reservations about and supported the Chairperson hold discussions with the EOI applicant to discuss their application further. The Chairperson will hold follow up discussions in the new year.

7 USE OF “DHARAWAL COUNTRY” ON COUNCIL MESSAGING

Scott held consultations around the use of this terminology, found it was supported by all Traditional Custodians except Aunty Gwen from Korewal Elouera Jerrungarugh (KEJ). Reference Group members agreed with the terminology as being correct and is inclusive of the 5 Islands people. Council will include this term at the end of all their messages to the Public.

8 USE OF “DHARAWAL COUNTRY” ON COUNCIL SIGNATURE

Council wants to use this terminology under Wollongong City Council Signature on all documents sent by Council, including individual emails from staff. Reference Group thanked Council for their consideration and inclusion of the Aboriginal people in the LGA.

9 WELCOME TO AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY PROTOCOL UPDATE

We have a Management Policy for Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country Protocol, however, it is to be updated in 2021. Copy will be sent to Reference Group Members for their comment which needs to be submitted to Armando within 2 weeks. Once updated Council staff will be told to follow this Protocol.

10 DRAFT RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN (RAP) – WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

- Community feedback about the RAP has been positive
- RAP has great internal support and acts as a connection mechanism across Council staff
- Acknowledged cultural relationships and ‘Dharawal’ term better understanding
- Relationships and engagement with Aboriginal community on a continual basis
- Respect and engage with Community with the understanding sometimes there will be conflicts, however, we continue to engage and work together
- Other RAP’s have been developed but not in consultation with the Aboriginal community
- Steering group will guide this plan
- We are on track with the RAP in draft form
- Actions are “set” in the template provided by Reconciliation Australia
- Engagement around the RAP closed on 4 November 2020
- Once finalised, it will be presented to Council’s Executive Committee, then Council for adoption and then to Reconciliation Australia

LATE ITEM TO THE AGENDA

Council advised they are widening the footpath to enable a shared path and bike track on Ursula Road at Sandon Point. Map of area was shown to the meeting for their comment. Members requested Council consult with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council.

11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

- **Kembla Grange Cemetery** – Community members are invited to attend and view the designated area at Kembla Grange Cemetery on Thursday 10 December from 2.00 – 3.00pm
- **Cultural Tourism Database** – 6 people have submitted their information. Suggestion was made that 2 weeks’ notice be given prior to engaging artists/suppliers to ensure they have time to prepare for an event. This information should be shown on the database.
- **Aboriginal Public Art Project – Council’s Cultural Services.** An Aboriginal engagement strategy to be conducted around suitable sites in the LGA to display the Public Art. Should it be city, surrounding areas & suburbs. The Reference Group suggested an Art Trail commencing at the top of Bulli and following down towards the southern suburbs incorporating sites already displaying Indigenous landmarks/works including the 3-metre circular Mosaic feature by Uncle Vic at Figtree.
- **Aboriginal Engagement Framework** – feedback still being received. It is anticipated to begin in early 2021.

12 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED AT THE NEXT MEETING

No items at present

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Bus Shelters** – Who should we contact regarding the building of bus shelters? Elderly people are standing in the sun waiting for buses. A shelter and seat should be available for all bus stops. Chair to speak to David Wilson.

- The Birthing tree at Figtree – can Council clean up around the tree and the creek. The bush and surrounds are overgrown and the ceramics showing the story of the birthing tree aren't visible. The area has great significance to Aboriginal culture.
- Regarding confirmation of Aboriginality, Reference Group members advised Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation (IAC) are the only authority on these matters. Three signatures and the Common Seal is required to confirm. The Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council do issue letters for members of the Land Council, under the Land Rights Act, but it's not a confirmation of Aboriginality.
- New Suburb names for West Dapto, have they been finalised? Chair advised that Community engagement is currently open, and no decisions have been made. There is still some work to be done before the suggestions are announced and goes to Council to be accepted.

14 NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021 – 11.00AM – ONLINE MEETING

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held as above.

2021 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Tuesday 25 May	Online Meeting	11am – 1pm

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
6	Chair to hold discussions with EOI applicant	Armando Reviglio	
9	Send a copy of Management Policy for Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country Protocol to Reference Group members for comment	Scott Morgan	
13	Bus Shelters at all bus stops – for the elderly	Armando Reviglio	
13	Cleaning up around the Figtree Birthing Tree	Armando Reviglio	