

# MINUTES

## ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP



9:30AM ON WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE 2024

PRESENT	
Cr Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery	Brendan Newton
Cr Cath Blakey	Aunty Sharralyn Robinson
Brad Anderson	Leanne Olive

IN ATTENDANCE	
Sharyn Grant - Chair	Emma Bedwin – Engagement Coordinator
Jacinda Marando – Minute Taker	Sofia Gibson – City + Culture Manager
Carly Pascoe – Community Development Worker	Vimala Colless – Community Development Worker Multicultural
Dale Wright – Engagement Officer	

- 1 WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
- 2 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Aunty Michele Moore, Errolyn Strang, Sue Savage, Alison Bradford, Kathleen Cambourn & Carla Yamine
- 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – NIL
- 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 2024 – CONFIRMED
- 5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES –  
**SENIOR ABORIGINAL POLICY ADVISOR POSITION** – Announcement of the successful appointment of the Senior Aboriginal Policy Advisor position will occur soon. Notification of the role to be disseminated in due course.
- 6 PUBLIC EXHIBITION – DRAFT CREATIVE WOLLONGONG 2024-2033 STRATEGY –  
Emma Bedwin provided an update on the Draft Creative Wollongong Strategy 2024-2033, a 10 year long strategy. Engagement sessions and conversations were recently completed for the draft strategy, with actions to work towards implementation. There is an open invitation to come along to the Wollongong Art Gallery on Monday 24 June 2024, 2-4pm. All welcome to join and commence conversations for the strategy. Invitations have been extended to attendees of the Aboriginal Business Expo and other contacts who have previously expressed interest in participation.
- 7 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE –  
**CULTURE MIX 2024** – Culture Mix will be held on Saturday 19 October 2024. Vimala provided an update on the groups and performers selected for the event, in addition to who will be providing the Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country. It was noted that traffic management plans will be implemented this year. Expressions of Interest for additional dance groups and performers will be circulated to attendees at the Aboriginal Business Expo. Feedback to Vimala Colless is open and welcome by all.
- 8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE  
Nil update provided due to time constraints of the meeting. A community engagement update will be provided at the next meeting in August 2024.

9 NAIDOC GRANTS 2024

Wollongong City Council are offering small grants to local community groups working to support activities or events for NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC Week celebrations for 2024 are held from 7 to 14 July 2024 with the theme being Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud. A total of nine NAIDOC Week 2024 Small Grants applications were received. The applications were disseminated to the Aboriginal Reference Group for their comments and feedback prior to the meeting. It was discussed and agreed that six applications were successful, and three were unsuccessful. Letters will be sent out in the following week to confirm funding for the successful applicants.

The Reference Group has recommended adjusting the application dates to exclude them from the criteria and eligibility list. They have proposed allowing NAIDOC Events to take place outside of NAIDOC week.

The Reference Group raised concern with the amount of funding available and not being able to support all applicants as a result. Group representative to discuss with Kerry Hunt of Greg Doyle for consideration in future years.

10 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED AT THE NEXT MEETING

**SAFER CITIES HER WAY** – Update to be provided on the Safer Cities Her Way projects for Wollongong, Dapto, and Port Kembla

**DISCOVERY CENTRE ABORIGINAL ARTEFACTS** – Update to be provided by Sam Crosby on the Aboriginal artefacts that were donated to Wollongong Botanic Gardens 20 years ago, as previously discussed at the April 2024 meeting.

If anyone would like to propose an item for discussion, please forward the information to Jacinda Marando or Josh Wiffen for inclusion at the next meeting.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

**HILL60 PROJECT - SCULPTURE** – Aunty Shas raised discussion regarding the sculpture on Hill60. It was recommended to seek community approval and look towards. When the draft creative strategy is implemented, Council will look at commencing engagement for this sculpture/ statue.

12 NEXT MEETING – **WEDNESDAY 14 AUGUST 2024** FROM 9:30AM TO 11:30AM

The meeting concluded at 11:51am.

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Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 9:30am on Wednesday 14 August 2024.

2024 – Future Meeting Schedule		
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
9	Group representative to discuss with Kerry Hunt or Greg Doyle about consideration of increasing NAIDOC Small Grant funding for future	Chair	Not actioned yet
11	Hill 60 Project Sculpture – Reference Group to bring images of other known sculptures and statues for sharing and discussing.	All	On-going