

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP



11.00AM ON TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021

PRESENT	
LM Cr Gordon Bradbery	Brad Anderson
Cr Mithra Cox	Errolyn Strang
Aunty Bev Armer	Michelle Moore
Leanne Olive	

IN ATTENDANCE	
Armando Reviglio (Chair)	Sue Bessell
Tom McColl	Kristeen Sandercock (Minutes)
Carly Pascoe	

1 WELCOME TO THE MEETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair welcomed the new members of the Aboriginal Reference Group and looks forward to the contributions they will make to our future meetings.

2 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Aunty Shaz Robinson, Scott Morgan, Ali Bradford

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – NIL

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2020

Reconciliation Action Plan – has been moved together with 'Welcome to Country' update

Protocols and the framework for Council's Reconciliation Action Plan is determined by Reconciliation Australia

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Bus Shelters – Chair forwarded this info to David Wilson
- Figtree Birthing Tree clean-up.

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – TOM MCCOLL

Community Engagement team organises consultation with the community for planned Council projects. The team hosts information sessions for the public and also consultation with specific groups/land holders depending on the project. Current Council projects include:

- Ursula Road Flood Mitigation Plan
- Helensburgh Street Master Plan
- King George V Oval Master Plan – consultation with Aboriginal Groups has been held

Tom is happy to meet with anyone to discuss any issues regarding the engagement process.

Upcoming Plans include:

- National Parks Mountain Bike Trails (Mt Keira). This Plan to be re-drafted and has been informed by Paul Knight.
- Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike strategy (Mt Kembla) – Council to engage with residents at Mt Kembla before the final Draft Plan
- Community Engagement Policy is to be refreshed

- Warrawong Community Centre and District Library – engagement with the community in regard to needs and design will take place in April/May

How would the Aboriginal reference group members like to be involved?

- Tom to visit the Community Based Working Group who meet 1st Wednesday of each month at 10.00am – a good place to engage with the Aboriginal community.

An identified Aboriginal position will be available in the Community Engagement Team – Armando to get the advertising out to the community.

Chair thanked Tom for coming and updating the Reference Group.

7 ABORIGINAL PUBLIC ART PROJECT – SUE BESSELL

A significant Public Art Project to acknowledge and celebrate the Aboriginal community has been proposed in our LGA to encourage local residents to learn, respect and acknowledge the Aboriginal community.

There are 3 foundational items to base this project on:

1. Site/s
 - Sue to provide map with notes on popularity of places
 - Dalton Park, Osborne Park are highlighted as significant historical locations
2. Theme/s
 - Aesthetic of piece – unlimited choices
3. Artist/s
 - Local Artists are preferred. We need to identify local artists/groups to work on this project
 - Interpret the site/art
 - An experienced artist may be called on to mentor and work with inexperienced artists

An extensive consultation process will take place to learn more about Aboriginal history and their local community. The project can be more than 1 piece, maybe a trail/walk showing multiple art pieces, along with information about each piece.

Our focus for the location is in the CBD/Blue Mile/Stuart Park area or somewhere central to tourism areas. The location is a very important factor for this Project.

An EOI process will be held and mentoring for artists can be included in this process.

Blue Scope Steel provided steel for pieces at Coniston – a suggestion from the meeting is that we consider collaborating with them for this project?

Sue needs a brief, sites, themes etc for this Project to continue. Sue will meet with the Aboriginal community with Scott's help, to move this project forward.

Chair thanked Sue for her update.

8 WEST DAPTO NAMES UPDATE – CARLY PASCOE

At end of 2020 it was decided that the Kembla Grange postcode area needed to be worked through again. The shortlisted Aboriginal names were:

- Murringah (coal)
- Woolangurru (track over the mountain)
- Murrindarry (the mountain)

A formal exhibition will be held before coming back to Council and then Council makes a recommendation to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) and it's the GNB that makes the final decision as to which name/s are used.

9 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – CHAIR

- Bec Simon has resigned and Scott Morgan has been transferred into the Aboriginal Community Development position.

- **Kembla Grange Cemetery**
 - We've had two onsite visits with invitations to the community to be onsite to try and encourage feedback. Unfortunately, only 1 community member showed up.
 - An onsite community visit is scheduled for 11 March, 2.00-3.00pm. Invitation will be sent out to community on 3 March and I encourage Reference Group members and the community to attend. If we don't have interest from this onsite meeting, I would recommend moving forward to design phase, hopefully this will attract community interest.
 - A planned workshop in May will use a drone to view the area from above to enable a better understanding of the shape and size for the design phase for any community members who cannot attend those meetings.
- **Webpage** – Armando and Scott have been working closely with Council's website developer to redevelop Aboriginal content to be better situated and represented on the website. We have collated all of the existing content, along with new information and moved it all into one location on the website, this will allow those that visit our site to easily navigate and find out what services, projects, programs and local information can be available to access. We are still in the process of updating some of the content but aiming to launch it in March.
- **RAP** – we are at the final stages of our RAP; it is now with Reconciliation Australia for their review and comment. Once it has been returned, we will send to Council's Executive Management Committee for their direction to send it to Council for its adoption. It's great to see some of the actions currently being implemented already throughout our organisation.
- **Aboriginal Engagement Policy Framework** – which was noted by Council for their information last night (22 February 2021). This is a great outcome for those involved, it will become a living document for our internal staff and external partners to use as a resource and support document as required to engage with the local Aboriginal Community. Thank you to all the Reference Group members, community members, organisations and staff that helped at some point in the development of this document; it is a great achievement and definitely something that has been very rewarding to be part of.
- **Aboriginal Language for Signage Policy** – we are currently in the process of developing a guideline to assist Council with the implementation of local Aboriginal Language on our signage for suburbs, parks, sites of significance and other areas that can best represent the local language. Council is reviewing all its Suburb signs and will be updating them by replacing current suburb signage with the new look versions.
- **NAIDOC Week Grants** – applications are now open and need to be submitted by Thursday 6 May 2021. Maximum of \$6,000 is available.

10 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Scott has held consultations externally and internally to redevelop Council Welcome to and Acknowledgment of Country Protocol Management Policy. This will be sent out to the Reference Group members. The intention is a guideline for Council staff as to who they can contact to perform a Welcome to Country, and to inform Council officers the difference between "Welcome" to Country and "Acknowledgement" of Country. Reference Group Members can contact Armando or email him if they wish to discuss this more.

Lord Mayor left the meeting at 12.15pm

11 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Send an email to Armando if you would like a topic to be included in the next meeting.

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

Reference to confirmation of Aboriginality noted in the previous Minutes, Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation (IAC) is not the only authority to confirm Aboriginality, Wadi Wadi Coomaditchie Aboriginal Corporation can also authorise.

13 NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 25 MAY 2021

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm

2021 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Tuesday 25 May	Wollongong Youth Centre	11am – 1pm
Tuesday 24 August	To be confirmed due to Council Elections	
Tuesday 23 November	To be confirmed	

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
5	Bus Shelters at all bus stops around the Illawarra	Armando Reviglio	complete
5	Cleaning up Figtree Birthing Tree	Carly Pascoe	In progress
10	Welcome to Country Management Procedure	Scott Morgan	In progress