

## Aboriginal Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** Monday, 06 February, 2017  
**Location:** Seven Mile Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra  
**Time:** 4.00pm

**Please note:** Council's Code of Meeting Practice permits the electronic recording and broadcast of the proceedings of meetings of the Council which are open to the public. Your attendance at this meeting is taken as consent to the possibility that your image and/or voice may be recorded and broadcast to the public.

### Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **A Minute Silence in Respect of Aboriginal Elders, Past and Present**
3. **Confirmation of Minutes**
  - Aboriginal Advisory Committee - 24 November 2016 ..... 1
4. **Declarations of Interest**
5. **Reports**
  - AA17.1 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Membership Renewal ..... 6
  - AA17.2 Membership Requests - Natalie Lloyd and Les Bursill OAM..... 8
6. **General Business**

**Membership**

Ms Sue-Anne Cutmore - Chairperson  
Clr White  
Clr Cheyne  
Clr Kitchener  
Mr Russ Pigg or nominee  
Ms Janet Atkins  
Mr Shane Brown  
Ms Valda Corigan  
Ms Leonie Ebzery  
Ms Leslie Halls  
Ms Patricia Lester  
Ms Syliva Timbery  
Mr Noel Wellington  
Ms Christine Finney

Quorum – Five (5)

**Purpose**

- Advise Council on issues relating to the Aboriginal community.
- Act as a channel to advise Council of new issues affecting the Aboriginal community.
- Receive information on issues affecting the Aboriginal community and forward to Council.
- Provide a facilitation role.
- Advocate for the Aboriginal community.

## MINUTES OF THE ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, 24 November 2016  
**Location:** Seven Mile Beach Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra  
**Time:** 4.09 pm

The following members were present:

Clr Nina Cheyne  
Clr Mark Kitchener  
Mr Shane Brown  
Ms Valda Corigan  
Ms Sue-Anne Cutmore  
Ms Leslie Halls  
Mr Troy Lenihan  
Ms Patricia Lester  
Ms Syliva Timbery  
Mr Noel Wellington

Others present:

Margaret Simoes - Aboriginal Community Development Officer  
Shannan Perry-Hall – Tourism Investments and Events Specialist  
Bev Simmonds – Shoalhaven Rural Fire Service  
Tony Simmonds – Shoalhaven Rural Fire Service  
Peter Moore – Southern Cross Community Housing  
Vic Sharman

### Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was received from Clr White, Clr Findley, Leonie Ebzery, Christine Finney and Janet Atkins.

The Committee participated in a minute of silence in respect of Aboriginal Elders, past and present.

Visitors to the meeting introduced themselves

- Mr & Mrs Simmonds from the NSW Rural Fire Service spoke about the AIDER (Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents) program. This is a free, one-off service which supports some of our most at-risk community members. The program helps people live more safely and confidently in their homes in areas where bush fires may start. More information can be found on the website <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/aider>
- Peter Moore advised members that Southern Cross Community Housing provides high quality housing and tenancy management and access to support to people in the Shoalhaven who need affordable and stable housing.
- Uncle Vic Sharman.

## **Election of Chairperson**

Nominations for Chairperson were received for Sue Cutmore, Silvia Timbery, Clr White and Clr Kitchener.

**RESOLVED** (By consent)

That

1. Sue Cutmore be appointed as the Chairperson for the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.
2. Clr Kitchener be appointed as the Co-Chairperson for the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

## **Confirmation of the Minutes**

**RESOLVED** (By consent)

That the minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee held on Monday 8 August 2016 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Sue Cutmore referred to Item 4 of the last minutes regarding the Local Government NSW Aboriginal Network Conference which was held in August 2016. Sue advised the Committee that the conference was very worthwhile and some of the key issues discussed at the conference were:

- Cultural landscape & mapping
- Promotion of cultural sites and land councils
- Constitutional change / the Recognise Campaign
- Cultural tours
- Environmental health officer training program
- Creating liveable communities

## **Declarations of Interest**

Nil

## **ADDITIONAL ITEM**

### **AA16.5 Projects update**

Shannan Perry-Hall, Tourism Investments and Events Specialist, advised the Committee that there have been a number of projects being progressed over the last 12 months such as "Walking Tourism in the Shoalhaven".

The 2017 Shoalhaven Visitor Guide is expected to go to print on 25 November 2016 and Shannan showed a mock-up of pages which contained Aboriginal images from Bomaderry Creek Mural. Members provided feedback.

Pat Lester and Valda Corrigan stated the Mural has a very significant meaning. The Committee agreed that the Bomaderry Creek Mural should be more appropriately acknowledged.

Shannan noted that Destination NSW is keen for more indigenous tourism products on the south coast.

**RESOLVED** (By consent)

That

1. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive the Projects Update report for information.
2. A report be provided to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee on ways in which the Bomaderry Creek Mural could be more appropriately acknowledged.

CARRIED

**PRESENTATIONS****AA16.1 2016 Reflection****HPERM Ref:  
D16/353936**

Margaret Simeos provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the NAIDOC Week Morning Tea and the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Acknowledgement to Country.

The Chairperson thanked Margaret on behalf of the Committee for all her hard work for NAIDOC week and the Smoking Ceremony and Welcome Song which was part of the official ceremony welcoming of the new Shoalhaven City Council.

The Chairperson also congratulated Cllr Findley on her election as Mayor and to all the Councillors on their election to office.

Noel Wellington was also thanked for making the cultural gift that was presented to Cllr Findley on her appointment to the Office of Mayor.

**REPORTS****AA16.2 Aboriginal Advisory Committee - Resignation - Troy Lenihan****HPERM Ref:  
D16/354415**

The Chairperson thanked Troy Lenihan for his contribution and commitment to the Committee.

It was noted that, as Troy was a member of the Shoalhaven Arts Board. Shane Brown volunteered to be the new Arts Board representative and the Committee agreed.

**RESOLVED** (By consent)

1. That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee accept the resignation of Mr Troy Lenihan.
2. Write to Mr Troy Lenihan to thank him for his contribution to the Committee.
3. Advise the Shoalhaven Arts Board that the Aboriginal Advisory Committee has nominated Shane Brown to be a member on the Arts Board. Shane will be requested to complete an application for membership on the Shoalhaven Arts Board.

CARRIED

Troy advised the Committee that there is a land and sea native title claim from Bundeena to Eden and an initial meeting regarding the claim will be held on 10 & 11 December 2016 at Club Narooma. Those wishing to attend the meeting should register with the Native Title Services Corporation by 1 December 2016. Contact phone numbers for Native Title Services enquires are 1800 111 844 or 02 93103188.

Note: Valda Corigan left the meeting at 5:50pm

**AA16.3 Membership Requests - Natalie Lloyd and Les Bursill  
OAM**

**HPERM Ref:  
D16/354538**

**Recommendation**

1. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee accept the membership applications from:
  - a. Natalie Lloyd
  - b. Les Bursill OAM
2. That they be notified of their appointment and invited to all future meetings.

**RESOLVED** (By consent)

Members considered the applications for membership from Natalie Lloyd and Les Bursill. This item is to be deferred to the next meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

**AA16.6 Committee Effectiveness Training**

Margaret Simoes updated the Committee regarding the Committee Effectiveness Training and advised that the Governance Business Unit Manager will provide training in early 2017 in relation to Code of Conduct and Meeting Procedure.

**AA16.7 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting Dates**

The Committee discussed the frequency of meetings for 2017 and agreed that they would prefer that meetings be scheduled on Wednesdays.

**RESOLVED** (By consent)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee request that staff schedule the Committee meetings on Wednesdays in 2017 where possible.

CARRIED

**AA16.8**

The Committee discussed issues that should be focused on going forward into the new year. An Advisory Action Plan and Cullunghutti were two suggestions.

The Committee agreed that approximately five key issues should be identified as the focus of the Committee in 2017 and requested that a report be prepared for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** (By consent)

The Committee agreed that approximately five key issues should be identified as the focus of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee in 2017 and a report be prepared for the next meeting.

CARRIED

**AA16.9 Aboriginal Advisory Committee representation on the Access Advisory Committee**

Clr Cheyne suggested that there should be Aboriginal Advisory Committee representation on the Shoalhaven Access Advisory Committee.

**AA16.10 Membership Renewal**

Margaret Simoes flagged that all Committee memberships are due for renewal in 2017. At the first meeting in 2017 members will be asked if they would like to express an interest to continue as members of the Committee.

**RESOLVED** (By consent)

That a report be prepared regarding the renewal of Aboriginal Advisory Committee memberships in 2017.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 6.15pm.

Sue Cutmore  
CHAIRPERSON

## AA17.1 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Membership Renewal

**HPERM Ref:** D17/13702

**Group:** Corporate & Community Services Group  
**Section:** Recreation Community & Culture

### Purpose / Summary

To advise the Aboriginal Advisory Committee that according to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (*Policy Number: POL 16/172*), Local Aboriginal Membership will be renewed every 4 years and ideally during the midterm of the elected Council.

In September 2016 Local Government elections were held and the Aboriginal Advisory Committee were advised of the Mayor and Councillor representatives to the Committee. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting were advised at the meeting held on 24 November 2016 meeting that Committee Memberships are due for renewal in 2017. Expressions of interest can be submitted at the first meeting in 2017.

AA17.1

### Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

1. That current members express an interest to renew their membership on the Aboriginal Advisory Committee
2. That new expressions of interest for membership be promoted and advertised to the community

### Options

1. As recommended.

#### Implications

This provides a clear way forward for the committee guaranteeing some consistency in membership

2. Declare all positions vacant and call for new membership

#### Implications:

- a) It is vital that membership on the Aboriginal Advisory Committee is broadly represented of the local Shoalhaven Aboriginal community to provide appropriate guidance direction to Council on relevant issues affecting Aboriginal communities
- b) That membership is determined on the commitment to be actively involved in the business of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee and to be an advocate between community and Council.

### Background

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee revised the Terms of Reference and was adopted at the Council Meeting held on the 16 August 2016. In accordance to the Terms of Reference local Aboriginal community membership will be renewed every 4 years and ideally during the midterm of the elected Council.



The current membership includes representation from NSW & Catholic Education, youth, Elders, community members and NP&WS. All current members are encouraged to renew their membership.

According to the AAC Terms of Reference the composition on the Aboriginal Advisory Committee includes representation from local community members, Elders, youth, Government and Non-Government agencies. This provides opportunities for a broad range of community representation to enable professional and cultural advice and guidance to Council.

The Advisory Committee provides an opportunity for Council to develop both a structure for effective consultation and communication with Aboriginal communities and for Aboriginal people to participate in Council's decision making processes to achieve mutually co-operative responses for their cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing.

The new Advisory Committee will have the opportunity to participate in an 'Effective Committee' training which was developed in in collaboration with an external consultant, Peter McLaughlin with guidance from Sara McMahon, Governance Manager. The training will be presented collaboratively to the Committee by Peter McLaughlin and Sara McMahon. It will include:

- Committee effectiveness
- Roles and responsibilities of committee members
- Councils code of conduct
- Community engagement – community representation
- Committee planning

This training will give the Committee a clearer understanding of their role and responsibility on Council committees and further enhance their participation in the decision making processes.

## AA17.2 Membership Requests - Natalie Lloyd and Les Bursill OAM

HPERM Ref: D17/14679

**Group:** Corporate & Community Services Group  
**Section:** Human Resources, Governance & Customer Service

### Purpose / Summary

To advise the Aboriginal Advisory Committee of the membership applications received.

### Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That:

1. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee accept the membership applications from:
  - a. Natalie Lloyd
  - b. Les Bursill OAM
2. That they be notified of their appointment and invited to all future meetings.

### Options

1. As recommended

Implications: The appointment of the members as recommended will reduce the number of vacant positions on the Committee to six (6).

2. That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee adopt an alternative recommendation

### Background

At the previous meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee on Thursday 24 November 2016 these membership requests were reported, however the report was deferred.

Council received an application from Natalie Lloyd dated Tuesday 15 March 2016 which stated as follows:

*“Being a direct descendant from Cullunghutti Mountain & having a great deal of family history in this area, I would like to apply for membership to act as an advocate for my Aboriginal Community.*

*I have been an active member in the community in a professional and personal level and I have a great rapport with people of all ages.*

*I am able to professionally liaise with members of the community with respect and without condescension.”*

Council received an expression of interest email from Les Bursill OAM dated Friday 1 July 2016 in which he advised:

*“I am a member of the Cullunghutti Committee with National Parks. I am also an Elder in Residence at Shoalhaven Campus. I was previously Chair of the Sutherland Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee.*

*I would like to know if I could join the Aboriginal Advisory Committee in Nowra. I moved to Nowra in 2013. My family originally came from Kangaroo Valley and later Berry. I descend from Dr Ellis. He was a Karadji in Kangaroo Valley and the Illawarra.”*