

## Aboriginal Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** Monday, 06 November, 2017

**Location:** Jervis Bay Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

## Minutes Attachments

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**Aboriginal Advisory Committee Action Plan Priority Areas**

- 1) Develop a profile of the local Aboriginal Community that identifies the needs and areas that Shoalhaven City Council can support
- 2) Review current Aboriginal community employment opportunities with Shoalhaven City Council and develop an Aboriginal Employment Strategy for the next three- five years.
- 3) Ensure the cultural, social and economic experience and needs of Aboriginal people are embedded and included in the planning, policies and practices of Council
- 4) Ensure that Council engages with Aboriginal people in culturally appropriate ways
- 5) Develop an Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Strategy together with local Aboriginal people
- 6) Undertake a cultural mapping project of the Shoalhaven to identify cultural heritage and guide Cultural Tourism
- 7) Advance the development and implementation of the Coolangatta Mountain (Cullunghutti) Plan of management to better protect and promote understanding of cultural values and history
- 8) Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan

**Requirements of Each Framework**

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) - Federal	Collaborate NSW	Community Strategic Plan - SCC
<p>Relationships</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RAP Working Group (RWG) actively monitors RAP development and implementation</li> <li>2. Celebrate National Reconciliation Week (NRW) to strengthen and maintain relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees and other employees and to build relationships in the community</li> <li>3. Maintain and leverage mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations to support positive outcomes</li> <li>4. Raise internal and external awareness of our RAP to promote reconciliation across our business and sector</li> <li>5. <i>Other unique opportunities</i></li> </ol> <p>Respect</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Increase knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and achievements</li> <li>7. Demonstrate respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and</li> </ol>	<p>Supporting Aboriginal participation in local government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organising briefing sessions for potential candidates</li> <li>• Training and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councillors</li> <li>• Mentoring</li> <li>• Aboriginal Advisory / Consultative Committees</li> </ul> <p>Council Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting access to council services</li> <li>• Land use planning and management</li> <li>• Community Land Management</li> <li>• Co-management of illegal dumping on Aboriginal land</li> <li>• LALCs development aspirations and planning issues</li> </ul> <p>Aboriginal heritage and languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal heritage legislation</li> <li>• Helpful resources</li> <li>• Aboriginal languages</li> </ul> <p>Economic development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiatives</li> </ul> <p>Strategic Community Engagement</p>	<p>CSP Themes and Key Priorities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resilient, safe and inclusive communities             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Build inclusive, safe and connected communities</li> <li>1.2 Activate communities through arts, culture and events</li> <li>1.3 Support active and healthy communities</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Sustainable, liveable environments             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Improve and maintain road and transport infrastructure</li> <li>2.2 Plan and manage appropriate and sustainable development</li> <li>2.3 Protect and showcase the natural environment</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Prosperous Communities             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Maintain and grow a robust economy with vibrant towns and villages</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Responsible governance             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Deliver reliable services that meet daily community needs</li> <li>4.2 Provide advocacy and transparent leadership through effective government and administration</li> <li>4.3 Inform and engage with the community</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<p>communities by embedding cultural protocols as part of the way our organisation functions</p> <p>8. Celebrate NAIDOC Week and provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to engage with culture and community during NAIDOC Week</p> <p>9. Celebrate NAIDOC Week and provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to engage with culture and community during NAIDOC Week</p> <p>10. <i>Other unique opportunities</i></p> <p>Opportunities</p> <p>11. Embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment strategy in organisation wide HR policies and procedures</p> <p>12. Embed supplier diversity principles in organisation wide procurement policies and procedures</p> <p>13. <i>Other unique opportunities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Engagement Strategy</li> <li>• Potential channels and forums for community participation and engagement</li> </ul> <p>Formal agreements between councils and Aboriginal peoples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP)</li> <li>• Statement of Commitment</li> <li>• Memorandum of Understanding</li> <li>• Leasing agreements and site deed agreements</li> </ul> <p>Workforce planning and community engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal council employees</li> <li>• Aboriginal employment programs and initiatives</li> </ul>	<p>about the decisions that affect their lives</p>
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**Report to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee  
6 November 2017  
For the  
Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference, Albury  
Albury 13-15 September 2017**

Noel Wellington – represented SCC Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Attended the 2017 Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference with Margaret Simoes, Aboriginal Community Development Officer, Shane Brown, Ranger Services and Clr John Levett represented SCC.

Mayor Kevin Mack, Albury City Council and local Elders welcomed the Conference Delegates at the Welcome Function at the Wonga Wetlands.

Presentations included changes in state policies and practices, Indigenous corporate businesses, inspirational speakers and local government projects and community initiatives.

- **Nova Peris** an inspirational speaker sharing her Journey in life, sporting achievements, family experiences, overcoming hurdles and challenges in life, politics and her vision for the future of reconciliation.
- **TAFE NSW Heather McGregor** presented information about the changes and restructures in TAFE NSW.
- **Albury City Wagirra Team:** This team of Aboriginal workers, under the Aboriginal Employment and Training program work on construction and land conservation projects in Albury. They have been involved in the building of significant public spaces: The Wagirra Trail, Kremur Street Boat Ramp, and Oddies Creek Adventure Playground.

The Wagirra Trail traineeships are three years in duration and involve skills development in civil construction and land management.

Each trainee, (11 trainees) some speaking to a large audience for the first time, shared their experiences of being involved in the project and the sense of cultural pride in building the Wagirra Trail with the interpretative signage and contemporary Aboriginal sculptures lining Trail.

In the afternoon, Conference delegates were able to walk the Wagirra Trail (5kms) which leads to the Wonga Wetlands where the Welcome Function was held for the delegates.

Delegates enjoyed the campfire yarn up with Elders and enjoyed the ground oven cuisine prepared and served by the Wagirra trainees and local Indigenous chefs studying at TAFE.

Some Elders stated they would be visiting Nowra for the Elders Olympics held at the Bomaderry Basketball Stadium.

- **Supply Nation, Laura Berry, CEO**

Supply Nation is a supplier and connector of Indigenous businesses to the corporate world, not for profit and government. It is a supply chain to the promotion of Indigenous owned businesses.

- 1300 registered Indigenous businesses with Supply Nation
- 46% outside metropolitan area
- Connect Indigenous businesses with Trade shows
- Encouraging local government to become members of Supply Nation

- **Wayne Wigham Black Dog Institute**

Wayne (former Balmain Tigers player) is an advocate for mental health. His personal journey highlights the fact that the black dog of depression can strike anyone, even those performing at the elite level. He is now a professional speaker for the Black Dog Institute.

- **Gabrielle Sullivan, CEO Indigenous Act Code, Ethical Art**, Indigenous art is has always been a way of preserving, disseminating and promoting Indigenous cultures, stories and creating income opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Unfortunately, this has also become a market for fake art products, supposedly designed by Indigenous peoples or made in Australia. Gabrielle discussed the significant impact fake art is having on Indigenous culture and people and is keen to explore ways of addressing this issue with local government and through the development of an Indigenous Art Code.

- **Bruce Pascoe, Renowned Author**

Bruce presented a wealth of new knowledge rebutting the myth of Australia's Indigenous people just known as 'hunters and gatherers'. I am sure his book '*Dark Enemy, Black Seeds: agriculture or accident?*' was sold out at Albury. He provided compelling evidence from the diaries of early explorers.

- **Dean Widders, NRL Ambassador,**

Very inspirational speaker about his NRL Ambassador role with young people and the role of sport in communities.



- **Richard Burton, Indigenous Business Australia**

IBA assist Indigenous Australians to buy their own homes, be successful in business and invest in commercial ventures.

- **Lloyd Dolan – Language**

Charles Sturt University lecturer discussed the Wiradjuri Language, Culture and Heritage course in collaboration with local Elder, Stan Grant. He provided an insight into the traditional language reclamation and revival for all communities.

- **Breaking Habits: The Muli Muli Rubbish Story – Tash Morton, NSW EPA project officer and Salome Green, Community Engagement Advisor, Muli Muli Community**

Muli Muli on Githabul Country, Northern NSW developed a project to improve rubbish management and clean up Country. Working collaboratively with North East Waste group and funded through the NSW Environmental Protection Authority, the community is cleaning up an old tip site, starting up a recycling service and designing community recycling education materials. Aboriginal students from Woodenbong Central School have used rap music to share a message about their community and caring for Country, 'Breaking Habits' can be viewed on youtube.

- **Victoria Nolan, Acting Principal Officer, Office of Environment & Heritage**

In 2011, the NSW Government committed to reform the legal framework for conserving and managing Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. Consultations and information sessions were held in 2013-14 around the state. Proposals and consultations held in 2017 with Council representatives and Aboriginal community members in attendance. The new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage legislation is expected in 2018.

#### **Conference Dinner & Awards**

Presentation of LGAN Awards

Shoalhaven City Council was awarded the 'Council Partnership of the Year'. This award was nominated because of the strong partnership and working relationship that has been established between Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Land Council and Shoalhaven City Council.

(Story in South Coast Register on Wednesday 8 November 2017)

Conference closed. The 2018 LGAN conference will be held in Narrabri.

A great experience to be able to network and meet other representatives from local government areas and learn about the different community projects and initiatives to be shared. The opportunity to attend the Conference gave a greater insight into ideas from other communities and the possibilities of initiating the Shoalhaven area.