

MINUTES OF THE ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Monday, 11 November 2019
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4.06pm

The following members were present:

Nicole Moore – Acting Chairperson
Mayor – Amanda Findley – left at 5.04pm
Clr Patricia White – left at 5.34pm
Clr Nina Digiglio
Clr John Levett
Clr Mark Kitchener – left at 5.34pm
Mr Paul Keith – Ulladulla LALC
Ms Sharlene Cruickshank – Nowra LALC
Ms Sylvia Timbery
Mr Charlie Ashby – arrived at 4.11pm
Ms Janet Atkins

Others present:

Ms Jane Lewis – Acting Director Finance Corporate and Community Services
Ms Coralie Bell - Acting Section Manager Recreation Community & Culture
Ms Jessica Rippon – Executive Manager Communications
Mr Michael Paine – Senior Community Development Officer
Ms Margaret Simoes – Community Development Officer – Aboriginal
Ms Bronwyn Coulston – Unit Manager Arts and Culture
MS Janaya Hennessey – Community Development Cadet - Aboriginal

Election of Chairperson

RESOLVED (Clr Digiglio / Nowra LALC - Sharlene Cruickshank)

That Nicole Moore be appointed as the Acting Chairperson for today's meeting.

CARRIED

Sharlene Cruickshank gave an acknowledgement to Country.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Sue-Anne Cutmore, Caryn Carpenter, Noel Wellington and Valda Corrigan.

A Minutes Silence in Respect of Aboriginal Elders, Past and Present

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (Janet Atkins / Nowra LALC - Sharlene Cruickshank)

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee held on Monday 13 May 2019 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil

REPORTS

AA19.19 Aboriginal Tourism Promotion Focus

**HPERM Ref:
D19/361446**

Note: Charlie Ashby arrived at 4.11pm.

Coralie Bell – Acting Section Manager Recreation Community & Culture addressed the meeting and advised the report is for information.

Clr Digiglio commented that there are better connections with Indigenous community and congratulated Margaret Simoes on the Acknowledgement of Country.

Coralie Bell advised that when the Minutes are published a link will be provided to the members for the Attachments and the new Visitors Guide. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee had the opportunity to provide comments and feedback.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee accept the Aboriginal Tourism Promotion Focus report for information.

RESOLVED (Ulladulla LALC - Paul Keith / Sylvia Timbery)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee accept the Aboriginal Tourism Promotion Focus report for information.

CARRIED

**AA19.20 Membership Resignation - Janaya Hennessey and
Membership Application - Kyle Lachlan****HPERM Ref:
D19/300756**

The Committee thanked Janaya for her contributions to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee and congratulated her on the appointment of her new position.

It was suggested that an expression of interest be called for a Youth Member position and any other positions that may arise following confirmation from Margaret Simoes regarding members absences.

It was noted that should interviews arise from the expression of interest process that the panel consist of Margaret Simoes, the Chairperson and the independent member being Paul Keith.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Accept the resignation notice from Janaya Hennessey; and
2. Appoint Kyle Lachlan to the Youth position on the Committee

RECOMMENDATION (Nowra LALC - Sharlene Cruickshank / Ulladulla LALC - Paul Keith)

That Council:

1. Accept the resignation notice from Janaya Hennessey; and
2. Council call for an Expression of Interest for a Youth member position and any other positions that arise from membership audit.

CARRIED

AA19.21 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Status Action Report**HPERM Ref:
D19/354334**

The Committee discussed the items on the Action Table and the following comments were made:

- AA18.23 – Staff are investigating options for engagement and will be having further discussions with Land Councils. Remain open.
- AA19.5 – A Working Group will be formed and it is proposed that a report will be submitted to Council prior to end of the year. Remain open.
- AA19.6 – This item to be completed and replaced in conjunction with AA19.18. Looking to identify any cultural significant locations not just smoking ceremonies. The Committee was requested to send any information to Margaret Simoes. Guidance is required from the Committee and the Local Aboriginal Land Council's.
- AA19.9 – Bronwyn Coulston advised that an update report is included in the agenda which will replace this action. To be completed and removed
- AA19.12 – Margaret Simoes advised that Tourism and Natural Resources in collaboration with the Local Land Council submitted a Grant Application which was recently announced as successful. More information will be forthcoming in regards to community consultation and the overall project progress. Remain open.
- AA19.17 – Margaret Simoes advised that the Budget Bid was unsuccessful and are still working with Natural Resources to source funding.

Charlie Ashby advised that there has been tree scarring and some trees cleared, Bigfoot has cut out the side of the track and holes on the track have been filled with concrete. It

was requested that a report be provided to the next meeting and staff provide an update from Natural Resources and/or Compliance confirming the Bifgoot is approved to operate. This Action be completed and removed and a new action will be created from the new recommendation.

Note: Clr Findley left at 5.04pm

- AA19.18 – Margaret Simoes is liaising with TAFE students and has a list of sites which she will distribute to the Committee members and Local Land Councils to provide feedback in regards to significant sites and not just smoking areas. Still investigating the different types of materials for the plaques. Margaret advised that she will forward photo's of examples at Callala Bay to the members and requested that if any Committee members have any examples of signage to send to Margaret Simoes. Remain open.
- MM19.8 – Margaret Simoes advised that herself and Susan Edwards were invited to Jerrinja to discuss options for a design for a plaque for a memorial. This information has been handed over to design unit to draft up a design in consultation with Margaret, and with the community and Jerrinja. Margaret Simoes advised that she will provide an update and report on progress to a future meeting. Any consultation include Jerrinja and the broader local community. Remain open.
- MIN19.1 – Janet Atkins advised that she attended the Basketball event, and funds that were generated from the day, proceeds were donated to local Aboriginal organisations and services providers. It was a good event overall. Complete and remove.
- AA19.3 – Margaret Simoes advised that Shellharbour Council will be hosting the event next year. Paul Keith volunteered to assist with meetings in Shellharbour. Clr Digiglio acknowledged Margaret Simoes and the team for the event hosted by Shoalhaven Council and congratulated the award recipients at the event. Margaret acknowledged all sections of Council who assisted with organising the event. Complete and remove.
- MIN18.881 – Margaret Simoes advised that the Clontarf Foundation program is offered at at Shoalhaven and Vincentia High Schools. Shakeela Williams sings 'Welcome' in Dhurga language and she is happy to share her Welcome song. Ulladulla High school sings We Are Australian in local language. Margaret Simoes to talk to Vincentia and Ulladulla High Schools. Remain open.

Note: Clrs Kitchener and White left at 5.34pm

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That

1. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive the November 2019 Status report for information.
2. The following actions be noted as completed and removed for the action table:
 - a. AA19.1 Indigenous Round of Basketball, Bomaderry – 6 July 2019
 - b. AA19.6 Additional Item - Plaques - Cultural significance telling Shoalhaven Stories - Action Plan - smoking ceremonies

RESOLVED (Janet Atkins / Ulladulla LALC - Paul Keith)

That:

1. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive the November 2019 Status report for information.
2. The following actions be noted as completed and removed for the action table:
 - a. AA19.1 – Indigenous Round of Basketball, Bomaderry – 6 July 2019
 - b. AA19.6 – Additional Item - Plaques - Cultural significance telling Shoalhaven Stories - Action Plan - smoking ceremonies

- c. AA19.9 – Shoalhaven Regional Gallery – Proposed Art Exhibition – Cook 2020 Anniversary
- d. AA19.17 – Budget Bid – Cullunghutti Plan of Management Proposal
- e. AA19.3 – 2019 Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards

CARRIED

AA19.22 Notification - Council Resolution - Re-establishment of Aboriginal Advisory Committee

**HPERM Ref:
D19/355580**

The Acting Chairperson addressed the meeting and raised concerns regarding the Quorum of the Committee. The members present agreed that the Quorum should consist of local Aboriginal members.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Committee receive the report on the Council Resolution – Re-establishment of Aboriginal Advisory Committee for information.

RECOMMENDATION (Charlie Ashby / Nowra LALC - Sharlene Cruickshank)

That:

1. The Committee receive the report on the Council Resolution – Re-establishment of Aboriginal Advisory Committee for information;
2. Council amend the Terms of Reference:
 - a. In relation to Quorum to be amended to five (5) local Aboriginal community members; and
 - b. The amount of meetings be changed to a minimum of 4 (and others as required)

CARRIED

AA19.23 Cook 2020 exhibition - update

**HPERM Ref:
D19/360780**

Bronwyn Coulston addressed the Committee and advised that the exhibition planning is progressing and a Working Group has been formed to assist in this process. Applications for funding have been submitted and will be notified of the application outcome in December 2019.

Hoping to hold a yarning day, inviting elders and community members to discuss stories and knowledge of the past 250 years.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Group receive the report for information.

RESOLVED (Nowra LALC - Sharlene Cruickshank / Ulladulla LALC - Paul Keith)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Group receive the report for information.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

AA19.25 Additional Item - Cullunghutti Plan of Management - Damage to the track - Bigfoot Compliance

Margaret Simoes addressed the meeting and advised the Budget Bid for the Cullunghutti Plan of Management was unsuccessful. Community Development is working with Natural Resources to source funding.

The Committee discussed the disappointment in the Budget Bid for the Plan of Management being unsuccessful.

Charlie Ashby advised that there has been tree scarring and some trees cleared, Bigfoot has cut into the side of the track and holes on the track have been filled with concrete. It was requested that a report be provided to the next meeting and staff provide an update from Natural Resources and/or Compliance confirming the Bigfoot is approved to operate.

RECOMMENDATION (Nicole Moore / Charlie Ashby)

That:

1. Staff from Natural Resources, Planning and Compliance and NPWS be invited to the next meeting to provide information on the maintenance of the land, and clarification on bigfoot and its approval to operate on the whole track to the summit;
2. Staff investigate and provide information on the clearing that has been done and if its on private land
3. Council acknowledge the cultural significance of Cullunghutti and make funding available for the Plan of Management of Cullunghutti in the 2020/2021 budget bid process.

CARRIED

AA19.26 Additional Item - Marriott Park Masterplan

Clr Levett addressed the meeting and raised the following item:

That the Committee seek to consult with the Community & Recreation Unit and those associated with the Masterplan for the revitalisation of Marriot Park. The discussions might be around pursuing an Indigenous theme for the park and a renaming. The park has a significant connection with Indigenous history, and its northern boundary, Plunkett Street, takes its name from a former Attorney General of NSW, John Hubert Plunkett.

In 1838, eleven convicts and former convicts were put on trial for the murder of 28 Aboriginal men, women and children at Myall Creek in north New South Wales. Plunkett was the prosecutor and it proved to be an enormous test of his resolve to enforce equality before the law in colonial NSW and he secured seven convictions.

Acknowledgement of the case and its enormous importance could be a means of moving the "Truth Telling" process forward.

Staff advised that community consultation will be going ahead.

RESOLVED (Clr Levett / Nowra LALC - Sharlene Cruickshank)

That a report be submitted to the next meeting regarding the progress with the Masterplan for Marriott Park.

CARRIED

AA19.27 Additional Item - Huskisson Church Site - Development

Note: Sylvia Timbery at 6.07pm

Charlie Ashby addressed the meeting and expressed his disappointment in relation to Council's decision regarding the Huskisson Church Development. Charlie expressed his deep connection to the people and the connection of this site to the local Indigenous people. In relation to the media coverage, Charlie apologised for the comments made.

Note: Bronwyn Coulston left at 6.20pm

The Committee held a discussion regarding Council's position on the matter and how this is in conflict with the views of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

Note: Paul Keith left at 6.28pm

The Committee held a discussion in relation to the Terms of Reference.

The Committee held discussions in relation to Resolutions and Recommendations to Council.

RECOMMENDATION (Nicole Moore / Charlie Ashby)

That:

1. Council acknowledges that the Aboriginal Advisory Committee believes that the proposed development at the Huskisson Church site is a threat to local Aboriginal heritage; and
2. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee believes that the Committee should have been consulted and requests that Council do so for all future planning and developments with a potential Aboriginal Cultural impact.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 7.01pm.

Ms Nicole Moore
ACTING CHAIRPERSON