

MINUTES OF THE ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 26 July 2022
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4.10pm

The following members were present:

Mr Jared Brown - Chairperson
Mayor Amanda Findley – left 5.43pm
Clr John Wells
Clr Patricia White
Clr Tonia Gray
Clr Evan Christen
Clr John Kotlash
Clr Liza Butler (Remotely) – joined 4.17pm
Ms Janet Atkins
Mr Charlie Ashby
Ms Nicole Moore
Ms Natalie Lloyd (Remotely)
Ms Sharlene Cruickshank – arrived at 4.16pm
Ms Kalinda Wills – arrived at 4.32pm
Mr Jerrinja LALC - Alfred Wellington (Remotely) – joined at 4.13pm
Mr Michael Paine - Manager - Community Connections

Others present:

Mr Carey McIntyre – Director City Futures
Mr Matt Rose – Acting Strategic Planning Manager
Mr Eric Hollinger – Coordinator – Special Projects Team
Ms Brooke Aldous – Governance Coordinator
Ms Carly McWalters – Team Leader Community Capacity Building
Ms Michelle Toms – Community Capacity Cadet - Aboriginal
Ms Kristy Mayhew – Tourism Marketing Specialist

Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was received from Sylvia Timbery.

Janet Atkins acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land and paid respect to Elders past and present, welcomed everyone present. The Chairperson commenced a moments silence.

Note: Alfred Wellington – Jerrinja LALC joined the meeting at 4.13pm

Confirmation of the Minutes**RESOLVED** (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 22 March 2022 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil

AA22.9 Presentation - Huskisson Church - Eric Hollinger**HPERM REF:
D22/281765**

Item dealt with later in the meeting.

REPORTS**AA22.10 Aboriginal Advisory Committee Representative on
Shoalhaven Arts Board****HPERM Ref:
D22/235761**

Note: Sharlene Cruickshank arrived at 4.16pm

The Committee discussed and requested that a complete list of all Council Advisory Committees be forwarded to Councillors and the AAC Members.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee further endorse Drew Longbottom as the nominated Aboriginal Representative on the Shoalhaven Arts Board, for a period of four (4) years.

RESOLVED (Nicole Moore / Clr Wells)

That:

1. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee note Drew Longbottom as the nominated Aboriginal Representative on the Shoalhaven Arts Board, for a period of four (4) years.
2. Correspondence regarding the future Aboriginal representation on the Shoalhaven Arts Board to be forwarded through the Chairperson for dissemination;

CARRIED

AA22.12 Shoalhaven Visitor Guide - Aboriginal Content**HPERM Ref:
D22/274826**

Kristy Mayhew – Tourism Marketing Specialist addressed the meeting, and presented the current Visitors Guide noting that the new Guide will be produced in December.

Ms Mayhew advised that the Committee has time to submit feedback on the Guide content.

Note: Kalinda Wills arrived at 4.32pm

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the next Shoalhaven Visitor Guide continue with existing disclaimer in relation to Aboriginal Cultural Product.

RESOLVED (Jared Brown / Charlie Ashby)

That the next Shoalhaven Visitor Guide continue with existing disclaimer in relation to Aboriginal Cultural Product.

CARRIED

AA22.14 Membership - Expression of Interest - update**HPERM Ref:
D22/288744**

Ms Carly McWalters – Team Leader Community Capacity Building addressed the meeting and provided a verbal update to the report. It was noted that:

- Following the last meeting a membership audit letter was sent out to all members confirming their term dates and requesting that they confirm their membership for an additional term or relinquish their membership.
- As a result of the audit conducted, two (2) positions were identified as vacant and an expression of interest (EOI) was conducted.
- Based on some concern about the reach of the EOI and appropriate advertising for target communities, the Chairperson requested that the EOI needed to be extended.
- Council received two (2) applications from the first round of EOI and those individuals have been shortlisted for interview following closure of the extended EOI period.
- It is proposed to conduct the interviews in August
- Staff are seeking feedback and input from the Committee on the draft interview questions and supporting assessment criteria. Staff will send a few questions to the AAC Chairperson for distribution and feedback.
- Mixed responses were received in relation to preferred days and times for AAC meetings. Various options were put forward including but not limited to Tuesday at 4.00pm and Monday at 5.00pm.

The Chairperson sought feedback from the members present and suggested meetings be conducted on Tuesdays at 5.00pm.

The Committee also discussed the option to hold the meetings at alternate locations. Noting that Wi-Fi, Screen and Teams capability is required. The Chairperson advised he is happy to keep the meetings in the Jervis Bay Rooms, however its open for discussion in the future. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee prefer to meet in informal meeting spaces such as the Jervis Bay Rooms.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive this report for information.

RESOLVED (Jared Brown / Kalinda Wills)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive this report for information.

CARRIED

AA22.13 Proposed development of Reconciliation Action Plan**HPERM Ref:
D22/110189**

Mr Michael Paine – Manager Community Connections addressed the meeting and provided the following comments:

- To date Council hasn't had a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- Council are going to develop a RAP and work is scheduled to commence in October/November 2023
- Invite members of AAC onto a Project Control Group to assist council with the development of the RAP

Mayor Findley raised a question regarding the budget for the RAP and payment for the AAC members on the Project Control Group?

Mr Paine responded and advised that the budget will allow for the payment of those members appointed to the Project Control Group to participate and share their cultural knowledge and experience.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC):

1. Support the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for Shoalhaven City Council
2. The AAC nominate representatives to form part of a Project Reference Group to assist in the development of the RAP:
 - a. *Insert name of representative at meeting*
 - b. *Insert name of representative at meeting*
3. Receive a future report with detailed timelines and plans for community engagement.

RESOLVED (Sharlene Cruickshank / Charlie Ashby)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC):

1. Support the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for Shoalhaven City Council
2. The AAC nominate representatives to form part of a Project Reference Group to assist in the development of the RAP:
 - a. *Jared Brown*
 - b. *Kalinda Wills (TBC)*
3. Receive a future report with detailed timelines and plans for community engagement.

Note: Natalie Lloyd advised that she is interested in in being part of the Group if an opportunity should arise.

CARRIED

AA22.15 Update on Actions - July 2022**HPERM Ref:
D22/290383**

The Committee discussed the Action Report and made comments on the following Items:

- AA21.17:
 - Alfred Wellington advised that in relation to Cullunghutti, this matter needs to remain open as this is a complex matter and to date there hasn't been any directions given.
- AA21.19:
 - In relation to consultation with Nowra LALC, Nicole Moore advised that this hasn't

- happened yet.
- Michael Paine advised that they had attempted to do so, however this hasn't transpired.
 - A report will come back to a future meeting in relation to the Community Wellbeing Plan.
 - Ms Moore suggested that future consultation with the Nowra LALC be requested through the administration email. Ms Moore to confirm the contact details.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That

1. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee accept and receive the Update on Actions report for information.
2. The following actions are considered complete and removed from the action table
 - a. AA21.17 - Aboriginal Advisory Committee Action Table Report - Invitation - Jerrinja LALC - Community Consultation - Cullunghutti - report received
 - b. AA21.19 - Presentation - Shoalhaven Community Wellbeing Plan - consult with LALC
 - c. AA22.6 - Membership Audit and Expression of Interest - Formal consultation / time of meetings - Reappointment - Janet Atkins / Sylvia Timbery / Shane Brown

RESOLVED (Kalinda Wills / Sharlene Cruickshank)

That

1. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee accept and receive the Update on Actions report for information.
2. The following actions are considered complete and removed from the action table
 - a. AA22.6 - Membership Audit and Expression of Interest - Formal consultation / time of meetings - Reappointment - Janet Atkins / Sylvia Timbery / Shane Brown

CARRIED

AA22.11 Huskisson Church - Options to resolve future use of site

**HPERM Ref:
D22/184697**

Eric Hollinger – Coordinator – Special Projects Team provided an update in relation to the report and made the following comments:

- Following Council's resolution (detailed in the report) it is proposed to conduct a Briefing in late August.
- News on the Planning Proposal is the proponent formally withdrew the Planning Proposal on 11 July 2022. The Department also terminated the Gateway Determination. Any new rezoning request would require a new planning Proposal to be submitted.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That direction be provided on whether the Committee wishes to provide feedback to Council and/or be involved in a Councillor briefing on the future use of the former Anglican Church site, Huskisson.

RESOLVED (Janet Atkins / Kalinda Wills)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee be invited to the Councillor Briefing (as detailed in

MIN22.243) on the future use of the former Anglican Church site, Huskisson and provide feedback at that briefing.

CARRIED

Note: Council resolution (MIN22.243) reads as follows:

That Council:

1. *Reaffirms MIN21.303, that requires Council to “Continue to liaise with key stakeholders including the Jerrinja LALC, Council’s Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and the Huskisson Heritage Association (HHA)”.*
2. *Notes all the above-mentioned parties have raised with Council their objections to the proposed scraping; and notes none of the above-mentioned were consulted by Heritage NSW prior to issuing the s140 archaeological permit for scraping.*
3. *Does not proceed with any scraping of the grounds of Huskisson Anglican Church Site to verify graves.*
4. *Defers the matter to enable Councillors to receive a detailed briefing to include:*
 - a. *The process, requirements, timelines for heritage listing of the church and grounds, as recommended in the Shoalhaven Heritage reports 2005.*
 - b. *The potential for the retention of the SP2 special zoning for the site, including legal advice.*
 - c. *An outline of an approach for Council to work with the community and developer to undertake a community led process to determine future options for use of the site.*
 - d. *Inclusion of the perspective of key stakeholders including the Jerrinja LALC, Council’s Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and the Huskisson Heritage Association. That they be allowed to present to Council as part of the briefing.*

FOR: Clr Findley, Clr Kotlash, Clr Norris, Clr Butler, Clr D’Ath, Clr Christen and Clr Gray

AGAINST: Clr Copley, Clr Ell, Clr White, Clr Wells, Clr Watson and Clr Kitchener

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

AA22.9 Presentation - Huskisson Church - Eric Hollinger

**HPERM Ref:
D22/281765**

This item was addressed in conjunction with AA22.11 - Huskisson Church - Options to resolve future use of site.

AA22.12 Shoalhaven Visitor Guide - Aboriginal Content

**HPERM REF:
D22/274826**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting.

AA22.14 Membership - Expression Of Interest - Update

**HPERM REF:
D22/288744**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting.

AA22.13 Proposed Development Of Reconciliation Action Plan**HPERM REF:
D22/110189**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting.

AA22.15 Update On Actions - July 2022**HPERM REF:
D22/290383**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

AA22.16 Additional Item - Information from Shoalhaven Libraries

Mr Paine advised that the Shoalhaven Libraries (Sanctuary Point) Public Art EOI is open for submissions and Council seeking expressions of interest from local First Nations artists for a number of permanent public artwork commissions. There are three (3) opportunities being Sea, Land and Sky. Further information can be found via this link <https://getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/sanctuarypoint-library>

The EOI closes 8 August 2022.

Ms Sharlene Cruickshank nominated to be part of the Art Selection Panel.

It was suggested that the information be promoted via social media.

AA22.17 Additional Item - Development and Planning Consultation with the AAC

The Chairperson addressed the meeting and advised that he has aspirations for the AAC to be more than just an Advisory Committee and would like the AAC to get to a space when Council is approached in regards to major developments that the AAC is part of the consultation process and Planning decisions prior to any council resolution being made and moving decisions forward side by side.

Mayor Findley suggested the Director City Development be invited to attend a future meeting to walk the AAC through the Development process and discuss where the AAC could fit into the process and where/when consultation can occur.

Mayor Findley left at 5.43pm

Clr Christen suggested that Councillors consider this process when viewing the Strategic Planning Works Program.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Director City Development be invited to attend a future meeting to walk the AAC through the Development process and where could the AAC fit into the process and where/when consultation can occur.

CARRIED

AA22.18 Additional Item - Consideration of Dedicated Aboriginal Member on all Council

Advisory Committees

Note: the Committee held a discussion as part of item AA22.10 and the following recommendation was made:

RECOMMENDATION (Nicole Moore / Clr Wells)

That:

1. Council consider Aboriginal representation on all Council Advisory Committees.
2. In relation to the appointment of Aboriginal people to Council Advisory Committees, the proposed nominees be referred to the AAC Chairperson for information.

CARRIED

The following matters were raised in General Business:

- Wollongong is hosting NAIDOC Awards on Saturday 30 July 2022. Representatives from the Shoalhaven are attending this includes approximately 20 Elders. 2023 NAIDOC Awards will be hosted by Kiama, 2024 will be hosted in Shoalhaven.
- Janet Atkins provided an update in relation to the 2022 Year 12 Aboriginal Graduation Steering Committee and advised that this year there is 63 students within the Shoalhaven graduating Year 12 this year. Next year will be the 20th Anniversary and trying to find a space that can hold the event with up to 300 attendees and have been approaching Businesses for sponsorship.
 - A suggestion was made that an application be made via the [Community Donations](#)

Note: Post meeting update, a Mayoral Minute was submitted to the 8 August 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council, the following resolution was made (MIN22. 515):

That Council support the 2022 Shoalhaven Year 12 Aboriginal Graduation Ceremony in September 2022 by providing \$7,000 from the 2022/2023 Community Donations to cover this year's shortfall.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.45pm.

Jared Brown
CHAIRPERSON