

## Aboriginal Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, 07 May, 2024

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

## Minutes Attachments

### Index

AA24.7	Nowra Riverfront - Aboriginal Interpretive Signage	
	Attachment 1 Presentation - Nowra Bridge Project - Aboriginal Interpretation Panels - TfNSW.....	3
AA24.8	Community Engagement Framework	
	Attachment 1 Presentation - Community Engagement Framework - Marketing and Community Engagement Team.....	11
AA24.9	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Planning - Possible Toolkit and Mapping	
	Attachment 1 Presentation - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Planning / Proposed Toolkit Mapping.....	19
AA24.10	Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards 2024 Update	
	Attachment 1 Presentation - Local Government Regional NAIDOC Awards 2024 Update.....	35





TRANSPORT

## Nowra Bridge Project

Aboriginal Interpretation Panels

Transport for NSW – May 2024

OFFICIAL

## Nowra Bridge Project – Background

- The project developed an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report in 2018, this formed part of the project Review of Environmental Factors (REF)
- The project REF was determined in 2019
- Included in the REF was a safeguard for the project to prepare and implement an Aboriginal Heritage Interpretation Strategy that addresses the cultural significance of the proposal location within the landscape and archaeological finds from the study area. The strategy is required to be developed in consultation with the project's Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)
- The project opened to its final traffic configuration late last year
- Transport for NSW engaged Artefact Heritage to develop the Aboriginal Heritage Interpretation Strategy
- Key themes of the strategy are:
  - Water is life
  - Caring for country
  - Bridging Nowra and Bomaderry
- The strategy has been developed in consultation with the project's RAPs and knowledge holders in the community

OFFICIAL

## Nowra Bridge Project – Aboriginal Interpretative Panels

# The Shoalhaven River

You are standing on the bank of the Shoalhaven River, at a place where saltwater and freshwater Country meet. For thousands of years, fish have swum through these waters, birds and animals have gathered on these banks, and oysters and mussels have grown in the mudflats. Trees like the cabbage tree, grey gum and swamp oak grew near the riverbank, their tall silhouettes reflected in the waters.

For thousands of years before the construction of Nowra Bridge, the Aboriginal peoples of the Shoalhaven region skilfully navigated the Shoalhaven River in bark canoes.

The first bridge at Nowra that crossed the Shoalhaven River was made of iron and opened in 1881, and a second concrete bridge was opened in 1981. The third bridge was opened in 2023 with a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country during the opening event.

The Shoalhaven River continues to be the heart of the local community. Shell middens, rock shelters, hand stencils and stone tools found along the riverbanks are physical reminders of how families lived here for many generations. Today, the stories of Country are still handed down from Elders to children.

Look at the sights of Country, smell the salt of the water.



Construction of Shoalhaven Bridge, Bomaderry Side, Samuel Elyard, 1879 (Shoalhaven Regional Gallery)



Smoking ceremony at the opening of Nowra Bridge, 2023 (Andrew McLeod, Doonooch)

The new Nowra Bridge opened in February 2023 and Aunty Ruth Simms Senior, AM, gave the Welcome to Country:

*'I am so proud to be an Aboriginal woman, I am very proud to be an Australian and at this very moment I share that honour with every single person who is here today, who has walked the bridge to make history, all of us as Australians.'*

Kangaroo graphic, Anne-Marie McIntosh, Nowra TAFE, 2023

Speak the language of Country

In Dhurga language, *duraya* means river.

In Dharawal language, *dharaggang* means river.

The Panels have been developed in consultation with our Registered Aboriginal Parties. Outlined in the Nowra Bridge Aboriginal Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

OFFICIAL





































































































