



Central Coast Council

Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Held in Council's Committee Room
2 Hely Street, Wyong

03 October 2023

MINUTES

Attendance

Members	Status
Stephen Ella (Remotely from 1:28pm)	Present
Shahni Wellington	Present
Jake MacDonald	Present
Vickie Parry	Present
Phillip Bligh	Present
Barry Duncan	Present
Monica McKenzie	Present
Colleen Fuller	Apology

Staff	Status
Rik Hart	Present
Glenn Cannard	Present
Melanie Smith	Present
Ange Russell	Present

The Chairperson, Rik Hart, declared the meeting open at 1:03pm

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1.1 Introduction: Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies, Disclosure of Interest

Barry Duncan read an Acknowledgement of Country statement.

1.2 Previous business: Confirmation of Minutes, Review Action Log

No previous minutes to be confirmed.

REPORTS

2.1 Terms of Reference and Committee Overview

Resolved

That the Committee amend the Terms of Reference as follows:

Under Section 3 – Membership, voting and quorum, the Chairperson section should read as follows:

Chairperson

The Chairperson is a member of the Committee ~~the Mayor or Councillor.~~

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson will be elected annually by the Committee in December by nomination and a decision will be made on a show of hands. In the event of a tie, all names of nominees will be drawn by lot.

The tenure of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson will be two (2) year period.

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall preside at all meetings.

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson may resign from their position without resigning from the Committee. In such case, the Committee shall hold an election among its members to fill the vacant position.

The Deputy Chairperson fills in as Chairperson if the Deputy Chairperson is unable to attend the meeting.

The Chairperson is to have precedence at the meeting and shall determine the order of proceedings, generally as set out in the agenda.

~~It is not necessary that the Chairperson be a member of the Advisory Group.~~

Rik Hart stands down as Chairperson and adjourns the meeting at 1.13pm for the Committee to discuss their nominations.

The Committee reconvened at 1:23pm.

The Committee advised that they would like to appoint an Interim Chairperson and Interim Deputy Chairperson until the next quarterly committee meeting.

Jake MacDonald is nominated by Vickie Parry as Interim Chairperson. The Committee calls for votes and it was unanimous that Jake be appointed.

Monica McKenzie is nominated as Interim Deputy Chairperson and it was unanimous that Monica be appointed.

Glenn Cannard reads through the Terms of Reference and the Committee acknowledges.

2.2 Committee Member Introductions

The Committee members introduces themselves and spoke about their mob, professional career and background.

2.3 CCC Project/Information Update and Discussion

Glenn Cannard speaks to the report.

An overview of proposed First Nations themed exhibitions, activities and public programming for the next twelve months at Gosford Regional Gallery was presented. Committee members raised no concerns with any content proposed.

Proposed community signage at Norah Head Surfing Reserve was presented. Phillip Bligh opens a discussion around the wording of the signage being spelt incorrectly. Barry Duncan advises that "Darkingung" recognises the people of the land and "Darkinjung" recognises the country.

The Chair requests the results of the proposed signage at Norah Head Surfing Reserve come back to the Committee after their further consideration.

Proposed community signage at Gwandalan was presented. The Chair requests that the wording be amended to reflect shared Country along with other grammatical changes. The wording needs to come back to the Committee for review.

Action Item: Committee members to bring the results of the proposed signage at Norah Head Surfing Reserve back to the Committee in the December meeting.

Action Item: Glenn Cannard to amend the wording and bring back to the Committee regarding the Gwandalan Lions Club signage. It is be amended to reflect shared Country along with amending past tense to present tense.

2.4 Committee Priorities – Workshop and Discussion

Six Cities Commission

Barry Duncan raises concerns regarding Aboriginal consultation on the Central Coast relating to the Six Cities Commission. The discussions are taking place with Sydney and Newcastle but leaving out the Central Coast even though it is classed as a mega city. If discussions can be had with the Central Coast, there is a good opportunity for Aboriginal procurement.

Rik Hart advises a discussion should be had with The Hon David Harris MP as the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty.

Phillip Bligh acknowledges that there are big tourism and infrastructure opportunities on the Central Coast and that the Committee would like consultation throughout the process.

Aboriginal Employment Strategy

The Committee questions Council's Aboriginal Employment Strategies.

Mel Smith advises from a Council perspective that the Council are working on a policy.

The Chair requests data around aboriginal employment within Central Coast Council as a standing report item along with Council's retention of these employees and what Council is doing to retain that staff.

Action Item: Melanie Smith to bring back to the Committee presentations around Council's Aboriginal employment strategy and approach to community information and engagement.

Community Strategic Plan

Rik Hart's suggestion is to work on a submission for the CSP.

This plan is out on public exhibition and closes on 16 October 2023. Submissions can be made here:

- The Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
<https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-04/full-report.pdf>
- The survey that is linked to the review of the existing CSP
<https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/CSPandLSPS>

The Committee decided to take a vote for the Committee to meet for an Extraordinary Aboriginal Advisory meeting so that the Community Strategic Plan can be discussed and a submission be submitted. This meeting will take place on Friday, 20 October 2023 – 2:30pm to 4:30pm

Action Item: Civic Support to arrange an Extraordinary Aboriginal Advisory Committee on

Friday, 20 October 2023 – 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

Closing the Gap

The Committee discussed Aboriginal Housing and Local Government targets and what Council will be doing about achieving those targets.

2.5 General Business

Discussions took place regarding the return of councillors and what Council has going forward to engage members of the Aboriginal community to run.

Vickie Parry requests Council's view on The Voice Referendum and Rik Hart advised that there is no view from Council's but Council has assisted to facilitate any events/walks.

Phillip Bligh questions Cultural Authority, Preservation and Recognition. Phillip advises that it would be beneficial to make the public aware of the contributions that the Aboriginal Community is making to the Central Coast.

Glenn Cannard advises that in the First Nations accord Council's position is clear on how Council is assisting in this.

Phillip Bligh would like to discuss the Cultural Calendar but the Chair advised that this will be moved for the next meeting in December as we have run out of time.

Next meeting date is to be set for **13 December 2023, 3:30pm to 5:00pm.**

The Meeting concluded at 3:11pm.