



Central Coast Council  
Aboriginal Advisory Committee  
Held Remotely - Online

20 October 2023

## MINUTES

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### Attendance

**Members**

Colleen Fuller (from 3:14pm)	Present
Stephen Ella	Present
Shahni Wellington	Present
Phillip Bligh	Present
Barry Duncan (from 2:58pm)	Present
Monica McKenzie (from 2:41pm)	Present
Jake MacDonald	Present
Vickie Parry	Present

**Status****Staff**

Melanie Smith	Apology
Rik Hart	Apology
Alice Howe	Present
Glenn Cannard	Present
Brett Sherar	Present
Sharon McLaren	Present
Madeleine Bell	Present
Ange Russell	Present

**Status**

The Chairperson, Jake MacDonald, declared the meeting open at 2:34pm

The Chair read an Acknowledgement of Country statement.

## **PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

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

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The Chair welcomes the Committee members and guests.

An Acknowledgement of Country is read.

Apologies are noted.

## **REPORTS**

### **2.1 Revised Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028**

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Sharon McLaren presents to the Committee the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Development timeline.

In response to a question from a Committee member, it's confirmed that there is a current CSP in place and this new CSP will replace that to come into effect July 2025.

Sharon advises that there are two collaborating workshops scheduled with 25 people in each. Sessions outside of that are more focus groups. Sharon states that the Aboriginal Advisory Group would be relied on heavily around who in the community is important to involve. The Chair recommends speaking to Barang as they are a branch of important platforms for the Aboriginal Community on the Central Coast.

The presentation ends and The Chair asks that the CSP be bought up for the Committee to give their suggestions.

**Recommendation:** The Acknowledgement of Country would preferably be a standalone statement on the second page of the document and it be strengthened.

**Recommendation:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statement

Whilst the statement Acknowledging people/country is made, there is no statement acknowledging the Central Coast Council's commitment to Aboriginal people, culture, country. The role the council wants to play should be clear. The only way in which Aboriginal people/country/culture is mentioned in the strategic document is 'acknowledging' Aboriginal people. The commitment needs to be stronger and more explicit throughout the priority areas.

**Recommendation:** Smart Objective

The Central Coast Council has a role to play in public education, better understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, people, history, and culture. The council has a responsibility in facilitating public education opportunities. Ngarrama as an example hosted by Newcastle City Council.

How does this relate to United Nations Sustainable Development goals;

Target-4.7- By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Indicator- 4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education

**Recommendation:** Responsible Objective - Good Governance and Great Partnerships

Consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on issues that directly affect their lives. Ensure that the Central Coast Council actively engages Aboriginal people and organizations in the decision-making process. Central Coast Council must transparently report on how/when consultation occurs with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. How does this relate to United Nations Sustainable Development goals;

Target- 11.4- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

Indicator- 11.4.1- Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection, and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)

**Action Log Item:** Review Council's Acknowledgement of Country.

**Recommendation:** The hand graphic used for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statement could be mapped throughout the document where Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander involvement is mentioned.

**Recommendation:** The value of caring should be included in the Community Vision. The Committee agrees that there should also be some assistance from the community if there are workshops held.

**Recommendation:** Belonging Theme: The statement that continues to "acknowledge the Aboriginal people that shapes this corner of the world."

Belonging - Objective B1 under Creativity, Connection and Local Identity. How can we re-word this to ensure the services to be provided to the community events are recognised by Council to support and not just celebrate it. "Support reconciliation" needs to be developed further to explain what that actually looks like.

Social equality and community wellbeing needs to be more specific about that measuring point. The idea of reconciliation isn't necessarily an objective that points towards what is measured by social equality and wellbeing.

**Recommendation:** The Committee advises that Council needs to make sure there is a connection between the CSP and forward works programs. Right now, this is something that needs to be worked on.

**Recommendation:** Smart Theme – The Committee recommends that Central Coast Council

needs to have input into helping the broader community understand the shared history and culture of the Aboriginal people. A Newcastle event like, Ngarrama which is about Aboriginal people getting a platform to tell their stories to the public.

A Committee member comments that Central Coast Council is one of the fastest growing Aboriginal communities and that it was a place of opportunity and that needs to be recognised within the Community Strategic Plan.

**Recommendation:** Green Theme – The Environmental priority doesn't include Aboriginal people. There needs to be acknowledgement around traditional owners and sustainable developments needing to involve aboriginal people.

**Recommendation:** Responsible Theme – Commitment to consult Aboriginal people.

**Recommendation:** Liveable Theme – Commitment to consult Aboriginal people.

**Recommendation:** Community Indicators – No mention of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statement which could be included here and throughout the document.

**Recommendation:** Principles of One Central Coast – “We are more alike than different, we are one.” This statement needs to be looked at to more acknowledge that we are different but we are still one.

Alice Howe acknowledged that this was more so to do with after the merger of Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council being one Council – Central Coast Council.

**Recommendation:** Community Engagement and Involvement – Acknowledging the representation of Aboriginal people could be unpacked here.

**The Meeting** concluded at 3:32pm.