



Central Coast Council

Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Held in the Central Coast Council Committee Room
2 Hely Street, Wyong

13 December 2023

MINUTES

Attendance

Members

Shahni Wellington	Present
Jake MacDonald	Present
Vickie Parry (remotely)	Absent
Phillip Bligh	Present
Barry Duncan	Present
Monica McKenzie (remotely)	Present
Colleen Fuller	Present
Stephen Ella	Apology

Status

Staff

Administrator Rik Hart	Present
Melanie Smith	Apology
Glenn Cannard	Present
Belinda McRobie	Present
Ange Russell	Present

Status

External Guests

David Kelly	Present for Agenda Item 2.1 only.
Central Coast Local Health District	

Status

The Chairperson, Jake MacDonald, declared the meeting open at 3:34pm.

The Chair read an Acknowledgement of Country statement.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

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

The Chair welcomed and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.

Apologies were noted.

No disclosures of interest were declared.

1.2 Previous business: Confirmation of Minutes, Review Action Log

The minutes of the previous Inaugural and Extraordinary meetings were confirmed by the Committee.

REPORTS

2.1 Central Coast Health & Wellbeing Living Lab Introduction

David Kelly from Central Coast Health presented to the group the Wellbeing Living Lab program.

After a question was asked, it was confirmed that the program is being funded by the Greater Cities Program. An invitation was passed onto the group to attend workshops to collaborate.

It was raised that the 13th of February which is the scheduled workshop is National Sorry Day. David confirmed that there will be further workshops in the new year to be put together which an invitation to attend will be given.

Yerin Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Service was presented to David which can assist him in collaborating with the local aboriginal community. Some local Aboriginal Services were passed on to approach.

It was confirmed that a bus or community day would entice people to attend.

2.2 Aboriginal Employment Strategy Presentation

Sara Jane Hill from Central Coast Council presented the Aboriginal Employment Strategy to the Committee.

After a question was raised around employing and retention and what the strategies are, the Committee was advised that this is a work in progress and that Council are currently working from the ground up. This will be on the forefront of the Aboriginal Advisory Working Group

which is newly created and Cultural training will be the first step.

The Chair credited the presentation and advised that the targets for employment needs work but a goal for Council is to consider a long term approach to bring the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to parity with the general community.

Sara Jane advised that a written report will come back to the Committee in 6 months' time and in 12 months the Council will bring the data back to the Committee.

Barry Duncan commented that Senior Management positions would be great to be earmarked as an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Phillip Bligh suggested to Council that building cultural intelligence is an important part of the process and building that into the Working Group.

2.3 Signage – Gwandalan and Norah Head

Gwandalan Lions Club Signage

Glenn Cannard presented to the Committee signage options at Gwandalan and Norah Head.

Discussions took place and the Committee agreed and endorsed the below signage text:

"Traditional Custodians

For tens of thousands of years, the land around what is now called Lake Macquarie, has been home to Aboriginal people.

With a temperate climate and plentiful food including much marine life, evidence exists of intensive habitation in the middens along the foreshores.

Life for Aboriginal people was rich in culture and connection to Country, and they took good care of the environment.

Convict settlements at Sydney Cove and Hunter River had a dramatic effect on the Aboriginal population and by 1852, the impacts of disease, displacement, dispossession and mistreatment decimated numbers.

Today, however, both the Darkinjung and Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Councils are strong organisations supporting the needs of Aboriginal people.

In language, Awaba is "lake" and Gwandalan is "Haven of peaceful waters".

Always was... Always will be..."

Shahni Wellington stated that it would be beneficial that confirmation of the language used

in the text should be confirmed to give ownership and credit to that language.

It was noted to the Committee that Colleen Fuller provided an email opposing the reference to the Local Aboriginal Land Council's.

Norah Head Surfing Reserve Signage

The Committee discussed and requested that the reference be removed to Aunty Bronwyn Chambers being a Darkinung women.

The below text was agreed to by the Committee:

Acknowledgement Of Country

Shared by Aunty Bronwyn Chambers, proud Elder in our Community

This is Darkinung Country.

Darkinung dhi li ngura.

Welcome to our place, the land of the Darkinung people.

Yadha gayi biyn-gu nginarayinggayi ngura Darkinung people.

We acknowledge the Elders of Darkinung land yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Ngiyang acknowledge the nguraki of the Darkinung ngura barbin, yagunda, barbindu.

We acknowledge our children, our future leaders.

Ngiyang acknowledges nginarayinggayi dhuragan-gal nginarayinggayi future leaders.

We acknowledge the land, water in our oceans, and sky on Darkinung land.

Ngiyang acknowledge the ngura, badhu in our garawa, sky on Darkinung ngura.

2.4 Workshop CCC Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened discussion on an appropriate Acknowledgement of Country, with Glenn Cannard providing background to the Committee on Central Coast Council's current Acknowledgement of Country.

Barry Duncan would like it acknowledged that Darkinung Aboriginal Land Council are the cultural authority on the Central Coast. He stated that Darkinung are being shown as a development company which is untrue and this diminishes the hard work they do for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community.

In-depth discussions and workshopping occurred and it was decided that a vote was to take place due to a divide on the Committee agreeing on Acknowledgement 1 or 2.

Acknowledgement 1

“We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and recognise their continued connection to these lands and waterways. We acknowledge our future leaders and the shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.”

or

Acknowledgement 2

“We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to Darkinjung country, and Elders past and present. We recognise the continued connection to these lands and waterways, and extend this acknowledgement to the homelands and stories of those who also call this place home. We recognise our future leaders and the shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.”

A vote took place (Administrator Rik Hart abstained) and the majority voted for Acknowledgement 2.

2.5 Timeframes for Approvals

This item will be moved to the next meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

2.6 General Business

The Chair, Jake MacDonald, extended an Invitation for the Committee and their communities/families to attend Ngarrama which is a truth telling cultural exhibition created by The University of Newcastle.

Details on the event are below and the same information plus more can be found [here](#):

The free public event, in partnership with Awabakal Ltd and the City of Newcastle, will return to King Edward Park on 25 January.

Ngarrama which translates to 'to sit, listen and know' is an invitation for all to bring along your friends, family and a picnic blanket to engage in meaningful reconciliation through truth-telling, performances, open dialogue, and historical acceptance.

Held on the eve of Australia Day, the inaugural night of reflection aims to consider traditional life before 1788 and was inspired by Sydney's Vigil at Barangaroo.

The program includes a smoking ceremony, Welcome to Country, traditional dance, music, storytelling, and knowledge sharing. Ngarrama celebrates the rich culture of all First Nations people, in particular the Awabakal and Worimi people, the traditional owners of the land upon which Newcastle now stands.

The Meeting concluded at 5:06pm.

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsibility	Action Update	Status
001	03/10/23	Bring the results of the proposed signage at Norah Head Surfing Reserve back to the Committee in the December meeting.	Committee		
002	03/10/23	Amend the wording and bring back to the Committee regarding the Gwandalan Lions Club signage. It is to be amended to reflect shared Country along with amending past tense to present tense.	Unit Manager, Community and Culture		
003	03/10/23	Bring back to the Committee presentations around Council's Aboriginal employment strategy and approach to community information and engagement.	Director, Community and Recreation Services		
004	03/10/23	Arrange an Extraordinary Aboriginal Advisory Committee on Friday, 20 October 2023 – 2:30pm to 4:30pm.	Civic Support		Complete
005					

