

## **STATUS OF WOMEN ADVISORY GROUP**

15 March 2023



#### ONE - CENTRAL COAST IS THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) FOR THE CENTRAL COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

ONE - CENTRAL COAST DEFINES THE COMMUNITY'S VISION AND IS OUR ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

ONE - CENTRAL COAST BRINGS TOGETHER EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TO SET KEY DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

#### COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028

One - Central Coast will shape and inform Council's business activities, future plans, services and expenditure. Where actions are the responsibility of other organisations, sectors and groups to deliver, Council will work with key partners to advocate on behalf of our community.

Ultimately, every one of us who live on the Central Coast has an opportunity and responsibility to create a sustainable future from which we can all benefit. Working together we can make a difference.

## RESPONSIBLE

### WE'RE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY, COMMITTED TO BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND DELIVERING A GREAT CUSTOMER

**EXPERIENCE IN ALLOUR INTERACTIONS.** We value transparent and meaningful communication and use community feedback to drive strategic decision making and expenditure, particularly around the delivery of essential infrastructure projects that increase the safety, liveability and sustainability of our region. We're taking a strategic approach to ensure our planning and development processes are sustainable and accessible and are designed to preserve the unique character of the coast.



**G2** Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on trust, transparency, respect and use community participation and feedback to inform decision making

#### COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028 BELONGING COMMUNITY VISION Theme ----FRAMEWORK RESPONSIBLE A2 measure an annual similar agentional to minimi of each along the second similar back risk belande for group control of risks, be art opt, fraging for part of control, the set opt, fraging for a 혮 -私 ----------All council reports It is the second of the second contained within Focus Area SMART the Business Paper (Q) Automation are now aligned to 41 the Community Strategic Plan. Objective ú -Each report will ă 04 LIVEABLE contain a cross Č4 reference to a GREEN C. Minterpr Theme, Focus Area and Objective 2 within the ----KI tang a ΰ. ----framework of the ū ... A name to an we bear an at Plan. and the state of a state of the state

#### There are 5 themes, 12 focus areas and 48 objectives

## **Meeting Notice**

### The Status of Women Advisory Group of Central Coast Council will be held – Online, on Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 4.00pm, for the transaction of the business listed below:

1 Procedural Items

1.1	Introduction: Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies, Disclosure of Interest	4
1.2	Previous business: Confirmation of minutes, review action log	5

#### 2 Reports

2.1	Safer Cities; Her way	14
2.2	Updated Terms of Reference	26
2.3	General business	33

Beth Burgess Chairperson

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION: WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY, APOLOGIES, DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Melanie Smith – Apology Beth Burgess to chair Chairperson

#### Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Receipt of Apologies

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging and recognise their continued connection to these lands and waterways.

We acknowledge our shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.

#### 1.2 PREVIOUS BUSINESS: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES, REVIEW ACTION LOG

10 January meeting minutes for approval

#### Attachments

**1** 10 January meeting minutes D15507667

# Minutes

Status of Women Advisory Group



Date: Tuesday 10 January 2023 Time: 4pm-5:30pm Location: Microsoft Teams Chairperson: Melanie Smith, Director of Community & Recreation Services Coordinator: Belinda McRobie, Section Manager Community Development

#### Attendance

<b>Members:</b> Danielle Habib Sally Jope Monique Tovo	<b>Status:</b> Present Present Resigned 27/9/2022
Sharon Walsh Heather Irvine-Rundle Vicky Parry Kylie Smith Belinda Field Victoria Collins arrived 4:30pm Margot <b>Staff:</b>	Present Apology No response Apology Apology Present Present
Melanie Smith, Director, Community and Recreation Services	Present
Belinda McRobie, Section Manager Community Development	Present
Holly Moltzen, Community Development Worker	Present
Rachel Gibson, Team Leader Civic Support	Present

#### 1 Introduction

The chairperson welcomed the group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

Apologies received and members absent without apology were noted.

The chairperson called for any disclosures of interest. No disclosures were received

#### 2 Previous business

The group confirmed the minutes from the previous meeting as noted below, which were distributed to members via email and uploaded to Council's website:

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Central Coast Council P: 1300 463 954 E: <u>ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au</u> W: centralcoast.nsw.gov.au Wyong: 2 Hely St / PO Box 20, Wyong NSW 2259

## Minutes Status of Women Advisory Group

The group confirmed the minutes from the previous meeting as noted below, which were distributed to members via email and uploaded to Council's website:

• SOWG minutes 12 September 2022

The action log was reviewed with updates recorded (see page 5).

#### 3 Project updates/information for discussion (standing item)

Sally asked about the IWD forum with about 20 people. She stated that they were trying to create a report to send to the people who came to the IWD.

Sharon stated that she has written a report from the Safety group that she facilitates with Vicky Parry. She stated that the report has not been asked for and made available yet. Danielle stated there was a minute taker from the individual groups and each group was to write up a report.

Margot stated they ended up with a huge document and it have everything from each breakout group. Margot stated it is embarrassing when people are being told they will get feedback and they do not.

Updates provided by Belinda McRobie. Items covered and information provided:

- First nations accord was adopted by Council 12 December which included Terms of Reference for the Aboriginal advisory group. First key actions were to establish the Aboriginal Advisory group and come back to Council with who the reps are by May.
- MoU renewed with Darkinjung.
- Awarding of EOI 22 November 2022 council adopted the update on Affordable housing strategy the main action was entering into a partnership with Pacific link housing to develop the site at Ashton Ave the Entrance. Melanie stated that this is cutting edge for Council to do provide affordable housing. This shows that Council active and proactive in the affordable housing space. Administrators minute where he has asked for an investigation into more available land sites for women experiencing domestic violence.

Sharon has been doing some work with domestic violence and tranche 3. She stated that it is good to hear, and she is proud that Central Coast Council is so involved.

Monthly Community support grant program up to \$5000 closes end of January. January goes to March council meeting.

## Minutes Status of Women Advisory Group

#### 4 International Women's Day – plans for 2023

Mel asking for the history behind what we have done.

Sally said she wants Council to take a leadership role. She asked for it not to be up to the Sowag group but Council taking a leadership role and acknowledging IWD and why it is important. Mel has said be good to partner with department of health, Police and DV units. Partner with all the big groups such as Newcastle Uni/research. We need to start for 2024 now if we are going to partner with the big groups. Council has scope to provide marketing and promote.

Mel stated that she wanted to check with the Sowag group about potentially inviting some of the member organisations who have women at the cutting edge of leadership into this Sowag group.

Festival of women met with Council late 2022. Sally asked for support with graphic design of calendar and marketing support. Council Coms team is now engaged and putting things together for March. Also, assistance with paying for the promotion on the Festival of Women.

Festival of Women- IWD combined committee established by women in rotary. Started as an Expo at Newcastle Uni and then Erina Fair, Tuggerah shopping centre, 2 at The Entrance community centre. Promoted as a Calendar called the Festival of Women. This group meets throughout the year and share information.

Mel suggested the groups merge and Sally feels they are different enough to have 2 groups to have 2 separate groups. Mel asked how do we support other women's organizations as a platform for advocacy?

Sharon suggested after IWD 2023 work on actions and follow through. Sharon wants to advocate for all women not just working women.

The pitch is that council needs to come out and be vocal to support women in society. Promote the grass roots organizations.

#### Action:

Mel suggested to revisit the Terms of Reference and make the group a grounded platform that other women's organisation can tap into advisory group. Sally suggested that the Terms of reference mentions gender quality.

Mel would like to meet with other advocacy women's group.

## Minutes Status of Women Advisory Group

#### 5 Roundtable updates from members

Victoria stated we need to be the Hub that all the spokes feed into. Victoria would like more communication with Sowag.

Mel stated that Council needs to come out and be quite vocal in supporting grassroots organizations to promote the role of women in society. Further from that how do we become a peak body and at a higher lever and strong lobbing and advocacy voice.

The group stated they are happy to hear the language that Mel is using as to what the Sowag committee should represent.

#### 6 General business

#### **Meeting Dates**

Sally will not be available for IWD 8 March 2023. 15 March 2023 and would like it in person. Mel suggested alternate in person and face to face

#### **Quarterly meetings**

15 March 2023 15 June 21 September

#### Action:

Draft changes to the Terms of Reference and send out with track changes by out mid-February

Next meeting: Wednesday 15 March 2023

TBC – Online or in person at Wyong Council building

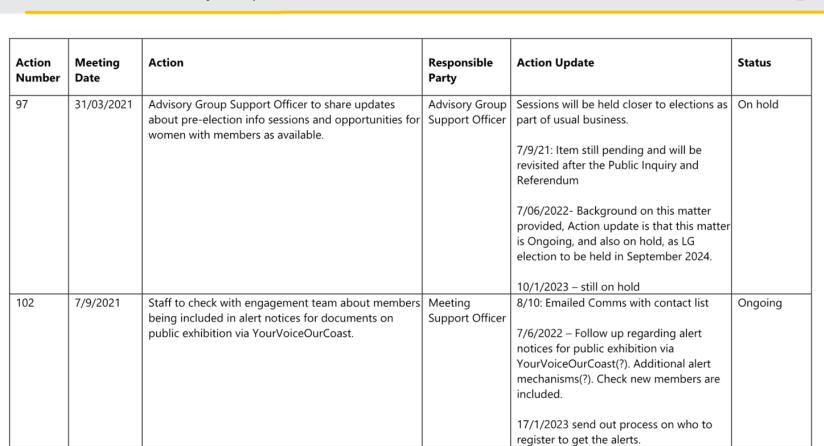
Meeting closed at 5:18PM

Minutes approved by the Coordinator and Chairperson on XX/XX/2023

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## Action log Status of Women Advisory Group



## Action log Status of Women Advisory Group



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
103	7/9/2021	Project updates and documents on exhibition to be standing item on future agendas.	Unit Manager Community and Culture / Meeting Support Officer	Update provided on 7 December 2021 meeting 7/6/2022 - Draft First Nations Accord and Draft Acknowledgement of Country – remains on exhibition. Report to August 2022 on outcomes of exhibition and recommendation/s. July Council meeting – seeking endorsement for exhibition and public comment – Council's flag and street banner policies. CRS finalising public art policy (internal document/policy) – how art is managed internally, procurement, decommission etc,. Public forum and workshop and Regional Gallery. Looking to establish a panel of artists. Separate series and workshop/s regarding public policies will occur.	Ongoing

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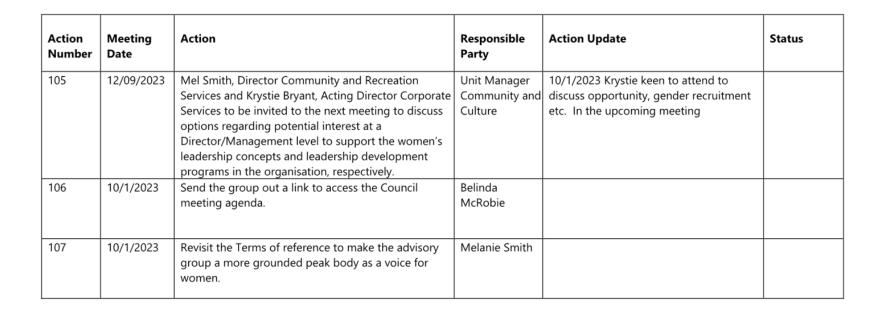
## Action log Status of Women Advisory Group



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				Grant funding – Community Development Grants and Place Activation Grants, monthly.	
				Overview of documents and policies current under public exhibition via YVOC engagement website.	
				Action: query regarding 'Let's Talk Woy Woy' and whether the session will be recorded/made publicly available.	
				Feedback regarding timing of sessions – different hours of the day etc. – community engagement and reach.	
				10/1/2023 – Belinda and Melanie to continue to give ongoing updates to information that they feel is pertinent to the group.	
104	7/06/2022	Options to be explored in relation to discuss the work of Australian Psychological Society, and potential to invite to discuss and have attendees if possible.	Heather Irvine- Rundle	<ul> <li>12/09/2022 – To be discussed further at next meeting.</li> <li>10/1/2023 – Heather an apology at the meeting holding over to next meeting</li> </ul>	Ongoing

Central Coast Council

## Action log Status of Women Advisory Group



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Item No:2.1Title:Safer Cities; Her wayDepartment:Corporate Services15 March 2023 Status of Women Advisory GroupReference:F2017/00176 - D15573952Author:Rachel Gibson, Team Leader, Civic SupportManager:Belinda McRobie, Section Manager Community Development



#### **Report purpose**

To provide information to the Status of Women Advisory Committee about the Safer Cities: Her Way project.

#### Background

The NSW Government is investing \$30 million over two years to improve safety in our cities and towns, particularly for women and girls. The aims for the Safer Cities program, based on the United Nations Safer Cities for Girls program are:

- Increase women and girls' safety and access to public spaces
- Enable women and girls to move freely and alone in their community
- Increase women and girls' engagement with how the spaces around them are designed and managed.

Her Way is one part of the Safer Cities program and is a collaborative partnership program between Transport NSW and a number of pilot councils across NSW to deliver demonstration projects aimed at improving the perception of the safety for women, girls and gender diverse people when walking or moving to, through and within public spaces and transport hubs.

#### Attachments

**1** Presentation - Safer Cities; Her Way D15574058



# Safer Cities; Her Way

**Introductory Session** 

Safer Cities: Her Way is one of five project streams under the Safer Cities program by the NSW Government which is investing \$30 million over the next two years to trial place-based approaches. The project will look at how we can improve safety for women, girls and gender diverse people when travelling to, through and within public spaces and transport hubs.

City of Sydney Places to Love Pro

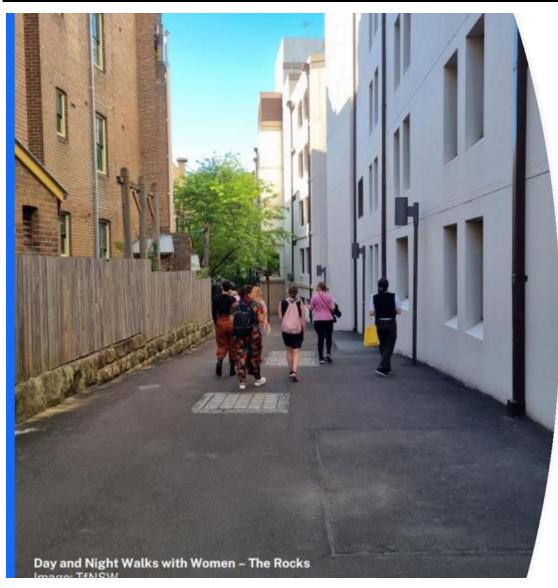
Safer Cities; Her way Presentation - Safer Cities; Her Way

# Safer Cities; Her Way

- Partnership with Transport for NSW
- \$1 million in funding for each selected council
- 10 partner councils across NSW
- Completion June 2024







## Her Way will involve:

- **Co-design** of solutions with women
- **Trial** of interventions around transport hubs to improve negative perception of safety
- **Evaluation** to inform future projects

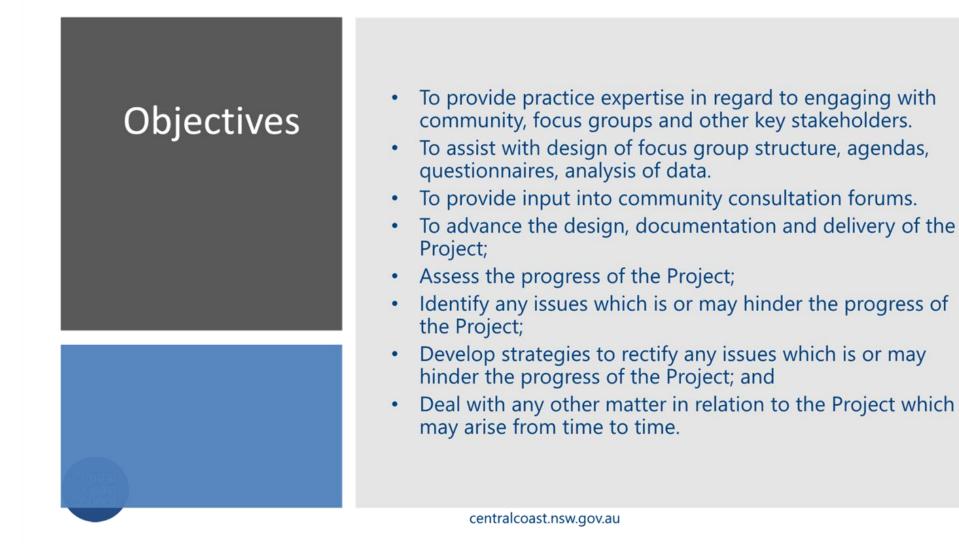
## PCG Governance structure

## Lead Agency – Central Coast Council

### Membership

- Director Community & Recreation, Central Coast Council
- Unit Manager, Libraries and Education, Central Coast Council
- Unit Manager, Communications, Marketing, Customer Experience, Central Coast Council
- Director Community, Wellbeing & Allied Health, Central Coast Local Health District
- Area Customer Service Manager, NSW Trains
- DV Co-ordinator, NSW Police, Brisbane Waters Command
- Crime Prevention Officer, NSW Police, Brisbane Waters Command
- Representative, University of Newcastle

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Attachment 1

2.1

# PCG Meetings

Meetings will take place at least every 6 weeks; via TEAMS

Key stakeholders to be invited to participate in meetings as required

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Utilising a co-design method

Community consultation will include;

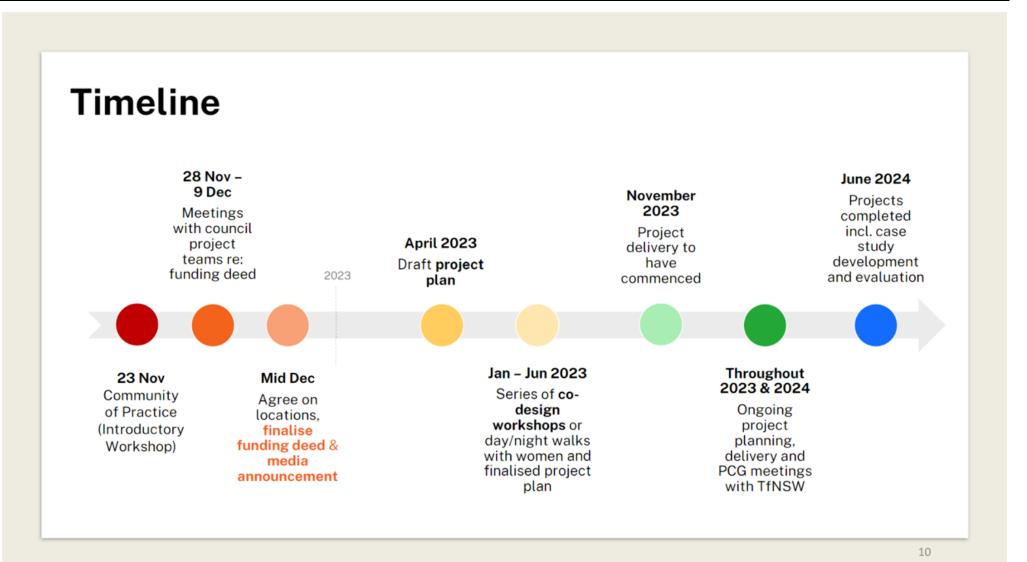
- surveys,
- on site engagement,
- focus groups and
- two night walks with women and girls to hear their perceptions of safety to compare to baseline data

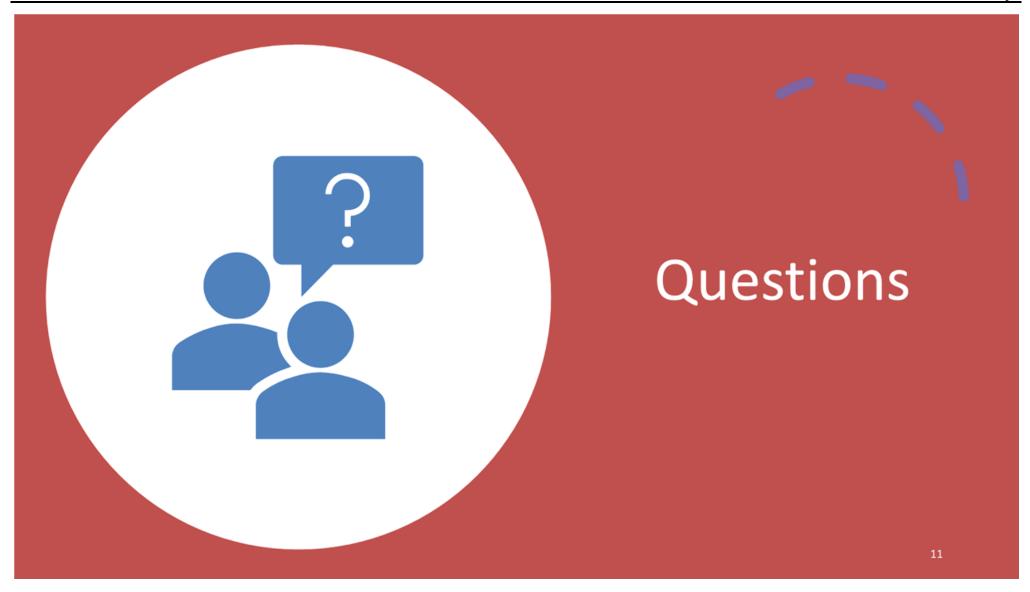
# Location

Council has selected Gosford Transport interchange and surrounding areas as its focus for the project as it is one of the main public transport entry points to the Central Coast with in-excess of 6,000 commuters daily.









#### Attachments

1 Update to SOWAG Terms of Reference - draft d15583980

#### 1. Role

Central Coast Council has an adopted Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan that will shape all activities and projects over the next four years. Council's Advisory Groups are an important mechanism for consultation, advice and feedback to Council and staff on implementation and review of the Community Strategic Plan.

The primary role of the members of the Status of Women Advisory Group is to provide advice to Council on gender equality and the empowerment of women on the Central Coast.

It is an expectation that the Status of Women Advisory Group (SOWAG) members are key influencers in the Central Coast community and are able to engage with a range of key stakeholders to affect change resulting in gender equality and empowerment of women.

This is achieved by:

- Where appropriate, advocating and providing advice to Council on gender equity issues impacting upon women across the Central Coast.
- Building the capacity of organisations and groups that represent local women to develop connections and networks by providing advice on strategies and initiatives that impact women.
- Promoting the role of women in leadership positions both within local government and in the broader community.
- Presenting as positive role models on behalf of the Status of Women Advisory Group to the broader community.

#### 2. Responsibilities

The Status of Women Advisory Group will:

- Provide feedback on Central Coast Council's Community Strategic Plan at 2- and 4year review periods and in the development of new Strategic Plans.
- Provide responses to Local, State and Federal initiatives that directly relate to gender equality and improvement of quality of life for women. Assist in the development of Council and community initiatives that aim to address gender equity issues and improve the lives of women on the Central Coast
- Identify strategies to develop social, economic and personal leadership opportunities for women.
- Identify and promote mentoring opportunities and networks for women.
- Advocate on and raise community awareness about issues affecting women.
- Promote the important role and contributions of women in our community.

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#### 3. Membership, voting and quorum

Membership	
Councillors	
Community Members	Margot Castles Victoria Collins Belinda Field Danielle Habib Heather Irvine-Rundle Sally Jope Vickie Parry Kylie Smith Sharon Walsh
Council Staff:	Director Community and Recreation Services or delegate

Membership on the Advisory Group is for the term of Council. All members will be stood down when Council goes into the caretaker period prior to Local Government elections.

Members can re-apply with the new term of Council.

Voting Member Voting Member

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Community members must be women who are representative of, but are not limited to, at least one of the following:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community
- Young people under the age of 25
- Culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- People with a disability
- Local women's organisations and/ or groups

Community members will be appointed by the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate on a merit basis, as a result of an Expression of Interest process.

The staff holding the following Central Coast Council positions may attend Advisory Group meetings:

- Director, Community and Recreation Services (or their delegate)
- Section Manager, Community and Cultural Development
- Community Development Worker

Council officers will provide professional advice and administrative support.

Employees of the Council are not subject to the direction of the Advisory Group or any members of it.

Staff attendance is at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate.

Non-staff members are appointed to the Advisory Group for the remainder of the current Council term, although membership can be altered at any time by a resolution of Council.

Membership can be withdrawn by resolution of Council.

If a member misses three consecutive meetings without apology, their membership may be withdrawn, and their position deemed vacant.

The Advisory Group has no authority to make decisions on behalf of Council.

The Advisory Group has no authority to direct Council staff.

#### Casual Vacancy

Casual vacancies will be appointed by the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate in accordance with the initial membership process.

#### Chairperson

The Chairperson of the Advisory Group will be a Councillor or a delegated staff member. In the absence of the Chairperson, another Councillor Member of the Advisory Group, or a

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#### delegated Central Coast Council staff member shall chair 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.

Where the Mayor is appointed to be a delegate to an Advisory Group, it is not necessary that the Mayor be the Chairperson.

#### Coordinator

A *Coordinator* shall be appointed by the Director Community and Recreation Services or their delegate.

The *coordinator* shall be a staff member of Council and is responsible for coordinating the preparation of agendas, invitations and minutes of the Advisory Group. The Facilitator shall also be responsible for coordinating any presentations from guest speakers and for considering requests from members of the public to address the Committee in consultation with the Chairperson.

The *coordinator* has the right to refuse a request from a member of the public to address the Advisory Group if it is deemed more appropriate for that person to address a formal Council meeting.

#### Voting

No formal voting rules apply.

As the Advisory Group has an advisory role, its recommendations are to be made by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, a vote may be taken at the request of the Chair. The vote will be carried by a majority of voting members. The meeting record will reflect this process.

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Council is the decision-making body and the Advisory Group provides recommendations for consideration.

The Advisory Group may agree to allow participation in meetings through conference calls and other technology.

As no formal voting rules apply, there is no proxy voting. The Quorum for a meeting is half the non-Councillor representatives and at least two Council officers. However, the Chairperson shall use their discretion to determine if a meeting should be postponed due to insufficient members being able to attend.

- 4. Meetings
- Meetings are held quarterly.
- The Chairperson has the authority to call additional meetings.
- The agenda and meeting papers will be distributed to members at least three days prior to the meeting.
- The Advisory Group shall meet at times and dates determined by consensus of the Group.
- The Advisory Group meetings will be held at the Central Coast Council Civic Centre, Wyong or another venue agreed to by the Advisory Group members.
- Meetings will be recorded by the taking of minutes. The minutes are a record of agreed outcomes and do not record discussion.

#### 5. Communications and reporting

The agendas and minutes of the Advisory Group will be stored as a permanent record of Council. All agendas and meeting records will be published on Council's website.

Where the Advisory Group recommends an action that is outside the delegation of staff to determine, a report will be provided to Council.

Staff will prepare the report that recommends that Council note the minutes of the Advisory Group. Reporting of Advisory Group recommendations to Council will be reported as Committee Recommendations without change. Staff will also provide professional commentary on the Advisory Group's recommendation where appropriate and provide a staff recommendation which may or may not align to that of the Group. The Council may, at its discretion, resolve to adopt some or all the Advisory Group's recommendations and advice.

Where the Advisory Group has not recommended an action, the minutes will be reported to Council as an Information Report only.

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#### 6. Conduct.

Conduct of members is expected to be consistent with the principles outlined in the Code of Conduct.

Members of the Advisory Group are not permitted to speak to the media or make representations on social media on behalf of the Advisory Group or Council unless approved by Council.

#### 7. Cessation of Advisory Group

All member positions of the advisory group are declared vacant at the enactment of the caretaker period prior to every local government election.

Council may at its discretion by resolution of Council cease operation of the Advisory Group.

Date	Details
18 December 2017	Document adoption as per Council resolution from 18 December 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting.
13 August 2018	Updated as per Council resolution from 13 August 2018 Ordinary Council Meeting. Amendments provided by members on 11 July 2018 meeting.
11 November 2019	Quorum updated as per Council resolution from 11 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting.
11 March 2020	Membership updated following appointment of Monique Tovo. Format updated to correct template. Approved by Julie Vaughan (Director Connected Communities).
31 March 2021	Meeting frequency updated as per revised Advisory Group formats adopted on 23 March 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting.
9 August 2022	Membership references updated as per Council resolution from 14 September 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting.
22 February 2023 (this version)	Draft revision of terms of reference to modernize and include advocacy.

#### 8. Version history

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#### 2.3 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 1. International Women's Day 2023 update of activities
- 2. Council project updates/ information for discussion
- 3. Update from members
- 4. General Business
- 5. Next meeting

Close meeting X.XXpm