

MINUTES

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP

2.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST 2016



PRESENT

Lord Mayor Cr. Gordon Bradbery

Cr Jill Merrin

Uncle Richard Archibald

Leanne Olive

Jade Kennedy

IN ATTENDANCE

Kerry Hunt – Community, Cultural & Economic Development Manager

Armando Reviglio – Chair

Jody Clark – Community Worker

Renee Campbell – Environmental Strategy & Planning Manager

Vanni De Luca – Environment & Conservation Services Manager

Kristy Blackburn – Environmental Strategy Officer

Penny Spoelder – TRC Tourism

Monica McDonald – TRC Tourism

Kristeen Sandercock – Minutes

1 WELCOME - Chair

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – Chair

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – NIL

4 APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of:
Aunty Bev Armer, Sharralyn Robinson, Sue Savage

5 MOUNT KEIRA UPDATE

Renee Campbell advised the Draft Vision had been endorsed by Council and the Plan of Management for the site will be based on the Draft Vision.

She introduced Penny Spoelder and Monica McDonald from TRC Tourism who are Council's Consultants working with Council in this process. Penny advised they will be holding 2 sessions/meetings on-site at Mount Keira, the first on 6 September and then on 7 September. Aboriginal Elders and key Aboriginal groups have been invited to these sessions which will take the form of informal discussions on how this area is to be managed and what activities may be considered to take place at the site. The purpose is to share, learn and obtain information about the site. Consultation with the general community will be held on Tuesday 13 September at The Salvation Army Building at about 5.30/6.00pm.

Following on from these consultation/information sessions, a Concept Master Plan will be drafted and the draft Plan of Management (POM) will be presented to the same groups at a later date. The draft POM will go out for Public Exhibition and comment. Once comments and feedback are received and the Draft Plan has been put together, Aboriginal Elders and key Aboriginal groups will again be invited to meet and look at the Plan.

A member made the following statement: There is a lot of time involved in this process; people need time to travel to Mount Keira for the meeting and the duration of the meeting. It's a lot to ask of people in their busy schedules.

Members requested that we ensure this is not a wasted experience because this process involves a lot of time throughout the day from the Elders and others to meet and be involved with meetings and feedback and the time given needs to be acknowledged.

It was agreed to make this a standing item for future Aboriginal Reference Group meetings.

6 LAKE ILLAWARRA MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Kristy Blackburn advised that the Consultants (BMT WBM) have drafted a Synthesis Study & Engagement Strategy which gives current information about the health of the Lake at present. There are some items missing from the report. A LIEMC meeting was held on 10 August and Jade Kennedy and Paul Knight attended as Aboriginal community representatives. The next document to be produced by the Consultant is a Uses/Values and Threats/Pressures Chapter. There are some important dates coming up for Public Domain – these are listed on a sheet attached to the Minutes.

The Outcome is to have a table with a list of priorities of issues around the lake. An agency will be responsible to follow up on each listed item so that action is taken. Every suggestion will be looked at and taken on board.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2016

8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Blue Dreaming Public Artwork – Belmore Basin. This work is being looked at by Council for repair. There is some preliminary work required in the planning for the repairs to ensure the products used are effective and do not damage the art works.

Revision of Aboriginal Reference Group membership: for members being no-shows. Geoff Maher has indicated he will resign. Does the Charter have a quorum number of members before decisions can be made? Charter was presented and no quorum required. Members felt that making decisions with 3 Aboriginal Members in attendance is not satisfactory. Often decisions are held over to the next meeting due to lack of attendance. Recognition of the need for a quorum is to be put in place when the Charter comes up for review, with the suggestion that it be “half the members” that make a quorum. The Reference Group formally decided not to send future Minutes and Agendas to Geoff Maher and Derek Hardman (who has left the area) as they are no longer members of the Reference Group. Due to the uncertainty of the proposed Council merger, recruitment for the Reference Group will not be undertaken until the merger decision is made.

9 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER UPDATE

Reconciliation Week – based on sharing stories. Over 1500 people attended during the day with lots of positive feedback from the Aboriginal community about this event. Schools were on board and enthusiastic to take part. There have been many requests for this event to take place again next year. The “pay as you feel” experiment worked with a good amount of money being “paid” on the night.

NAIDOC Week – Family Fun Day at Dapto was a good day with between 1500-2000 people attending the day. The change of venue to Dapto worked well and the number of activities conducted validated the grant that Council provided towards the day. Venue would be great again for next year.

The date for the Lord Mayor lunch had to be changed (due to unforeseen circumstances) and as a result less people were in attendance than last year.

NAIDOC Awards Dinner – It was a very successful night with over 400 people in attendance. A \$100 gift voucher was handed in at reception, Jody will follow up on whom/where this belongs. Next year is Wollongong’s turn to host the dinner, however, the operational logistics of where it will be held are still to be determined.

Aboriginal Cemetery – the road into this section within Kembla Grange cemetery will not be built until 2017/2018 and as such this project is on hold until that point of time.

Employment – Civil works positions interviewed 2 Aboriginal applicants. There are some part-time life guards who will commence at the start of the summer season.

Hill 60 Public Art – Consultation was sent out to the Aboriginal Community and Council agreed to engage a local person to conduct this part of the consultation process. Three local people were approached and they were asked to provide a 1 page document detailing their work experience, within 5 days. One person declined due to their current workload, two said yes but after waiting 5 days nothing was received. Jody has followed them up, but as of this meeting, no one has responded and it's 2 weeks beyond the requested date. The decision was made to engage Chris Edwards (who worked on the Bald Hill artworks) to consult with the Aboriginal Community for this initial part of the project. The members – while in this instance agreed that Chris as a non-local Aboriginal person be used – agreed that this decision is not the answer for future projects.

It was stated that time issues seem to always be against the Aboriginal Community. Community consultation will be held for the 2nd phase and we will strive to have a greater time frame to allow applicants to submit their EOI. It was strongly suggested that a more flexible EOI process and longer time periods be followed in the future. It was also noted that this is about 'Consultation versus Knowledge' and the absence of 'payment' for Aboriginal knowledge takes place as it is considered 'consultation' by Council. Council's Consultant for the Mount Keira vision will be 'paid' but the knowledge provided by Aboriginal people is 'given' freely; this does not seem fair.

It was also put forward that a particular skillset is required in certain consultation situations but at times members of the Aboriginal Community are not ready for when the EOI process is held. Aboriginal Community members do have skills but some may need mentoring in being able to submit stronger submissions within Councils' tendering processes.

10 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

No more discussion held.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Uncle Richard asked about the Cemetery at Garrawarra – do we need permission from Council to go there and does anyone know how the work being carried out is going? Advice was that it is open 3 days per year. Not sure about the work but it is to be followed up for the next meeting.

Where does the money go from the parking meters around Wollongong? This item is to be followed up for the next meeting.

The Scouting Association contacted Armando about wanting to encourage and support more Aboriginal young people to join in their clubs across the LGA. Uncle Richard offered that he would like to meet with them to discuss ideas on how to make that happen.

The Multicultural Reference Group has decided to meet 2 times per year. Is this something that the Aboriginal Reference Group would like to consider or do we want to continue operating as we do? It was decided to remain with our 4 meetings per year.

12 NEXT MEETING – will be held on Wednesday 23 November 2016.

The meeting concluded at 3.50pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 23 November 2016.

2016 – Future Meeting Schedule		
Wednesday 23 November	Level 10 Committee Rooms 2 and 3	2pm – 4pm

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
1/16	Maintenance follow up for Blue Dreaming Public Artwork	Armando	Closed
11	Cemetery at Garrawarra – what work has been completed and what work is still to be completed	Jody	To be actioned
11	Meeting with the Illawarra Scouts	Uncle Richard	To be actioned
11	Money collected from the Parking Meters around Wollongong – where is the money spent/used?	Armando	To be actioned

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LAKE ILLAWARRA



Update for the WCC Aboriginal Reference Group 24 Aug 2016

- The consultants have drafted a Synthesis Study and Engagement Strategy.
 - These two documents were presented to the Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee (LIEMC) for comment on Aug 10th.
 - The Engagement Strategy was accepted.
 - We are in the process of finalising the Synthesis.
- The consultant and I met with Jade Kennedy and Paul Knight on Aug 10th and discussed the plan for the lake, the process and ideas for preferred outcomes.
- Paul Knight attended the LIEMC meeting on Aug 10th as the Aboriginal community representative.
- The next document that will be produced by the consultant is a Uses/ Values and Threats/ Pressures Chapter.

Important dates are:

- **21st Sept 2016** – next opportunity for one-on-one meetings with the consultant
- **21st Oct** – letters (and survey) posted out to foreshore residents, email sent to stakeholder groups, media release, website (including survey) up and running.
- **31st Oct and 1st Nov** - Public information sessions in the evening.
- **1st and 2nd Nov** – information pop-ups at shopping centres, at reserves etc.
- **8th and 9th Feb 2017** – opportunity for one-on-one with consultants.
- **10th and 11th May 2017** - opportunity for one-on-one with consultants.
- **June 2017** – draft CZMP released to the public.
- **July 2017** – community refining workshop.
- **Sept 2017** – formal public exhibition of CZMP
- **8th and 9th Nov 2017** - opportunity for one-on-one with consultants.
- **End of Nov 2017** – finalise the CZMP

Please let me know if you are interested in having a one-on-one meeting (and a suitable time and place) with myself and the consultant on 21st Sept.

Kristy Blackburn
Environmental Strategy Officer – Lake Illawarra
4227 7896
kblackburn@wollongong.nsw.gov.au