

**Minutes of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reference Group Meeting
10 October 2017**

Level 3, Function Room, Petersham Administration Building

The meeting commenced at 6:30pm

Attendance

Members:

Jessica Staines
Allan Barnes
Ben Bowen
John Staines
Pam Touma

IWC Staff:

Rebecca Carroll (IWC – Aboriginal Programs)
Joshua Staines (IWC – Aboriginal/ Youth Programs/ Family and Children Programs)
Gabiella Rennard (IWC – Community Wellbeing Manager)
Caroline McLeod (IWC – Group Manager, Library and History Services)

Inner West Councillors:

Clr Marghanita Da Cruz – Leichhardt Ward
Clr Collin Hesse – Marrickville Ward
Clr Louise Steer – Stanmore Ward
Clr Tom Kiat – Ashfield Ward

Apologies

Phillip Butler
Therese Heffernan
Rebekah Raymond

Members:

1. Welcome

Ben Bowen welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

Jessica Staines performed an Acknowledgement of Country

3. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies from Phillip Butler, Therese Heffernan and Rebekah Raymond were noted.

Members and staffed introduced themselves.

4. Code of Conduct and Disclosures of Interest

Jessica Staines and John Staines declared a family relationship to Council staff member Joshua Staines. The interest is considered such that it will not conflict with independent decision making.

5. Summary of Recommendations from previous Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reference Group meetings was received and noted.

Moved: John/Jessica

1. That the information in the summary of recommendations be received and noted by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Reference Group

6. 'Patyegarang Place' Public Artwork Presentation

Caroline McLeod, Group Manager Library and History Services provided a presentation and update on the Patyegarang Place public artwork.

Moved: John/Bob

1. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group noted the following feedback with respect to the proposed public artwork for Patyegarang Place:-
 - a) the Strategic Reference Group endorse the proposed public place artwork and consultation process to engage the local Aboriginal community for 'Patyegarang Place' as outlined in the presentation by Caroline McLeod, Group Manager Library and History Services.
 - b) that the role and work of Nardi Simpson and Aboriginal Community are acknowledged for their contribution to the artwork.
 - c) That the artwork proposed for the garden area be undertaken by an Aboriginal artist as it was initially earmarked for Aboriginal artist Adam Hill,
 - d) that Council investigate how to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into the new library facility. Suggestions included
 - incorporating a bush tucker garden,
 - carpet design and;
 - clay history wall (refer to the academic work and records of Bruce Pascoe).
2. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group recommended that future targeted engagement of Aboriginal artists and services include Aboriginal representation on selection panels.
3. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group recommended that Council consider allowing longer timelines for artists to respond to an expression of interest process and work collaboratively with other stakeholders in regards to tenders or expression of interests.

Commentary from SRG members regarding 'Patyegarang Place':

Questions were asked how could all stakeholders be acknowledged and how can council convey the entire journey and process of the artwork.

How can Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and perspectives be featured throughout the entire facility and not segregated.

Investigate how Aboriginal artist can create art for other areas of the library, carpets have been identified as a possibility.

How could the history of IWACC be acknowledged in the space.

Caroline noted that any proposals for inclusions into the 'Patyegarang' site are to be submitted via the major projects team. This is noted as a lengthy process and would require a council resolution.

Positive to include environmental and interpretative signage orientated around IWACC and the unique specific history of the site.

7. Inner West Council Acknowledgement and Welcome to Country Protocols

Moved: John/Bob

1. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Reference Group recommends that Council adopts the following statement for official Council email signature:

"Council acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands are the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora Nation'

2. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Reference Group recommends that Council adopts the following options for Acknowledgment of Country.

"Today we gather on the traditional lands of the Gadigal and Wangal people, lands on which Aboriginal peoples have performed age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. I acknowledge their custodianship over many centuries and their ongoing connection to these lands and contribution to our community"

"I would like to acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora nation who are the traditional custodians of this land. I would also like to pay respect to Aboriginal Elders, past and present, and acknowledge their young people who will be our future leaders."

3. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Reference Group recommends that Council seeks feedback from the SRG members regarding the content of the 'Aboriginal Acknowledgement and Welcome to Country Protocol Guide' which will inform the development of a Council policy document.

Commentary:

Investigate if Tracey Bostock's version of acknowledgement of country could be included in the staff guide.

Include a rate range of \$250 to \$600 for procurement of acknowledgement of country.

That the protocols include information regarding potential conflict of interest for staff and family members in regards to procurement processes.

8. Inner West Council Naming/Co-naming Guide**Moved: John/Bob**

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Reference Group recommends that Council adopts the content of the draft 'Inner West Council Aboriginal Naming/co-naming Guide'. The content will be used to inform Council policy and procedures. That the guide be amended to include a further point under 'Background' that advises co-naming is not used just for namesake but used for actual Aboriginal cultural or historical significance.

Commentary:

ATSIRG members are invited to attend site visits with Council staff to get a better feel for the site being named.

Concerns raised around co-naming just for the sake of co-naming/quick fix. It was suggested that documents are best to be placed on public exhibition where appropriate.

SRG suggested that Council consider working towards developing a statement of commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

9. Aboriginal Naming Projects**Moved: Bob/Jessica**

That the recommendations regarding the Aboriginal Naming projects be re-tabled at the next reference group meeting after members have had the opportunity to investigate the facilities and laneway.

10. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Intellectual Property Framework

Moved: not moved

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group members had some general discussion and feedback regarding the development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander intellectual property framework.

Commentary:

It was acknowledged that this is a challenging and complicated area that no one including university institutions seem to have a thorough grasp of.

It was determined that further work be undertaken with regard to developing the draft framework prior to tabling the information at the next Strategic Reference Group meeting.

Implement checklists and briefs/synopses that can be accessed by community to understand what has been submitted and how it will be used. Ultimate goal to resource Inner West Council Staff and community.

Seek resourcing and further information from the Copyright Council of Australia.

11. Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference (LGAN) 2017 Summary Report

Moved: Bob/John

1. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group receive and note the summary report on the Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference (LGAN) 2017
2. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Reference Group note that the NSW Government are undertaking important reforms to Aboriginal cultural heritage management and conversation. Public consultations about the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill have now commenced and the ATSIRG are strongly encouraged to attend local consultations about this reform to have their say.

Next Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reference Group Meeting (14 November 2017, Petersham Service Centre)

The meeting concluded at 9:52pm