

**Minutes of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reference Group Meeting
6 June 2017**

Level 3, Function Room, Petersham Administration Building

The meeting commenced at 6:30pm

Attendance

Members:

Jessica Staines
Phillip Butler
Alana Freeburn
Ben Bowen
John Staines

IWC Staff:

Rebecca Carroll (IWC – Strategic Community Projects Officer, Aboriginal Inclusion)
Joshua Staines (IWC – Aboriginal/ Youth Programs/ Family and Children Programs)
Lynne George (IWC – Acting Group Manager, Community Services and Culture)

LRAC Member: Vera-Ann Hannaford

Apologies

Janelle Scott
Robert (Bob) Webb
Rebekah Raymond
Allan Barnes

As there was no quorum the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Reference Group could not move on recommendations. However the Group determined to proceed, undertake discussions and provide feedback as follows:

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 noted.

There was not a quorum so it was decided to go ahead with the meeting without the Reference Group making official recommendations.

Members and staff introduced themselves.

4. Code of Conduct and Disclosures of Interest

Conflicts of Interest – Pecuniary Interest

If there were none stated – please note - Nil

5. The SRG members noted the summary update of Recommendations from previous Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reference Group meetings

6. NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout 2017

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Reference Group noted the information provided regarding the NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout 2017 and are aware of contacting Redfern All Blacks to discuss any potential volunteer opportunities with the event

7. Inner West Council Community Strategic Plan Consultation (continuation from 4 April 2017 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group meeting)

The SRG had further discussion regarding the Community Strategic Plan and provided the following feedback for consideration:

From a Planning & Development perspective:

- Allocate a small amount of money from DA's towards an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public projects and programs and public arts works
- Housing affordability
- Working with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council
- Put in DA (S94) proposal for space to be used as a hub

From a Planning & Development perspective:

- Mentoring for more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into leadership roles – encourage involvement in democratic processes
- Engage school career advisors to work teens on Council roles/leadership
- Councillors should all undertake Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural appreciation training as well as Council staff
- Camps to teach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people about Aboriginal protocols and culture

- Program based on existing one at Australian Bureau of Statistics where Director role would work in an Aboriginal organisation to share their knowledge and expertise and capacity build
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to do work experience in Council childcare
- Develop standard approach/protocols for early childhood

From a Local Business and Industry perspective

- Workshops teaching basic skills for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses
- Pop up shops
- Share skills and ideas – offer Wifi, desks, hubs, different business people to share expertise
- Affordability of shop fronts
- Stall opportunities (Council provide) at events such as festivals, NAIDOC week, markets etc
- Integration: ie: Long Lunch project
- Component to encourage all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business to engage in Council festivals and events
- Resource guide of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses – contact list

8. NSW Local Government Stronger Community Funds – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Projects

Commentary:

As there was no quorum the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Reference Group could not move on the recommendation. However the Group made the following points regarding the proposed tender for the initial stages of the Dual naming/Wayfinding from the Cooks River to Iron Cove Bay:

- Group in favour of the concept of dual naming/way finding but expressed concern regarding the amount of funds allocated to the research component of the project, in the opinion of present members, additional funds would be required.
- Present members would like to park the request about supporting the Greenway Project until further information can be provided to the Group in regards to Intellectual Property.

9. Other Business

a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizen of the year

Joshua Staines put forward Council's suggestion to create Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizen of the year award.

b) Feedback ERLGATSIF Pauline McLeod Awards

Discussion took place about the Pauline McLeod Awards which Council supports through the Eastern Region Local Government Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Forum (ERLGATSIF). Jessica Staines provided feedback regarding process:

- Only Orange Grove School was included, not enough schools across the LGA were engaged.
- One early learning service in particular were only given two days notice of the event which was not enough time to arrange the children and educators to all attend.

The idea of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander awards was well received however this topic to be discussed further. In addition, Council staff expressed that certain aspects of the event may change in the future now that the whole Inner West Council have agreed to support ERLGATSIF not just the former Leichhardt Council. Council staff also agreed to pass on the group's feedback at the next ERLGATSIF meeting (16 June 2017).

b) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander projects

There was not enough time to discuss.

c) NAIDOC Week 2017

Rebecca Carroll provided flyers for both the Koori Kids Disco and Marrickville Library events.

d) Cooks River Alliance – Culture and Country Event and Forum (16 June 2017)

Rebecca Carroll spoke about Council's support of the Culture and Country event, distributed flyers and advised all members that if they wish to book they can go directly through her.

**Next Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Reference Group Meeting
1 August 2017, Petersham Service Centre**

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm