

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft MINUTES

Thursday 15 July 2021

7pm – 9pm

Zoom Meeting



WAVERLEY
COUNCIL

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by the Mayor.

Present

Councillors	
Clr Paula Masselos	Councillor
Clr Dominic WY Kanak	Councillor
Council Officers	
Emily Scott	General Manager
Sharon Cassidy	Acting Director, Community Assets and Operations
Annette Trubenbach	Executive Manager, Community Programs
Rebecca Rodwell	Manager, Community Planning & Partnerships
Elizabeth Reidy	Co-ordinator, Curator and Visual Arts
Community Member/Organisations	
Micheal Mahoney	Resident
Sally Walker	Resident/Gujaga Foundation/Traditional Owner
Walangari Karntawarra	Resident
Chris Bonney	Resident
Aunty Barbara Keeley	Traditional Owner

2. Apologies

Clr Angela Burrell, Clr Tony Kay, Clr Leon Goltsman

3. Photo to celebrate first committee meeting

4. Introductions and inductions

Group activity & introductions

Members introduced themselves and spoke about why they joined the committee and what they wanted the committee to achieve. Responses included:

- Show strong representation
- Recognition

- Getting to know people's stories
- Giving back to the community
- Sharing common goals
- Promoting healing
- Caring for Country
- Bringing people together

Terms of Reference & Purpose of the Committee

The objective of the Committee is to provide cultural advice, guidance, feedback and support around implementation and monitoring of actions, projects and commitments identified in the RAP.

Councillor Representation

The Mayor, Councillor Masselos and Councillor WY Kanak have been appointed as co-chairs of the committee. Crs Lewis and Goltsman have been appointed to the committee.

Membership

Currently consists of six members, and two vacant positions.

The role of the Committee is to support the implementation of Council's RAP by:

- Providing support to engage the community and facilitate connections.
- Providing cultural advice (where appropriate).
- Promoting a shared knowledge and understanding of Council's commitment to Reconciliation.
- Providing feedback and suggestions around events, activities, projects and documents.
- Identifying suitable funding sources and potential partnership opportunities
- Providing input into the development of Council's Reconciliation Action Plans.
- The General Manager may also place before the Committee such other matters as they think fit where the Committee's input may add value.
- The advisory status of the Committee means that it may provide input to Council officers and make recommendations to Council or its Standing Committees.

The Committee is not authorised to:

- Make decisions on behalf of Council
- Expend money on behalf of Council
- Commit the Council to any actions or arrangements
- Direct Council officers in the performance of their duties, or
- Represent the Council in any communication with the public or media.

The **Code of Conduct** states that you must not conduct yourself in a manner that:

- a) is likely to bring the council or other council officials into disrepute
- b) is contrary to statutory requirements or the council's administrative requirements or policies
- c) is improper or unethical
- d) is an abuse of power
- e) causes, comprises of or involves intimidation or verbal abuse
- f) involves the misuse of your position to obtain a private benefit
- g) constitutes harassment or bullying behaviour under this code, or is unlawfully discriminatory.

You must act lawfully and honestly, and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence in carrying out your functions under the LGA or any other Act. (section 439)

Action

The Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct will be circulated to the committee.

5. Reconciliation Action Plan

Achievements to date

- Establishment of the RAP Advisory Committee.
- Business case approved for a 3 day/week Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Development Officer role – an identified position.
- Seven Aboriginal young people employed as Apprentices and Trainees.
- Three Early Childhood Education Centres (EECs) and Family Day Care have launched their RAP.
- Support provided through small grants to ‘Holly Days’ program.
- Promotion/adoption of cultural protocols through email signatures, acknowledgement signs available in meeting rooms.
- Online activities and events through the Arts and Culture team, Library and EECs.
- Draft cultural protocols developed.
- Provided economic opportunities for Indigenous owned businesses.
- Increased engagement from Council officers across several teams (Library, Arts & Culture, Heritage)

Cultural Protocols

A draft Cultural Protocols document has been developed by Council and reviewed by the Gujaga Foundation.

Action

Circulate the draft protocols document to the committee prior to the next meeting.

Co naming & Bondi Pavilion

Council is currently working on some projects around co naming and incorporating local Indigenous words into projects, including the Bondi Pavilion project using the local Dharawal language. The aim of this is to ensure Aboriginal cultures are more visible within Waverley. The Gujaga Foundation has been supporting these projects (<https://www.gujaga.org.au/>). A question was asked about whether Gadigal language was a local language and Sally (Gujaga) explained that the Dharawal language was the overarching language spoken from the Sydney region down to the South Coast.

6. Other Items

Sovereignty Discussion – What is Council’s role?

Councillor WY Kanak raised the issue of Sovereignty and what Council’s role should be. Feedback suggested that this is a Federal issue and is challenging for Elders. It also led to a discussion about having more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices represented at Council, whether it be

through encouraging more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to become elected representatives, or through inclusion in Council processes.

Action

Councillor WY Kanak to prepare a Notice of Motion for Council around increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates and elected Councillors.

Indigenous Art in Waverley

A concern had been raised around a proposal for a mural at the North Bondi Kids Pool, as two of the three shortlisted artists are Indigenous artists who are not from the local area, and therefore not telling local stories. The expression of interest was not specifically for an Indigenous piece and it was open to any artist. Consultation had taken place around the appropriateness of the art proposals and further exploration of this issue will be incorporated into the protocols document.

Action

Explore this issue further in relation to the Cultural Protocols document.

Flag Protocols

A question was raised about whether we could fly flags at half mast during Sorry Business and on the 14th of February.

Action

Incorporate suggestion into the Cultural Protocols document.

Explore appropriate locations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at Bondi Beach.

7. Meetings in 2021

September and November

Future items for discussion

- Rock Carvings
- Bondi Park