

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday 23 September 2021
6pm – 8pm
Zoom Meeting



1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Aunty Barb performed a Welcome to Country.

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
Tanya Goldberg	Executive Manager,
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, Peter Cooley

3. Acceptance of previous minutes and matters arising

Moved – Sally **Seconded** – Chris **Carried**

4. Reconciliation Action Plan

Bondi Pavilion – Naming and Keeping Place

Tanya provided an update of the naming project in the Bondi Pavilion. Through working with the Gujaga Foundation, Council has named 5 of the spaces with local Dharawal names.



Space	Proposed Name	Meaning
Atrium	Mirrar Atrium	Above and Sky
Flexible Cultural Space	Yalagang Room	Rejoice
Northern Courtyard	Garu Courtyard	Northern Area
Southern Courtyard	Guya Courtyard	Southern Area
Balcony	Nandiri Balcony	Look or See

Sound bytes have been provided to assist with pronunciation. The research team at Gujaga can provide context and detailed descriptions about the words and meanings.

A question was raised about which Elders were consulted through this process. Sally identified Rod Mason, Shane Williams, Davey Ingrey and Aunty Marilyn and Liz Timbrey as some of the Elders who were consulted. Aunty Barb expressed concern that some Elders had not been consulted. The Mayor, Tanya and Sally will discuss further how we can include Elders in this process.

Michael supported the naming of country, however felt that when naming places it is also important to ensure these places are respected and looked after (eg Biddigal Reserve).

Chris provided the example of Uluru – this was renamed a number of years ago and is now the accepted name by people throughout the world. The aspiration is for words to become part of the fabric of the building.

Tanya also discussed a Councillor resolution regarding a ‘Keeping Place’ within the Bondi Pavilion.

- 1. Council officers, in discussion with the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Committee, prepare a feasibility report on the process to establish, design and operate an Aboriginal Keeping Place at Bondi Pavilion to celebrate aspects of ancient and modern Aboriginal First Nations culture, heritage and cultural artefacts specific to the Bondi/Eastern Suburbs area, such as the Bondi points.*
- 2. The Feasibility Report include, together with the RAP, consultation with museums and galleries, such as the Australian Museum which has an extensive collection of Bondi points, to investigate a process to physically display boondiboondi Bondi-connected Aboriginal heritage items at Bondi Pavilion to supplement the information provided through the virtual stories to be featured after the Bondi Pavilion makeover is completed.*
- 3. Should physical display not be feasible, Council considers including photography or 3D imaging of Bondi points to be priority-featured in the Bondi Story Room visual archive and investigates featuring content about Bondi points and other Indigenous artefacts alongside language translations, stories and cultural history to provide ongoing cultural learning for all who use and visit Bondi Pavilion.*

Officers have started researching the feasibility of incorporating a ‘Keeping Place’ into the Pavilion. Feedback from the Australian Museum indicates that there are significant limitations around object display, but many opportunities for alternative engagement. The main issue is the facility, with only A1 rated institutions suitable for Cultural collections with the care and environment a critical factor (ie . Other issues identified were that the Bondi Pavilion is that the Pavilion Conservation and Heritage Project is underway and plans have been approved.

Tanya also mentioned the Bondi Story Room (within Bondi Pavilion), which will be an interactive digital space which will contain information about Bondi – past and present. Council is working on a significant number of stories related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history to incorporate into the Story Room. A presentation will be available to the committee in 2022.

Feedback from the committee included;

- Council is taking positive steps to consult knowledge holders
- Any exhibition or information should be accessible to all users of the space
- There is great potential for partnerships
- Managing artefacts can be very difficult , considering alternate opportunities is sensible
- Can Council look at 3D printing or models to allow people for more engagement
- Consult with institutions such as Tandanya to understand how they manage objects
- It is concerning that artefacts/cultural pieces have been removed from country. Is it possible to return them?
- Concerns about construction in Waverley – who oversees excavation work to protect potential culturally significant items?

Action – Provide the opportunity for Elders to discuss the names.

Cultural Protocols

The draft Cultural Protocols document had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The committee provided the following feedback;

- It would be good to have a quick guide – summary of the protocols identifying the most important pieces of information to include, with the rest in the broader document
- There was some concern that this would lose the meaning, however key points could be highlighted
- Face to face engagement is an important part of learning and understanding (not just documents)
- The ‘significant dates’ should be reviewed
- Consider the inclusion of ‘First Nations People’ on page 16

Action – Committee to provide further written feedback about protocols. Rebecca to meet with Aunty Barb and Michael to review document.

RAP Reporting

Rebecca reported on key RAP achievements over the past 12 months.

- \$27,000 spend with Aboriginal business and contractors
- Of 738 employees, 21 identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (2.8%)
- 13 PFT, 6 trainees, 1 apprentice, 1 casual, 2 Supervisors
- Development draft Protocols document
- NAIDOC Week 2020 – Authors Panel (online), language workshop at EEC, story time in library, A History of La Perouse (Ray Ingrey – for public)
- National Reconciliation Week – A History of La Perouse (Ray Ingrey – for staff), Author talks
- Social Media Promotion

- Advisory Panels – RAP Advisory Panel, First National Public Art Reference Group, representation on Heritage Panel and Arts and Culture Advisory Committee
- Sky Parks Project
- Events (programming for Bondi Festival, Harmony Concert, Author talk, Library Discussion Group)
- Artists – North Bondi Mural
- Naming at Bondi Pavilion, Story Room
- Participation in ERLGATSIC and La Perouse Government Interagency
- All Early Education Centres and Family Day Care have submitted RAPs

A question was asked as to whether we are a member of Supply Nation. We currently are not but need to consider procurement targets.

The committee provided positive feedback related to the RAP achievements, and look forward to more being achieved.

At the next meeting in the new year, a report will be tabled against RAP targets and priorities will be discussed.

5. Other Items

No other items were raised

6. Meetings in 2022

February, May, August, November with dates scheduled following the Local Government election.