

Reconciliation Action Plan

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 19 October 2022

6pm-8pm

Queens Park Room – Council Chambers

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional owners of the Waverley area.

Present

Councillors	
Clr Paula Masselos	Councillor
Clr Ludovico Fabiano	Councillor
Council Officers	
Emily Scott	General Manager
Ben Thompson	Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience
Rebecca Rodwell	Manager, Community Planning & Partnerships
Community Member/Organisations	
Michael Mahoney	Resident
Gene Ross	Resident
Dr Sarah Jane Moore	Resident

2. Acknowledgement of Chris Bonney

A minute silence was held to acknowledge the passing of committee member, Chris Bonney

3. Apologies

Clr Leon Goltsman, Clr Tony Kay, Clr Angela Burrill, Sharon Cassidy, Fletcher Rayner, Aunty Barbara Simms, Liz Tierney, Walangari Kantawarra, Damien Barnes

4. Acceptance of previous minutes and matters arising

The minutes were not able to be moved as there was only one member present from the previous meeting. These will be considered at the next meeting in November.



Matters Arising

- Cultural Protocols Document and Updated Acknowledgement
Rebecca shared that since the previous meeting, the Council Acknowledgement of Country had been updated to include the Birrabirragal group who were a small clan in the northern part of Waverley. The Aboriginal Cultural Protocols Document has also been launched.

Action

Request a representative from the Gujaga Foundation to attend the next meeting to discuss the cultural protocols

- Recruitment of new members
Since the last meeting we have recruited 3 new members, and a fourth will be starting in November. Therefore, seven of the eight positions will be filled.

5. Welcome to new members and introduction

Councillor Masselos welcomed Dr Sarah Jane Moore and Gene Ross as new committee members, and Ben Thompson, the Director of Community, Culture and Customer Experience to the advisory committee.

Each person in attendance introduced themselves and shared some of their background and interest in the committee.

6. Cultural Audit

Rebecca displayed a map of 20 sites in the Waverley LGA which had been considered as part of a Cultural Audit by the Gujaga Foundation (consulting with the La Perouse Land Council).

This led to a discussion around;

- Signage – including the possibility of a gateway sign as you enter the LGA. How do we currently incorporate Aboriginal cultures on signs?
- Dual naming and how this can be quite complex – can we keep things simple?
- Digitising stories as a way forward
- There is not always a consensus around which approach should be taken – important to have respectful dialogue
- We are all part of the stories of this land so let's bring everyone along

We will continue to discuss recommendations from the Cultural Audit once it has been to Council.

Action

Request a representative from the Gujaga Foundation to attend the next meeting to discuss the audit

7. Reconciliation Action Plan – Annual Reporting

Rebecca provided a summary (attached) of the recent annual report to Reconciliation Australia.

The committee discussed the important of mentors in supporting Aboriginal people to thrive, lead and succeed at Council.

8. Other Items

- Matthew Cook has been undertaking a School Based Traineeship with Council since 2021. He was awarded regional Aboriginal Student of the year at the NSW Training Awards in June.
- Council Resolutions

Warren Zines Reserve – Rebecca gave an explanation about the history of the Warren Zines Reserve concern that had been raised. Council is formally applying to the Geographical Names Board to name the reserve ‘Warren Zines’. Council received advice from the Gujaga Foundation that the site was not culturally significant and therefore an Aboriginal name was not recommended at this time. It was suggested that there are connections with the Aboriginal and Jewish communities, and these could be further explored in the future.

Local Government NSW Urgency Motion – Waverley recommended that Local Government NSW requests all Councils to lower all flags to half-mast annually for National Sorry Day (May 26).

NAIDOC and National Reconciliation Week – Members of the committee suggested that NAIDOC week is well organised and planned by Aboriginal people and organisations, and we should consider supporting and attending community events.

However, we could consider acknowledging other significant dates including January 26. Could this be acknowledged in a similar way to ANZAC Day, with a time to reflect and share stories? Further discussion is required about this.

Action

Include planning for significant dates as an agenda item for the November meeting.

Uluru Statement – A recent resolution has requested that officers report to Council in December regarding a community education strategy around the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Action

Include the Uluru Statement as an agenda item for the November meeting.

9. Meetings in 2022

28 November 2022