

Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meeting held Friday 5 November 2021

Venue:

Mike Rayner Room, Tweed Heads Administration Office & Virtual

Time:

9.45am

Present:

Des Williams (Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council - TBLALC); Leweena Williams (Tweed Aboriginal Corporation for Sport); Dale Williams (Bugalwena); Jackie McDonald (Tweed Wollumbin Aboriginal Education Consultative Group - TWAECG); Tina Pidcock (Tweed Aboriginal Co-operative Society); Cr Katie Milne (Tweed Shire Council).

Ex-officio:

Helen Carter, Tim Appo, Gabby Arthur (Minutes) (Tweed Shire Council).

Apologies:

Victor Slockee (Canowindra); Mayor Chris Cherry; Tracey Stinson, Stewart Brawley (Tweed Shire Council).

Guests:

Iain Lonsdale (Tweed Shire Council); Scott Benitez Hetherington (Tweed Shire Council).

Chairperson for meeting

Nominated: Tina Pidcock

Moved: Jackie McDonald

Seconded: Cr Katie Milne

RESOLVED that the Chair was declared vacant and nominations were called. Tina Pidcock was nominated and was unanimously elected to Chair the meeting.

Tina opened the meeting with a welcome to all present and paid respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Dale Williams

Seconded: Des Williams

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting held Friday 22 October 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

BA1. TSC Communications and Writing Standards - Aboriginal content

Aboriginal content of the TSC Communications and Writing Standards was reviewed by the AAC. Request that Council's acknowledgement pull-up banner be made available to Tweed Aboriginal Co-operative Society for use at the Tweed Artisans Food Week event being held at Minjungbal Aboriginal Museum and Cultural Centre on 17 November 2021.

Minutes

Aboriginal content of the TSC Communications and Writing Standards was reviewed by the AAC, with the following changes requested:

- '**Tweed**' to be added before each reference to Bundjalung referring to the area and/or people. eg. Tweed Shire Council wishes to recognise the generations of the local Aboriginal people of the **Tweed** Bundjalung Nation who have lived in and derived their physical and spiritual needs from the forests, rivers, lakes and streams of this beautiful valley over many thousands of years as the traditional ~~owners and~~ custodians of these lands
- Page 35 Acknowledgement of Country - 'We wish to recognise the generations of the local Aboriginal people of the Bundjalung (Bun-dja-lung) Nation who have lived in and derived their physical and spiritual needs from the forests, rivers, lakes and streams of this beautiful valley over many thousands of years as the traditional ~~owners and~~ custodians of this land'
- Page 35 Acknowledgement of Country 'Who can deliver it'. Endorsed by the Tweed's Aboriginal community, our Acknowledgement of Country can be given by anyone. Add: ***Within Council, delivery is to be by the Mayor or the highest Official person in attendance***
- Page 35 Acknowledgement of Country 'When to say it'. The full statement should be read out once at the start of Council meetings, external meetings, speeches, formal Council occasions, community consultations and industry workshops ***by the Mayor or highest Official person in attendance***
- Page 36 Welcome to Country 'Who can deliver it'. A Welcome to Country is delivered by an Aboriginal person who has an established bloodline to the area. (This will differ depending on the location of the event). In most of the Tweed this will be a **Tweed** Bundjalung Elder

Cr Milne requested that a copy of Council's Aboriginal Acknowledgement pull-up banner be emailed to the AAC, and that it be updated as set out above.

Moved: Jackie McDonald

Seconded: Tina Pidcock

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee endorses Council's *Communications and Writing Standards - Aboriginal* content subject to the changes recorded in the AAC Minutes of 5 November 2021 being made.

Action: CDO-Aboriginal to arrange for Council's pull-up banner to be provided to Tweed Aboriginal Co-operative Society Inc for the Tweed Artisans Food Week launch on 17 November 2021 at Minjungbal Aboriginal Museum and Cultural Centre. If the banner isn't able to be updated with the changes that an A3 print-out of Council's Aboriginal acknowledgement be provided.

BA2. Parking adjacent to Fingal Head Caravan Park and Camping Ground Area

The AAC acknowledged the resolutions of the Local Traffic Committee and ELT that *Tweed Holiday Parks will move the fence back another metre into the campground when the Fingal*

Head ACHA is completed and digging is possible. A fence in this area is preferred as it provides a safety barrier between campground patrons and road traffic.

The AAC noted that at its meeting on 22 October 2021 it requested aboveground bollards / road barriers be erected, and requested that Council investigate the options available.

Action: *CDO-Aboriginal to liaise with Manager Roads & Stormwater (Danny Rose) and Manager Holiday Parks & Cultural Facilities (Andrew Illingworth) to investigate options available for aboveground bollards / road barriers to be erected along the Letitia Road boundary of Fingal Head Caravan Park and Camping Ground.*

BA3. Induction of CDO-Aboriginal

The AAC expressed its appreciation of Tim in the role of Aboriginal community leader with Council. The AAC requested that Tim be introduced to the new councillors.

Action: *CDO-Aboriginal to be introduced to new councillors.*

BA4. Norries Headland

Jackie asked the AAC members if they had any concerns with Council referencing the Bogangar area as 'Cabarita Beach' and 'Cabarita' rather than 'Bogangar'. Jackie has made a submission to Council regarding the naming and has requested her permission to provide the information to the relevant community groups and Council staff. The AAC suggested that Council investigate the official naming of Bogangar/Cabarita Beach separate to the adoption of the Norries Headland Masterplan project.

Agenda Items:

A1. Tweed Valley Rail Trail - Iain Lonsdale (TSC)

Iain provided an overview of the rail trail project. Council is well aware that there could be cultural material uncovered during the construction and assured the AAC there will be full compliance with the rules and regulations. He noted that the footprint area of the rail trail has been highly disturbed. If cultural heritage items are located during the construction, practices and protocols will be followed and if this means the program is delayed then that is what will happen.

Iain presented a PowerPoint to the AAC with hard copies also provided. The Northern Rivers Rail Trail project has been partially funded to date, with funding received for the sections of Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek and Casino to Lismore. The area in between; Lismore to Crabbes Creek, has not yet been funded. The design elements will highlight the railway and cultural heritage. The project is now starting to shift into the phase of engagement and the inclusion of cultural artwork. Iain is aware that the AAC has previously endorsed the engagement of local artist Christine Slabb for cultural and interpretative art projects.

Preconstruction work is now underway with a hope to start construction works in the New Year. The hope is for the majority of the rail trail to be completed and operational by December 2022. Branding will include elements of signage, wayfinding, interpretation, information and merchandising.

It has been identified that the rail trail will provide significant economic and social benefits to the local area. The positioning statement is that it will be the 'must do' visitor experience in Northern Rivers NSW.

The AAC requested that the scope of options and wording for 'You are on Bundjalung Country - Gooris of the Tweed' be brought back to it. Iain advised he will be working with Council's Communications and Customer Experience Unit and some signage concepts will be brought back to the AAC.

Action: *CDO-Aboriginal to work with Project Director Tweed Valley Rail Trail (Iain Lonsdale) to scope the options and wording of 'You are on Bundjalung Country - Gooris of the Tweed' and to take back to a future AAC meeting.*

A3. Tweed Conservation Strategy - Scott Benitez Hetherington (TSC)

Scott provided an overview of the work being undertaken by the Sustainability & Environment Unit around protecting flora and fauna in the Tweed and of the consultation being undertaken for the new Tweed Conservation Strategy. Most items under the current strategy have been completed. It is important that the strategy is measurable so that it can be reported back to the community. A hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation was provided to the AAC.

There are 6 objectives in the strategy:

- Protect existing habitat
- Improve existing habitat condition
- Increase existing habitat extent in priority locations
- Protect wildlife
- Communicate and engage with community
- Addressing impacts of climate change

Developed around 4 themes:

- Bushland reserve management
- Private land conservation
- Environmental planning and policy
- Conservation projects

Scott asked, 'what are the most important actions in the strategy to make a meaningful difference to protecting the Tweed?'

- The framework is the Aboriginal content - the continued connection, management and cultural practices in a modern context told at the beginning of the story and that Council is recognising those practices
- Education needs to be provided to children before they reach primary school
- Increased community education on critically endangered and habitat
- Community education and engagement to raise the importance of lifestyle and being connected to the environment. One of the biggest challenges now is the influx of new people to the area and educating them on the amount of effort that is put into protecting and enhancing the natural assets. We need to educate people as quickly as possible to ensure flora and fauna isn't impacted and to stop the removal of vegetation. It is a concerning threat and there are particular areas that are already being impacted

- More emphasis on land and aquatic species with consideration of marine as well as coastal. A lot of work is being done to protect marine life including the seagrass at Fingal
- Need to increase vegetation and habitat and wildlife throughout the Tweed, not just in highlighted areas
- Marine life both river and coastal
- Migratory birds
- Panoramic views to Wollumbin rather than from Wollumbin
- Vouchers for trees
- Information in resident kits
- Commercial activities are attributing to the degradation of habitat and yabbies in the Tweed

Scott advised that some of these issue will be picked up in the Coastal and Estuary Management Plans.

How would the AAC like to be involved in the strategy?

- Workshop at Minjungbal Museum
- Remind people that the Aboriginal community are members and residents of the whole shire, and should be involved and engaged on everything not just things tagged 'Aboriginal'
- An environmental questionnaire similar to the one recently conducted on fishing which was very useful

Action: *CDO-Aboriginal to liaise with Senior Program Leader-Biodiversity (Scott Benitez Hetherington) to coordinate a workshop with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee on the Tweed Conservation Strategy at Minjungbal Aboriginal Museum and Cultural Centre.*

A4. Aboriginal History Information on Council's Website

Tina requested that the AAC members review the Aboriginal history wording and email suggested changes to Tim for discussion at next meeting.

Action: *AAC members to review the Aboriginal history wording and email suggested changes to CDO-Aboriginal for discussion at next meeting.*

A5. Outstanding Matters Report

Tim advised that he has completed some of the items and is continuing to work with the AAC members on the Outstanding Matters Report.

General Business:

GB1.Cr Milne's last meeting

Cr Milne advised this is her last meeting with the AAC and advised it has been an honour and inspiration to work with them. The AAC members extended their sincere appreciation for all items brought to the table by Cr Milne and her ongoing support and leadership including when she was Mayor.

Incoming Correspondence:

IC1. Neville Bonner Memorial - Email from Steve Maguire

Steve Maguire has sent an email to Council highlighting the significant life and achievements of Neville Bonner who was born on Ukerebagh Island on 28 March 1922 and asking if the Aboriginal community would like to support a memorial commemorating Mr Bonner. The AAC discussed the request and advised that an email should be sent to the Bonner family to see if they would like commemorate the birth of Mr Bonner. Jackie advised she will get permission from Paul to pass the contact details onto Tim. All communications to be copied to the Tweed Aboriginal Co-Operative Society and National Parks & Wildlife Service will need to be involved. Jackie advised that she went over to Ukerebagh Island with NPWS and identified the tree where Mr Bonner was born but that it has fallen over.

Action: Jackie McDonald to obtain permission to pass contact details for the Bonner family onto CDO-Aboriginal.

Action: CDO-Aboriginal to send email to Bonner family seeking advice on commemoration of Mr Bonner's birth and significant life achievements.

IC2. Street Naming for Kings Forest - Letter from Everick

Everick has sent an email to Council asking that the AAC consider the potential naming of streets in Kings Forest. AAC members to review the request and discuss at next meeting.

Action: CDO-Aboriginal to include Kings Forest street naming discussion to the Agenda of next AAC meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee will be held Friday 3 December 2021.

The meeting closed at 11.26am.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

BA1. TSC Communications and Writing Standards - Aboriginal content

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee endorses Council's Communications and Writing Standards - Aboriginal content subject to the changes recorded in the AAC Minutes of 5 November 2021 being made.