

Aboriginal Reference Group

Date	14 March 2024	Time	12 noon – 3pm
Venue	Barrington Room, Yalawanyi Ganya	Note-taker	Lillian Moseley
Present	<p>Mayor Claire Pontin (MCC), Cr Jeremy Miller (MCC) Adrian Panuccio (MCC) Paul De Szell (MCC) Alex Mills (MCC) Lyndie Hepple (MCC) Kathy Duggan (MCC) Lillian Moseley (MCC) Karen Bradley (Taree)</p>	<p>Sharon Donovan (Taree) Amber Galvin (Gloucester) Tracey Kerr (Karuah) Jan Webb (Tea Gardens) Lynette Davis (Foster) Janelle Callaghan (PLALC) Karen Cochrane (PLALC) Janice Paulson (Foster)</p>	
Apologies	Dean Saunders (Taree), Alana Simon (FLALC), Lee Simon (FLALC), Serge Morcombe (Taree), Kitana Paulson (Foster WP), Leanne Greentree (KLALC).		

Meeting Items

Item	Key points/actions
1	<p><u>Acknowledgement of Country</u></p> <p>The Mayor did an Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed all attendees, and explained that the majority of the agenda was devoted to the Governance induction which is an essential part of all MidCoast Council committees.</p>
2	<p><u>Induction Handbook</u></p> <p>The Manager Libraries, Community & Culture explained the purpose of the meeting and highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The positions on the Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG) are voluntary. • The Terms of Reference explain the purpose of the ARG, and the guidelines provide a broad overview of governance that is intended to be used in conjunction with the Terms of Reference.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Action Plan will form part of the ARG meeting notes. • Members are to advocate on behalf of the community, as a mechanism to work with the community. • Members are expected to support a collaborative approach across the community, advocating through the Working Parties, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, and community. Representatives around the table are also expected to report back to community on discussions.
3	<p><u>Governance Induction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Governance Coordinator took members through the Induction, explaining that the role of the Governance is to protect attendees. • The Committee Guidelines are the same for all MidCoast Council Reference Groups. • There is no legislative responsibility for the group. • Information will be distributed via email. • Members were asked to agree to their emails being included on an ARG Distribution List – All agreed. • All ARG Meeting Notes will be submitted to Council for noting. • Members are expected to abide by Council's Code of Conduct in relation to their involvement with the ARG. • MidCoast Council's Community Strategic Plan is a 10-year plan – everything Council does is working towards implementing the Strategic Plan. • Conflict of interest – members are to declare a conflict of interest if they have a pecuniary (financial), perceived or direct interest in project. If in doubt declare a conflict. • Members with a conflict or pecuniary of interest, can be a part of the conversation but not participate in voting. • Under the Code of Conduct members cannot accept gifts if there is an expectation of something in return in relation to their involvement on this Reference Group. In some cases, it is unreasonable to refuse a small gift as a thank you, but it still has to be declared on the Gifts and Benefits Form. • All members' names will be listed on Council's web site. • The Induction Handbook outlines the expectations for the members of the ARG. • The Confidentiality Form is to be signed by all members.
4	<p><u>Aboriginal Action Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Manager Libraries, Community and Culture explained that the Aboriginal Action Plan (AAP) is a Strategic Plan. developed after extensive consultation with the Aboriginal Community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all the actions within the Plan are within Council's ability or scope to implement (e.g. Education and Transport are State responsibilities), but Council will advocate on behalf of community as appropriate. • The Plan includes six Key Focus Areas, Housing, Health & Wellbeing, Education & Employment, Justice, Inclusion and Participation, Family & Culture. • All community issues raised were documented. • The ARG can provide information and advice to Council on how some actions can be implemented.
5	<p><u>General Discussion</u></p> <p>The Mayor raised agenda items to be discussed/presented at next meeting of the ARG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue Calvin, to provide an overview of the Draft LEP and seek feedback. • Council's Draft Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country Protocol. • Start the conversation about the AAP priorities. • Members would also like to discuss the increasing issues with young people and consultation for the feasibility study for a Cultural Centre. <p>Action 1: Members to consider Aboriginal Action Plan priorities for discussion at the next meeting.</p> <p>Action 2: ARG members to provide update on what's happening in their area at the next meeting.</p> <p>Action 4: Aboriginal Liaison Officer to send out MidCoast Youth Action Collective (MYAC) flyer to ARG Members.</p> <p><u>Suggested Meeting dates</u></p> <p>9 May 2024: 10 am – 1pm</p> <p>11 July 2024: 1pm to 4pm</p>

Next meeting

Date	To be advised	Time	10am
Venue		Note-taker	Lillian Moseley

ABORIGINAL REFERENCE GROUP – ACTION SHEET

Item No	Description	Date Raised	Action for	Due Date/ Timeframe	Status Update	
1	Members to consider Aboriginal Action Plan priorities for discussion at the next meeting.	14/3/24	All	Ongoing		
2	ARG members to provide feedback on what's happening in their area at the next meeting.	14/3/24	All	Ongoing		
3	Aboriginal Liaison Officer to send out MidCoast Youth Action Collective (MYAC) flyer to ARG Members.	14/3/24	Lillian Moseley	15/3/24		MYAC flyers distributed to ARG members 27 th March 2024.
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