

# MEETING NOTES



## Aboriginal Reference Group

Date	20 May 2024	Time	2pm
Venue	Barrington Room, Yalawanyi Ganya	Note-takers	Lyndie Hepple & Hannah Earley
Present	Amber Galvin, Cr Jeremy Miller, Mayor Claire Pontin, Hannah Earley, Karen Bradley, Tracy Kerr, Jan Webb, Aunty Lyn Davis. Prue Tucker, Erin Masters (Present Estuary Management Plan) Sue Calvin, Michael Griffiths (Present Local Environment Plan) Melissa Bawden (Present Community Strategic Plan)		
Apologies	Paul De Szell, Janice Paulson, Cr Dheera Smith, Alana Simon, Sharon Donovan		

## Meeting Items

Item	Key points/actions
1	Acknowledgement of Country
2	<p><u>Local Environment Plan (LEP)</u></p> <p>Sue Calvin and Michael Griffith presented on the changes to the LEP which is currently on public exhibition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council currently has three local Environment plans from the three former Councils, some of which go back to the 1990s.</li><li>• The Planning team has relooked at all the zones to provide a consistent approach.</li><li>• Zones dictate what can (and can't) be done in each neighbourhood, from the way the land can be used and the size of the lots, to the types of buildings and heights.,</li><li>• Almost all zones are changing in some way.</li><li>• The team has already consulted on Rural Strategy and Housing Strategy (2020) which resulted in changes.</li><li>• The new Draft LEP is currently on exhibition (29 April to 14 July). Letters have gone out to all ratepayers. There is online information on Council's Website and drop-in sessions commence at 13 locations this week.</li><li>• Consultation ends on 14 July.</li><li>• Land Councils, key Aboriginal community groups and community members are encouraged to attend a drop-in session, or phone to make an appointment (arrange a meeting) with the Planning team to understand how the changes affect their land.</li></ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Sue Calvin to send through information for organising one-on-one sessions</p>

<p>3</p>	<p><u>Community Strategic Plan (CSP)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melissa Bawden advised that the CSP is a NSW Government Requirement.</li> <li>• The current plan was developed in consultation with community after the merger in 2018. It's a 10-year strategic document which sets Council's overall direction.</li> <li>• Community reviews the document every 4 years before the Council elections.</li> <li>• Other strategies and plans are developed to achieve the Plan's objectives and deliver on the community's vision.</li> <li>• Council is re-engaging with the community on the CSP because things have changed since the original plan was developed. For example, we now have an Aboriginal Action plan.</li> <li>• Do the Community Strategic Plan objectives reflect the priorities of the new Aboriginal Action Plan?</li> </ul> <p>Discussion occurred around the key focus areas of Housing, Health &amp; Wellbeing, Education &amp; Employment, Justice, Inclusion &amp; Participation, Families &amp; Culture.</p> <p>Conversation focussed on the need for affordable housing, equitable access to housing, culturally safe services, drug and alcohol services, the need for activities for young people to keep them out of the justice system, supporting passing cultural knowledge onto the next generation, Australia Day on 26 January 2024, a community that is welcoming and inclusive regardless of ethnicity.</p> <p>The Communication, Engagement and Marketing team is trying to improve consultation with Aboriginal People. The team is happy meet with Aboriginal organisations about consultation, where we're missing the mark, and how things can be improved.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p><u>Southern Estuaries Coastal Management Program</u></p> <p>Prue Tucker and Erin Masters from the Natural Systems Team, talked about the waterways which connect our communities physically and culturally. The Plan that manages estuaries is being redesigned.</p> <p>The team is keen to hear how best to communicate and engage with the Aboriginal community and confirm that the current approach is on the right track.</p> <p>Natural Systems is very happy that this project delivers on 5.3 of the Aboriginal Action Plan – “The Aboriginal community has a voice and role in strategic decisions that may affect them.”</p> <p>The project covers the coastal zones from Kappinghat in the north to Tea Gardens in the south. Most of the rest of the local government area is covered by the Manning</p>

Catchment Plan. While the plan will focus on the estuaries, it will also include the catchment areas for those estuaries.

The project aligns with requirements under the Coastal Management Act which focus on:

1. Wetlands and rainforests
2. Coastal hazards – including mapping tidal inundation resulting from sea level rises.
3. Project & enhance environmental values and natural processes – making sure what we do on the land doesn't impact on the estuaries.
4. Project and enhance social and cultural values – understanding the importance of the waterways in the Aboriginal culture and ensuring the Aboriginal voice is included.

Need feedback from the group on possible actions under these four focus areas. These could include:

- Actions to protect culturally significant sites
- Land management actions on Aboriginal-owned land
- Employment through Aboriginal-led restoration programs
- Art, naming, use of language in a culturally sensitive way within the plan
- Plans of management for culturally sensitive areas
- Community awareness of cultural heritage
- Working with Aboriginal organisation and partnering on projects that improved cultural knowledge

The Natural Systems team is happy to meet one on one with key stakeholders and groups in the community. Members of the group to get back to Prue with any ideas. The Reference Group members suggested that Traditional Owners and groups are engaged and have a strong voice in the consultation. Other engagement suggested was attending events such as NAIDOC and elders BBQs.

Prue Tucker showcased some ideas from other local government for engaging on the estuary management plants

Alex Mills suggested engagement with knowledge holders as co-designers.

**Action:** Prue Tucker to talk to Rachel Piercy.

The Reference Group agreed that the Natural Systems team will develop agreements for Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual property for each group they meet with.

The Plan will be presented to the Reference Group at the end of the project.

5	Any other business None.
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**Next meeting**

Date	Monday 15 July 2024	Time	11:00am - 1:00pm
Venue	Barrington Room, Yalawanyi Ganya	Note-taker	