

Minutes

Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee



Date: Wednesday 26 th February 2025	Time: 12.00 to 2.00pm	Venue: Fort Scratchley Function Centre
Meeting Opened: 12.27pm.	Meeting Objective: To provide strategic advice and guidance with relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues, gives life to Council's commitment to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the City of Newcastle and engages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Local Government.	

1. Welcome

1.1 Attendance

Councillor Mark Brooker
Councilor Charlotte McCabe
Councilor Deahana Richardson
Loren Colyer, UON
Lee Lazarevic, Aboriginal Affairs
Andrew Smith, Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council
Kumarah Kelly, Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council (via Teams)
Theressa Dargin Dates, Community Member
Lennie Anderson, Community member

Jody Clark, City of Newcastle
Simon Mitchell, City of Newcastle

Guests:

Sara Kelly, City of Newcastle
Tom Smith, City of Newcastle
Bronwyn Lawler, City of Newcastle

1.2 Apologies

Luke Russel, Wylaabuuranliyn
David Clarke, City of Newcastle

1.3 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None

1.4 Chair was an apology. Councillor Deahnna Richardson Acting Chair until new Chair nominated.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes and Actions Arising

Chair

2.1 Minutes from the previous meeting were supported and approved by Lee Lazarevic, seconded by Councillor Deahanna Richardson.

General business discussed, please see below.

3. Welcome Community Members

Chair

3.1 The new community members were welcomed to the Committee.

4. Chair Election

Facilitator

4.1 The committee nominated Andrew Smith as the new chair for the next term. First nominated by Lennie Anderson and seconded by Theresa Dates.

4.2 Andrew accepted the nomination as Interim Chair waiting approval from the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council board.

5. Broadmeadow Place Making

Sara Kelly

5.1 Sara returned to the Committee to provide an update. Sara gave a brief overview of the project for new members, noting that housing was a major focus of the project for the State Government.

5.2 Sara noted some rezoning has already occurred for the 3 nominated sites relating to housing.

5.3 Sara explained the history of the consultation process from inception to date.

5.4 Kumarah asked some questions about the nominated site for the new basketball stadium.

5.5 Sara explained the complications around flood mitigation and contamination.

5.6 Fast rail previously discussed was discussed again briefly.

5.7 Action: Any questions around the project can be forwarded to Sara. Sara to provide "Have your say page" for Broadmeadow to the group.

6. Queens Wharf

Bronwyn Lawler

6.1 Bronwyn came to the committee to advise of works that are being planned for the Queens wharf area.

6.2 Bronwyn spoke about the history of the buildings on the site and the recent fire that has occurred, and the damage caused.

6.3 Bronwyn advised ongoing issues with the building such as having no disability access.

6.4 Bronwyn provided a map displaying the extent of the work also noting the surrounding areas would also need to be considered.

6.5 Bronwyn noted the requirement to accommodate ongoing services like the ferry, hotels and public domain.

6.6 Bronwyn advised CN will be investigating the into Aboriginal and non - Aboriginal history of the site further.

6.7 Preliminary investigations include, Aboriginal cultural heritage, European heritage, mine subsidence and geographical, site services, substructure structural assessment and condition reports which are predominantly desk top analysis.

6.8 Bronwyn advised that CN were seeking any advice around stories or who we should be talking too.

6.9 Vertis was discussed and well received by the Committee.

6.10 It was noted that this project is at an early stage and CN was happy to update the group going forward.

6.11 Lennie discussed working with CN at Stockton and how well that relationship is working now.

6.12 Committee would like to see further updates going forward.

7. Standing Items

7.1 Sub Committee Updates

Carrington Cultural Meeting place update provided below.

7.2 General Business

- Theresa provided an update to the Committee on the progress of the proposed Cultural Meeting Place at Carrington. Theresa also provided some updates around funding and what will likely occur on the site.
- Councillor Richardson spoke and advised that Councillor Winney Bartz had returned to CN as a Councillor and would also like to return to Guraki. The Committee agreed they would like for Councillor Winney Bartz to be a member of the Committee but were unsure how this would work. Questions raised were, can the Committee have more than 3 Councilors, would Councillor Winney Bartz be able to vote etc. The Committee wanted time to consider the Councilors request. CN to provide information about how this would work.
- Jody advised that PASC formally known as PARG are seeking nominations from Guraki for Aboriginal membership to this Committee. Theresa self-nominated and advised she would be happy to take the role but would first need to confirm this with her family. If not Kumarah suggested Chloe from her office, Renee Lamb and or Ray Smith.
- The topic of Guraki Stakeholder organizations was discussed. It was noted that Luke Russel's organization, Wylaabuuranliyn was an anomaly as it was not an organization as such. The difference between a Community Member and Stakeholder organization were discussed, noting that Stakeholders are permanent and through CEO appointment and Community members were not permanent and are via an EOI. It was decided to leave this at this meeting and wait to discuss it further when Luke was there.

8. Resolutions

8.1 No resolutions.

9. Closing

9.1 Meeting closed at 1.50pm

9.2. Next meeting:12.00 - 2.00pm Wednesday 29th April 2025.

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