

Communique - Meeting No. 017/2022

20 and 21 April 2022

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (Council) held Meeting No.17 on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 April 2022 at Dumas House, West Perth, with some Council members joining via video-conference. Ms Gail Beck, Co-Chair, chaired the meeting.

Several Western Australian (WA) Government agencies and the supporting agency for the Council, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), delivered presentations during the meeting, providing information, or seeking advice from the Council.

The key items discussed and considered by the Council included the following:

External Presentations to Council were:

Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries – Review of the Cemeteries Act and Cremation Act.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) provided an update on the process and approach regarding the Review of the *Cemeteries Act 1986* and *Cremation Act 1929*. DLGSC sought Council's advice on definitions relating to Aboriginal Customary Burials and a standard for how burials are undertaken, including requirements for coffins, caskets, shrouds.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) advised the Council that consultations regarding the new *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* will start the week of the 25 April 2022 to undertake first phase of co-design. This includes the development of a co-design process going forward. Ten Fact Sheets have been developed and these are available on the website. DPLH will inform the Council as the consultation progresses.

Department of Training and Workforce Development - Skilling Solutions for Western Australians Care Sector

The Department of Training and Workforce Development provided a presentation to members on the Skilling Solutions for Western Australia's Care Sector.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage – Targeted Amendments to the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) provided an overview on the WA Government's commitment to divest the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate into the direct control of Aboriginal people and entities. To ensure the divestment opportunities achieve the best outcomes for Aboriginal people, changes are proposed to the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*.

Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety – Aboriginal Empowerment Initiative

The Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) provided a presentation on their newly established Aboriginal Empowerment Initiative unit. Recruitment is ongoing to establish the team. DMIRS will engage with the Council for feedback on the unit's approach and focus.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Aboriginal Advisory Council Western Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Tourism WA Brand Campaign – Tourism Western Australia

Tourism WA advised that they intend to launch a new global tourism brand campaign in late August 2022 lasting for approximately five years. The Campaign will build on previous campaigns to grow visitation to Perth and the regions whilst acknowledging barriers of time, distance and costs.

Treasury update – Department of Treasury

The Department of Treasury (Treasury) advised the Council that a new unit has been established within Treasury for the central oversight of Aboriginal specific issues. Treasury also provided an overview of the unit and its links to Closing the Gap. The aim is to undertake a review of current expenditure on Aboriginal programs and services which will identify opportunities to reprioritise spending for better outcomes, including potential options to deliver services through or in partnership with, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

DPC Presentations to Council included:

Closing the Gap Implementation

The national governance arrangements that oversee the implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) are now well-established and include several tiers of planning and decision-making, involving the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, the Coalition of Peaks, and the Australian Local Government Association. The new governance structures are required to better align the national and state Closing the Gap Implementation environments.

Local and Regional Voices

The Australian Government is leading the co-design process to develop local, regional, and national elements of an Indigenous Voice to government. The first phase is establishment and implementation of Local and Regional Voices, as outlined in the Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process: Final Report to the Australian Government. Following the Federal Election, the National Indigenous Australians Agency will report back to the Council on the co-design approach.

Meeting with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Tony Buti

The Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs attended the meeting and advised:

- the Aboriginal Engagement Directorate within DPC will explore the Accountability Framework which Council will be a part of;
- Council's role in providing a voice to the WA Government, noting the Federal Government's Voice process is underway.

The next meeting of the Council is on 28 and 29 June 2022



Ms Gail Beck
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA



Mr Martin (Marty) Sibosado
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA

* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communique

Acknowledgement of Country

The Aboriginal Advisory Council Western Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.