

# Communique - Meeting No. 019/2022

30 and 31 August 2022

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (the Council) held Meeting No.19 on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 August 2022 at Dumas House in West Perth, with some members joining via videoconference.

The meeting was chaired by co-chairs, Ms Gail Beck and Mr Martin Sibosado. Several Western Australian (WA) Government agencies and one Australia Government (Federal) agency delivered presentations during the meeting, providing information and/or seeking advice from the Council.

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

## Ministerial Engagements

### Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

The Council welcomed Hon Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Minister Buti updated the Council on the recently attended Joint Council meeting in South Australia with Aboriginal Affairs Ministers and peak bodies on Closing the Gap as well as important updates from the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio for WA.

### Minister for Child Protection, Women's Interests, Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Community Service

The Council welcomed Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Child Protection, Women's Interests, Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Community Service. Minister McGurk updated the Council on initiatives within her portfolio including early intervention contracts, changes to the in home support model, updates to child protection legislation and the Target 120 Youth Program.

## External Presentations

### Department of Transport – Update on Aboriginal engagement and participation

The Department of Transport (DoT) provided an update on activities being undertaken across the Transport Portfolio to address the Closing the Gap Jurisdictional Implementation Plan. DoT highlighted the new Aboriginal employment targets for their infrastructure program. Additionally, DoT indicated their five year plan will aim to award \$700 million of contracts to Aboriginal businesses and allocate 3.5 million work hours to Aboriginal employees.

### National Indigenous Australians Agency – Labor's Commitment to First Nations People.

The National Indigenous Australians Agency provided an update on the Australian Government's priorities for First Nations people including the key commitments to a constitutionally enshrined voice to parliament, a Makarrata Commission for treaty and truth-telling, referendum and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

### Department of Water and Environmental Regulation – Water Reform Bill and Aboriginal Water Reserves

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation provided an update to Council on the new water resources management legislation that will modernise century-old water laws to secure Western Australia's water future in the face of climate change. A key feature of the reforms is recognition of Aboriginal people's spiritual, social customary and economic use of water.

### Aboriginal Advisory Council Western Australia

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### 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.

## Department of Treasury – Aboriginal Expenditure Review

The Department of Treasury presented to Council on the progress of the Aboriginal Expenditure Review (AER) and sought Council's feedback regarding the methodology and scope. In accordance with clause 113 of the Closing the Gap National Agreement, the Department of Treasury is to identify expenditure that could be reprioritised to Aboriginal organisations. The AER will seek to capture expenditure on services and programs which has a direct benefit to improve social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people (e.g., education, community services). This includes the operating and capital spending of a program or service, for example, infrastructure spending to build new houses in remote Aboriginal communities.

## Internal Presentations

### National Agreement on Closing the Gap

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet updated the Council on the progress of the WA Government's implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. This included an update on WA's Annual Report on Closing the Gap, the new governance structures for a whole-of-government approach to coordinate and streamline implementation of priority reforms and socio-economic targets.

### Policy Independent Oversight of Child Safe Organisations

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet updated the Council on the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and sought feedback on the proposed model and how it may impact Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

### WA Communities Safe and Strong (COVID and flu) campaign

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet updated the Council on the WA Communities Safe and Strong (COVID and flu) campaign and sought feedback on the proposed stakeholder engagement list for future communications. The WA Communities Safe and Strong (COVID and flu) campaign was developed to encourage the uptake of free flu vaccines, strengthen the practice of healthy hygiene habits and urge people to stay at home if unwell.

**The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 18 and 19 October 2022.**



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Ms Gail Beck  
**Co-Chairperson**  
**Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA**



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

\* Confidential agenda items are not included in this Communique.