

Communique - Meeting No. 015/2021

8 and 9 December 2021

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (the Council) held Meeting No.15 on Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 December 2021 at Dumas House in West Perth, with some members joining via videoconference.

Mr Marty Sibosado, Co-Chair, chaired the meeting.

Several 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 Communities – Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy

Department of Communities (Communities) provided an update on the development of the Aboriginal Safety Strategy which Communities is leading and sought the Council's feedback and input.

Healing Foundation – Making Healing Happen

The Healing Foundation (the Foundation) provided an update on addressing the urgent needs of the WA Stolen Generation. The Foundation sought members feedback on how it can best support the Council to embed the systems, sectors and workforces need to urgently address the complex needs of WA Stolen Generations survivors and their families, and to promote intergenerational healing in WA.

Forrest Products Commission – WA Sandalwood Advisory Group

The Forest Products Commission (FPC) advised the Council it was assisting the Hon David Kelly MLA, Minister for Forestry in establishing a new WA Sandalwood Advisory Group (SAG) and is seeking a nomination from the Council to be a member of the SAG. The SAG's role is to drive and oversee implementation of the WA Sandalwood Taskforce report; advise and support the State Government with building and driving economic development opportunities; participation for Aboriginal communities; and to grow Aboriginal businesses in WA. The Council nominated Mr Gordon Gray and requested FPC to provide quarterly updates at AACWA meetings.

Lotterywest – Developing Solution Grants Program

Lotterywest provided a presentation to members on current programs they are undertaking such as the Developing Solution Grants Program and sought advice from Council on:

1. How Lotterywest can engage effectively and respectfully with others so that Aboriginal voices are reflected in the design and priorities for the Developing Solutions program;
2. Specific cultural or other opportunities that Lotterywest could consider in the design and priorities for the Developing Solutions program; and
3. The potential role and position of Lotterywest in supporting Truth-telling and Reconciliation

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.

Aboriginal Economic Development Business Case

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) advised Council that it was developing a proposal to take the lead role in driving whole-of-government implementation of Aboriginal economic development priorities in partnership with Aboriginal people and sought Council's feedback.

DPC Presentations to Council were:

Aboriginal Economic Development across the WA Recovery Portfolio

DPC advised the Council that there has been engagement with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) and the Noongar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) in regard to Aboriginal Economic Development opportunities in the South West, under the WA Recovery Program. This engagement will continue with SWALSC and NCCI on an as-needs basis.

Closing the Gap update

DPC provided an update on the progress of the State's implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (CTG) and sought Council's advice on the current and proposed future direction. As an outcome from the update, Council agreed to invite the Aboriginal Unit at the Department of Treasury to brief Council on their role.

Council Membership update

Council noted three vacant positions and requested members to provide a list of potential candidates to submit to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs for consideration.

Meeting with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs attended the meeting and discussed with members:

- The launch of the Rottnest Island Authority Reconciliation Action Plan, which he attended;
- Ms Jacqueline McGowan-Jones had been appointed as the new Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia and the opportunities her experience presents in this role;
- The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2021 was being tabled in Parliament this week; and
- Conversations regarding the regional representative structure and Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy would continue in 2022.

The next meeting of the Council is on 8 and 9 February 2022.



Mr Marty Sibosado

Co-Chairperson

Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA

* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communique.

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