

Communique - Meeting No. 021/2022

13 and 14 December 2022

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (the Council) held Meeting No.21 on Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 December 2022 at Dumas House in West Perth, with one member joining via videoconference.

The meeting was led by co-chairs, Ms Gail Beck and Mr Martin Sibosado. 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 and seeking advice from the Council. The December meeting included a facilitated discussion on youth justice with representation from the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council and Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Council.

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

External Presentations

Department of Treasury – Aboriginal Expenditure Review

The Department of Treasury presented to Council an update on the outcomes of the Aboriginal Expenditure Review processes, findings, and next steps, with a full report being provided to Council in the new year.

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety - Aboriginal Empowerment Initiative

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety updated Council on the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety approach and focus on the Aboriginal Empowerment Initiative programme plan for 2022 and beyond.

- Department of Jobs Tourism Science and Innovation – Biodiscovery Bill
- Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation & Tourism WA – Advisory Groups
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries – Local Government Act 1995 Reform Update
- North West Aboriginal Housing Fund - Pilbara Aboriginal Housing Program

Internal Presentations

Bidyadanga Land Activation Project

DPC updated the Council on Bidyadanga Project in the Kimberley region which aims to remove land tenure barriers and deliver a sustainable future for Bidyadanga, Western Australia's largest remote Aboriginal community, through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA).

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.

2023 Council Planning

DPC and Council discussed implementation of the [Council Engagement resources](#), Member succession planning and confirmed the 2023 Meeting Dates.

Culture at the Heart Workshop Report

DPC presented Council with the final Culture at the Heart Workshop report which was shared with all workshop participants in November 2022.

Youth Justice: Advisory Groups Workshop

Council welcomed the Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group, Department of Communities Executives, the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee and Department of Justice Executives for a facilitated discussion on how established WA Government advisory mechanisms can support greater coordination and engagement in responding to Youth Justice matters. By way of a majority decision, the Council will establish a Youth Justice sub-committee to support this work in 2023.

Due to the compressed agenda and extended focus on youth justice, several presentations were adapted to papers for consideration, including:

- **DPC Reconciliation Action Plan Implementation**
- **ACCO Sector Strengthening Update**
- **WA Government Closing the Gap Implementation Plan**

Ministerial Engagements:

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC – Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and ICT; Medical Research; Volunteering

The Council welcomed the Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and ICT; Medical Research; Volunteering. Minister Dawson updated Council on initiatives within the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to recruit more Aboriginal individuals, and the Culture Fire Program which is considering how we can better link contemporary fire management with traditional fire practices.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7 and 8 February 2023.



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.