

Communique - Meeting No. 016/2021

8 and 9 February 2022

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (the Council) held Meeting No.16 on Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 February 2022 at Dumas House in West Perth, with some members joining via videoconference.

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 Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation – WA Bio Discovery Bill

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTISI) provided an update on development of the Bio Discovery Bill and sought feedback regarding key concepts within the Bill and the proposed consultation approach with Aboriginal groups.

Department of Education - Engagement with the WA Aboriginal Community

The Department of Education (DoE) advised the Council they are currently planning to establish an appropriate mechanism to ensure meaningful engagement with the WA Aboriginal community. DoE sought feedback from Council on the principles they would recommend in establishing an appropriate mechanism for engagement with the Aboriginal community.

Introduction of newly appointed Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Council welcomed Ms Jacqueline McGowan-Jones the new Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP). Ms McGowan-Jones provided an update to the Council on her new role and current priorities such as advocating for early intervention in the protection of children as well as meeting with Director Generals from the Department of Justice and Department of Education to discuss children at most risk within the system.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries - Aboriginal Cultural Centre

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) provided an update on the proposed Western Australian Aboriginal Cultural Centre. DLGSC will keep Council updated as the project progress

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions - Aboriginal Ranger Program

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) provided an update on the expansion of the WA Aboriginal Ranger Program and sought Council suggestions on experts or advisers to appoint to the Assessment Panel to evaluate applications and provide recommendations for funding in future funding rounds.

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.

Treasury update – Department of Treasury

The Department of Treasury (Treasury) provided a presentation to Council on the Aboriginal Expenditure Review, which is to review WA's current spending on Aboriginal programs and services. This review will also assist in facilitating the Closing the Gap commitment. Treasury advised Council that they will provide regular updates to Council meetings going forward.

Wadjemup update - Aboriginal Productions and Promotions.

Aboriginal Productions and Promotions provided an update to Council on the Wadjemup Project consultation process which received wide community support from stakeholders across the State. The focus on Wadjemup is truth telling, the burial ground and Quod. The Council endorse the Wadjemup Project approach.

DPC Presentations to Council were:

Closing the Gap Implementation

DPC and Department of Communities (DoC), CTG representative updated the Council on the progress in establishing a peak body for Aboriginal Housing through a Housing Sector Strengthening plan. Western Australia does not have a registered community housing provider, however Shelter WA has been working with Noongar Mia Mia to become a registered body. DoC is currently working with four Aboriginal community housing providers across the state.

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation update

DPC update the Council on the progress on the State's implementation of the National Agreement on CTG for priority reform area two, building the community-controlled sector and sought advice of Council on the current and proposed future direction.

Proposal for the refreshed Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee

DPC provided an overview to Council of the proposed Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee (AACC) membership that will bring Director Generals together to ensure a Whole of Government approach. Council Co-Chair are representatives on the AACC committee.

Meeting with the newly appointed Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

The Hon Tony Buti, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs attended the meeting as an informal meet and greet opportunity to advise members of his priorities as the newly appointed Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. The Minister advised Council of his expectations such as to be eyes and ears in presenting the views of each of their local communities and to be a sounding board, provide advice, guidance and feedback.

The next meeting of the Council is on 20 and 21 April 2022.



Ms Gail Beck

Co-Chairperson

Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA

* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communique.

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