

# Communique - Meeting No. 22/2023

7 and 8 February 2023

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (the Council) held Meeting No.22 on 7 and 8 of February 2023 at Dumas House in West Perth, with some members 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 key items discussed and considered by the Council included the following;

## External Presentations

### Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation & Tourism WA

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) presented an update on the establishment of an Aboriginal Economic Advisory Board to support the overall endeavours of JTSI and the establishment of an Aboriginal Advisory Committee to provide guidance and advice to the Tourism WA Board. The Council endorsed the advisory mechanisms noting the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy Strategic Element of 'Culture at the heart'.

### Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage presented an update on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 following the completion of three phases of co-design for the key regulations and important documents that will underpin the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (the ACH Act).

### Mental Health Commission

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) presented an update on the Statutory Review of the *Mental Health Act 2014*. MHC sought feedback on the draft recommendations, including the proposed development and establishment of the WA Aboriginal Mental Health Advocacy Council (Advocacy Council). The Council endorsed the recommendation for MHC to establish the Advocacy Council.

### Department of Treasury – Aboriginal Expenditure Review

The Department of Treasury (Treasury) presented an update on the Aboriginal Expenditure Review and discussed priority areas and projects that Treasury and the Council would like to focus on throughout 2023.

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

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) updated Council on the DMIRS's rehabilitation fund and returned to answer questions raised by Council at the December 2022 meeting.

### National Indigenous Australians Agency

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) presented an update on the upcoming referendum for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament (the Voice to Parliament) and sought endorsement of regular engagement from NIAA in 2023. The Council endorsed NIAA's request to have regular engagement.

## Internal Presentations

### Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Strategy

DPC provided the Council with an update on the developing Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Strategy.

### Youth Justice Sub-Committee

DPC and the Council discussed the sub-committee terms of reference, membership, and priorities for 2023. The Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group and Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee are considering nominees.

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

## 2023 Council Planning

DPC and the Council discussed member and succession planning considerations for 2023-24. Several memberships of current Council members expire later this year.

## Closing the Gap

DPC presented an update on the WA Government's implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and sought advice from the Council on the preferred process for partnership and participation in the development of WA's second Implementation Plan.

## Papers for Consideration

- **JSTI: Biodiscovery Bill – Update for noting.**
- **DPC: Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Legislation – Update for noting.**

**The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 4 and 5 April 2023.**



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



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

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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.