

Communique - Meeting No. 018/2021

28 and 29 June 2022

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (the Council) held Meeting No.18 on Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 June 2022 at Dumas House in West Perth.

Ms Gail Beck and Mr Marty Sibosado, Co-Chairs, chaired the meeting.

The Council welcomed three new members who have been appointed as members for a term of three years. The new members are Mr Fabian Tucker, Mr Preston Thomas and Ms Rowena Leslie. Mr Tucker was noted as an apology for meeting 18.

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:

Treasury update – Department of Treasury

The Department of Treasury (Treasury) provided a presentation to the Council on the recently released 2022-23 State Budget. Council expressed their aspiration to liaise with Treasury's Aboriginal Coordination Unit which was specifically established for central oversight and coordination of Aboriginal specific expenditure. Council would like to see the expenditure review work support an evidence base to facilitate discussions with the WA Government on the effectiveness of programs for Aboriginal people and communities.

Streamlined grants approach to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations – Lotterywest

Lotterywest provided a presentation on the streamlined grants approach to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations aligned to the Closing the Gap commitments.

Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Committee - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development advised the Council that they are intending to formally establish an Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Committee. The Council in principle supports the concept and would like further information on the group's priorities, function and structure to consider further endorsement of the approach

Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce Project Update and Contemporary Forensic Model of Care – Department of Health

The Department of Health provided an update regarding the work of the Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce and sought the Council's guidance and support to facilitate engagement with the Aboriginal community in the development of a contemporary forensic mental health service model of care.

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.

DPC Presentations to Council included:

Closing the Gap – WA Implementation

DPC provided an update to Council on the WA Government's implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) and sought endorsement of the proposed approach to align the National Agreement implementation cycle to the WA State Budget Cycle.

Review Council Engagement Plan and Agenda Template

To maximise the opportunity to influence policy development and service delivery, the Council are seeking to develop an engagement guide and improve agenda submission templates to support improved transparency, strengthened government accountability and communications with Aboriginal people and communities.

Meeting with Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services; Industrial Relations

The Hon Bill Johnston MLA met with the Council and provided an overview of his portfolios. Topics of discussion included the mining industry, youth justice and the development of an Aboriginal Empowerment Initiative unit within the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

Meeting with Minister Minister for Education and Training

The Hon Sue Ellery MLC met with the Council and provided an overview of her portfolios. Topics of discussion included remote school attendance, Aboriginal languages in schools, regional education facility upgrades, training and workforce development priorities and opportunities for working in partnership with Aboriginal communities to enhance educational outcomes.

The next meeting of the Council is on 29 and 30 August 2022



Ms Gail Beck
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA



Mr Marty Sibosado
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA

* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communiqué.

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