

Communique - Meeting No. 24/2023

8 and 9 June 2023

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (the Council) held Meeting No.24 on 8 and 9 of June 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;

Ministerial Engagement

Mr Yaz Mubarakai MLA representing Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA

The Council welcomed Mr Yaz Mubarakai MLA on day one, representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Hon Dr Tony Buti. Mr Mubarakai discussed several priority areas on behalf of Minister Buti including the establishment of the Department of Education's Aboriginal Advisory Body and the upcoming referendum for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament (the Voice to Parliament). Mr Sibosado reinforced the Council's desire to have a meeting with new Premier Hon Roger Cook to discuss the Aboriginal Engagement Strategy for the state.

External Presentations

Mr Justin Mohamed, Australia's Ambassador for First Nations People

The Council welcomed Mr Justin Mohamed, the inaugural Australian Ambassador for First Nations People. Mr Mohamed's role is the first in the world of its kind dedicated to First Nations people. Mr Mohamed's role is established under the Federal Government, he leads the Office of First Nations Engagement in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Ambassador seeks to help progress Indigenous rights globally, and to grow First Nations trade and investment.

Department of Communities- Remote Communities

The Department of Communities provided the Council with an overview of the Remote Communities Fund Stage One. The Council reiterated that Aboriginal communities need to be involved in the decision-making process at the local level and acknowledged the training and employment opportunity the initiative brings to remote communities. The Council reminded the Department about their Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy collaboration to have culture at the centre of their project and expressed hope for a more united partnership between the Australian and Western Australian Government when it comes to responsibility of Aboriginal remote communities.

Department of Treasury- State Budget Debrief

The Department of Treasury (Treasury) continued their discussions with the Council about the WA Budget following an out-of-session briefing delivered in May. Treasury provided an opportunity for Council members to ask further questions about the 2023-24 State Budget and presented a summary of the budget process and timeline for budget submissions to be considered.

National Indigenous Australians Agency – Federal Budget Debrief

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) presented an update to the Council with discussions surrounding the Federal Budget for 2023-24 with a focus on First Nations' specific funding. NIAA additionally provided an update on the Voice Referendum following the progress that has been made since NIAA attended in April.

State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)- Climate Change Subcommittee (CCSS)

The Chair of the Climate Change Subcommittee presented the WA Emergency Management Sector Climate Change Adaptation Plan (WA-CCAP) to the Council. In his role as Executive Officer of SEMC, the CCSC Chair requested endorsement for on-going engagement with the Council. The Council endorsed the request

* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communique.

for a standing agenda item to support consultation in engagement with the Council on Emergency Management sector matters with Aboriginal significance. Ms Beck acknowledged and thanked the SEMC Executive Officer for coming to Council at the beginning of their process rather than at the end.

Internal Presentations

Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing legislation

DPC sought the advice of the Council on proposed Aboriginal Data Sovereignty and Governance (ADSG) elements under the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing (PRIS) legislation. This includes a mechanism that supports Aboriginal data sovereignty and governance in WA, by requiring that Aboriginal people and communities are involved or consulted when data about Aboriginal people is shared. The Council agreed to continue working with the Department on consulting on the draft legislation.

Closing the Gap Implementation Update

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 proposed structures of the Implementation Plan Update. DPC also sought the Council's input to Productivity Commission Review (PCR) to inform the WA Government's submission. Further submissions can be made to the PCR [here](#).

Culture at the Heart Workshop Report

DPC and the Council continued discussions surrounding the Culture at the Heart initiatives and made progress towards planning for a 2023 workshop. Discussions surrounding the next workshop are on-going, Aboriginal Advisory Groups and WA Government agencies will be invited to participate.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 1 and 2 August 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.