

Communique - Meeting No. 011/2021

12 May 2021

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (the Council) held Meeting No. 011 on Wednesday 12 May 2021 at Dumas House in West Perth, with some members joining via videoconference.

The Co-Chair of the Council, Ms Gail Beck, chaired the meeting.

Key items discussed and considered by the Council included the following:

Address by Minister Dawson

The incoming Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, attended the meeting and provided his first address to the Council. The discussion focused on the Council's strategic priorities.

The Minister acknowledged the work of the Council and the former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Ben Wyatt MLA, over the past two-years, most notably regarding the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and COVID-19 response.

Presentations by Agencies

A number of presentations by WA Government agencies were made during the meeting, providing information or seeking advice as follows:

Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Aboriginal Economic Development across the WA Recovery Portfolio

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) provided an update to the Council on the approach to maximising economic development for Aboriginal people and businesses in recovery infrastructure projects, as a standing agenda item.

Department of the Premier and Cabinet - National Voice Co-Design Process and Proposals

DPC provided an update to the Council on community consultations being held across the state on the Indigenous Voice Proposals, facilitated by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, launched the consultation on the proposals for Local and Regional Voices and a National Voice on 09 January 2021. Over the following four months, co-design group members gathered feedback through community consultation sessions in more than 60 locations, through a series of webinars, and an online survey and submission process.

The final report is due to be delivered to the Australian Government in mid-2021.

Department of Finance - Aboriginal Participation in Government Contracting

The Department of Finance presented to the Council on a draft model to introduce Aboriginal participation requirements in WA Government contracts to provide further opportunities for Aboriginal businesses and to provide new opportunities for Aboriginal employment.

Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Closing the Gap Implementation

The Council received an update on progress of the State's implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The Council continues to provide advice and guidance to DPC as the State's initial Implementation Plan is developed.

Aboriginal Advisory Council Western Australia

2 Havelock Street, West Perth, W.A. 6005. Locked Bag 3001. West Perth, W.A. 6872

Telephone (08) 6552 5194 • Facsimile (08) 6552 5001 • AACWA@dpc.wa.gov.au • DPC.WA.gov.au

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.

Public Sector Commission - Cultural Awareness Online Resource for the Public Sector

The Public Sector Commission presented to the Council on a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness online resource for the Western Australian Public Sector.

The resource will be hosted on the Commission's 'WA Gov' website for public sector staff. The resource will also be accessible by the general public on the WA Gov website once launched.

Department of Communities - Remote Essential Services Project

The Department of Communities presented to the Council on the Remote Essential Services Project (RESP). The Department of Communities currently funds power and water services in 139 remote Aboriginal communities and three town-based reserves.

Remote Aboriginal Communities: Mobilisation Unit

The Remote Aboriginal Communities: Mobilisation Unit (formerly the Complex Task Team) continues to provide regular updates to Council as a standing agenda item.

Infrastructure WA - Development of a State Infrastructure Strategy Update

Infrastructure WA provided an update to the Council on development of Western Australia's first 20-year State Infrastructure Strategy, which will identify the State's significant infrastructure needs and priorities.

The State Infrastructure Strategy will address a broad range of traditional infrastructure sectors (including build and non-build initiatives), as well as a series of cross-sectoral focus and opportunity areas, including Aboriginal cultural heritage, wellbeing and enterprise.

It is anticipated that the draft Strategy will be released for public consultation by mid-2021.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Wednesday 23 & Thursday 24 June 2021.



Ms Gail Beck
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA

* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communique.