

Communique - Meeting No. 014/2021

13 and 14 October 2021

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (the Council) held Meeting No. 014 on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 October 2021 at Dumas House in West Perth, with some members joining via videoconference.

Ms Gail Beck, Co-Chair, chaired the meeting.

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

Meeting with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

The Minister provided an update on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill (ACHB).

The Ministers' staff delivered a presentation to Council on the proposed changes to the ACHB.

Presentations by Agencies

Several WA Government agencies delivered presentations during the meeting, providing information or seeking advice as follows:

The Ombudsman Western Australia

The Council received an update on the newly established position for a Senior Assistant Ombudsman Aboriginal Engagement and Collaboration position. The recruitment process is currently in progress.

Foundations for a Stronger Tomorrow

Infrastructure Western Australia provided an update on the states significant infrastructure needs and priorities over the next 20 years, Council provided feedback on the cultural considerations of the Strategy.

Tourism Western Australia

Ms Renata Lowe, Acting Executive Director and Ms Mollie Hill, Executive Director provided an update, and sought feedback, to Council on the WA Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan, [Jina](#). Separate presentations included:

- the new tourism brand;
- the tourism approach to dual naming in local language and English across Western Australia;
- Aboriginal inclusion in Tourism WA brand design.

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.

Proposed Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group

Mr Mike Rowe, Director General, Department of Communities provided an update on the proposed Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group. Mr Rowe sought input from Council on the recruitment and appointment criteria.

Native Vegetation Policy Consultation

Ms Michelle Andrews, Director General, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) presented to Council on the Native Vegetation Policy consultation and sought Council's feedback. DWER provided Council information on the Aboriginal Water and Environment Advisory Group.

Strong Spirit Strong Mind Youth Project

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) delivered a presentation to Council on the Strong Spirit Strong Mind Youth project. The MHC advised Council they are seeking to establish a reference group that engages with Aboriginal researchers. The MHC advised Council a review of the Mental Health Act is underway and that the MHC will provide an update of the review in 2022.

The next meeting of the Council is on 7 and 8 December 2021.

Ms Gail Beck
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA

* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communique.

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