

Communique - Meeting No. 33/2024

19 and 20 November 2024

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (Council) held Meeting No. 33 on 19 and 20 November 2024 at Dumas House in West Perth.

Members in attendance were Mr Michael Ogilvie, Ms Rani Randall, Ms Jenny Bedford, Mr Marty Sibosado, Mr Anthony Hansen, Ms Maureen (MK) Kelly, Ms Irene Stainton and Mr Preston Thomas. Apologies were received from Ms Rowena Leslie, Mr Damien Parriman, Ms Joslyn Eades-Tass, Ms Rebecca Blurton and Ms Gail Beck.

Ms Jenny Bedford and Mr Martin Sibosado, Co-Chairs, chaired the meeting.

The Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA, Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Hon John Quigley MLA, Hon Roger Cook MLA, Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, met with Council and the Department of Finance and the Department of Treasury delivered presentations during the meeting providing information and seeking advice from Council.

The key items discussed and considered by the Council included:

Ministerial Engagements

Hon. Reece Whitby MLA; Minister for Energy; Environment; and Climate Action

The Minister provided a brief background regarding his Energy, Environment and Climate Action portfolios. The Minister noted the significant contribution of Aboriginal people in facilitating practices such as cultural burning and feral animal control.

The Council and Minister discussed the Plan for Our Parks initiative; the Aboriginal Ranger Program; tourism opportunities; natural disasters and climate change, including the impacts on food security; and the opportunities renewable energy initiatives can provide for the State and Aboriginal communities.

The Hon. John Quigley MLA; Attorney General; and Minister for Electoral Affairs

The Council welcomed Minister Quigley and noted his pending retirement. Minister Quigley discussed a variety of key legislative reforms that he has been involved in over the span of his professional career including the Evidence Act and the Mentally Impaired Accused Act.

The Hon. Roger Cook MLA; Premier; Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade; Public Sector Management; And Federal State Relations

The Council and Premier discussed issues and opportunities in youth justice; remote communities; native title, including prescribed body corporates; and renewable energy.

Premier Cook provided his reflections on the recent Wirin Bidi Commemoration Ceremony at Wadjemup, Rottnest Island, to acknowledge and reconcile the history of Aboriginal imprisonment and segregation of Aboriginal men and boys on Wadjemup between 1838 to 1931 and to honour the memory of those buried on the island.

The Hon. Simone McGurk MLA; Minister for Training and Workforce Development; Water; and Industrial Relations

Council and the Minister discussed progress against Closing the Gap Target 9b, Aboriginal communities receive essential services that meet or exceed the jurisdictional standard, discussed safe water initiatives, the importance of preserving water tables and the importance of continued engagement with Aboriginal communities.

Discussions also included the creation of the Fee Free TAFE initiative, funding for Registered Training Organisations, the National Skills Agreement and Aboriginal workforce development and employment particularly in the Aboriginal Community Controlled (ACCO) sector.

The Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC; Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Science; Medical Research; and Minister Assisting the Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade

The Minister discussed key priorities including Aboriginal health and research programs, medical and innovation funding initiatives, building on the strengths of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and the lack of Aboriginal representation in clinical trials due to complex logistics and transport barriers. Access to data and the importance of sharing research and data with communities and the People WA platform were also discussed.

Additional discussions included the response to the Fitzroy Crossing floods and the positive engagement with the local community, natural disaster preparedness and the importance of food security.

The Hon. Tony Buti MLA; Minister for Education, Aboriginal Affairs, and Multicultural Interests

Key discussion points included the Closing the Gap Joint Council meeting held in Boorloo, Perth on 15 November, the WA Government's commitment to the National Agreements' priority reforms and the important role ACCO's play in progressing the State's commitments under the National Agreement and truth telling.

Agency Engagements

The Department of Finance

The Department of Finance provided a brief overview of the evolution of the Aboriginal Procurement Policy (APP), the current review of the APP and sought feedback from Council on the review.

Other discussion points included commissioning of services, black cladding issues, partnership opportunities with ACCO's and the importance of two-way information sharing.

Department of Treasury

The Department of Treasury (Treasury) outlined the purpose of the Aboriginal Expenditure Review (AER), its alignment with Clause 113 of the National Agreement and expressed their desire to continue to partner with and receive on-going advice from Council on the development of the annual AER.

Department of Tourism

The Department of Tourism tabled their second Jina Action Plan 2025-2029 and Council confirmed their in principle endorsement.



Ms Jenny Bedford
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA



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

* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communiqué.