



## **ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE**

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006

### **SUBJECT TO ADOPTION BY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE OF KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 COMMENCING AT 1:30 PM AT COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ROOM; CORNER ELBOW AND TOZER STREETS, WEST KEMPSEY.**

### **PRESENT**

Mayor Councillor Betty Green (Chairperson); Councillor Jim Gribbin (Councillor); John Kelly (Chairperson Kempsey Local Aboriginal Lands Council); Gary Morris (CEO Booroongen Djugen Aboriginal Corporation); Judy Blomfield ( Community ) ; Ruth Campbell Maruca ( Chairperson Dunghutti Elders Council) ; Mary-Lou Buck (Community/Elders/RTA ) ; Jamie Donovan ( Indigenous Worker Centrelink) ; Gerald Hoskins ( Workforce Equity Manager North Coast Area Health Service) and Debra J Morris (Aboriginal Liaison Officer).

Also in attendance was Bruce Snape (Director Corporate and Community Services);

### **1: WELCOME**

The Mayor welcomed all members.

### **2: APOLOGIES**

Guy Whelan (Manager Community Services and Lifestyle); Madeline Donovan ( Coordinator Goorie Galbans Aboriginal Corporation) ; Dana Clarke ( Coordinator Burran Dalai Aboriginal Corporation) ; Bob Mumbler (Coordinator Greenhills Community Centre) ; Fred Kelly ( Manager Djigay Student Association) ; Ivy Brown (Student Support Officer Djigay Centre ) ; Lillian Greenup (Case Manager Department of Community Services); Drew Roberts ( General Manager Macleay Aboriginal Housing Association); Betty Mumbler (Community) ; Bronwyn Leon (Aboriginal Project Officer Department of Community Services); Victor Darcy (Coordinator Attorney General's Department Circle Sentencing); Ren Perkins (Manager Digay Centre); Caroline Bradshaw (Chairperson Local Aboriginal Consultative Committee); Mavis Davis (Community) and Gerald Bradshaw (Aboriginal Development Officer – Kempsey Department of Sports and Recreation).

---

*THIS IS PAGE 1 OF THE REPORT OF THE ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER AND 4<sup>TH</sup> 2006 AND SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007.*

.....  
MAYOR

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Moved: Judy Blomfield  
Seconded: Mary-Lou Buck*

That the apologies be accepted

**3: Adoption of the Minutes of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> August 2006.**

The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2006 were referred to the Council's Ordinary meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006, and were adopted.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes be noted.

**4: Adoption of the Minutes of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee Meeting 28<sup>TH</sup> September 2006.**

The minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006 were referred to the Council's Ordinary meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006 for Adoption and it was resolved that;

2006.751

*Moved: Cl. Walker  
Seconded: Cl McWilliam*

*The minutes of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006 be adopted and that clarification be sought for dot point 2.1.5 regarding protocol for flying flag at half mast.*

Discussion took place and the Aboriginal community advised that

- All Aboriginal deaths in the community are of significance to the whole Aboriginal community.
- That a death in the Aboriginal community is felt by the whole Aboriginal community because of the immediate and extended family connections and cultural reasons.
- The Aboriginal flag is always draped on a casket of a deceased Aboriginal person.

Director Bruce Snape noted that previously the Aboriginal Liaison Officer was the first point of contact as an indirect protocol.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Ruth Maruca  
Seconded: Cl Jim Gribben**

That the Aboriginal Liaison Officer be the contact person for determining flag protocols for all deaths occurring in the Aboriginal community.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: CI Betty Green  
Seconded: Judy Blomfield**

That Council review the flag flying process and protocols.

**5: Business arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2006.**

**5.1 Kempsey Assistance Patrol.**

Members raised questions in relation to the Kempsey Assistance Patrol.

Members raised questions such as;

- 1 Who are the Aboriginal committee members?
- 2 Are the Kap buses being sold?
- 3 Whose initiative was it in the first place?
- 4 Why is there a lack of Aboriginal involvement for the patrol?
- 5 Who is the decision maker for the Kempsey assistance Patrol?

Response

- 1 Previously, Gerald Hoskins and Mary-Lou Buck were the Aboriginal nominated representatives from the Aboriginal Liaison Committee and these recommendations were adopted at a Council level.

Mary-Lou Buck and Gerald Hoskins have informed the Committee, and at no time have they received invites to attend the Kempsey Assistance Patrol meetings, and have requested the Director to follow up.

- 2 The Director has checked with the staff and the Kempsey Assistance Patrol buses are not in the process of being sold.
- 3 It was an initiative of the Aboriginal community brought to the Aboriginal Liaison Committee to address social and crime matters that was happening in the South Kempsey area in the early 1990's.
- 4 Will follow up with the Council Officer coordinating the project.

The Kempsey Aboriginal Community Justice Group through the Attorney General's Department has also raised these issues of concern pertaining to the Kempsey Assistance Patrol.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Ruth Maruca  
Seconded: Gary Morris**

That Mary-Lou Buck, John Kelly, Ruth Campbell and Gerald Hoskins be the nominated Aboriginal representatives on the Kempsey Assistance Patrol Committee.

## **5.2 Aboriginal Employment Strategy**

A copy of the Strategy presented to the members for their perusal.

## **5.3 NAIDOC Week Matters**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Ruth Maruca  
Seconded: Judy Blomfield**

That this matter be deferred to the first meeting of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee in 2007.

## **6: Business arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006.**

Nil

## **7: Statement of Commitment Action Plan**

The members felt that there was not sufficient time to deal with the remainder of the documents presented; the Statement of Commitment Action Plan, The Statement of Commitment Apology and Information package; the draft communications strategy, and there would need to be another meeting too specifically deal with these matters.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Ruth Maruca  
Seconded: Gerald Hoskins**

- a) That any comments, changes and errors be forwarded to the Aboriginal Liaison Officer via the email system.
- b) That the meeting be reconvened on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006 in the Council's committee room/Council Chambers commencing at 10:30am.

## **8: Local Government and Shires Association Aboriginal Network Conference-**

Clr Jim Gribben and the Aboriginal Liaison Officer gave a verbal report.

- The Conference was a well informed conference and Gunnedah Shire Council are doing quite a few reconciliation projects with their Aboriginal community
- The workshops held were the Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation CDEP
- TAFE- Review of the Aboriginal Education and the proposed changes.
- Gunnedah Pre-School

---

*THIS IS PAGE 4 OF THE REPORT OF THE ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER AND 4<sup>TH</sup> 2006 AND SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007.*

- Gunnedah's Indigenous Population- The Social Plan
- Overview of the Health for Life Program
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs- Two Ways Together
- Native Title

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Gary Morris  
Seconded: Mary-Lou Buck**

That Councillor Gribben's verbal report of the Conference be accepted

A written report is being collated and will be presented to the Aboriginal Liaison committee at a tentative meeting.

**9: Australia Day and Reconciliation**

Aboriginal Liaison Officer advised members that a letter was sent out to all Aboriginal Liaison Committee members and peak Aboriginal organisations in reference to the Australia Day survey; ***Does the Aboriginal community wish to participate in Australia Day activities? and Do we need awards for Aboriginal Citizen of the Year and Young Aboriginal citizen of the year?***

On the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2006 33 letters were sent out and we have only received 6 responses.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Gerald Hoskins  
Seconded: Gary Morris**

That a further letter be sent out requesting the same information and the responses are to be presented at the next Aboriginal Liaison Committee meeting.

**10: General Business**

**10.1 Greenhill's Community Centre- Land Management and Restoration Project Brief.**

This is a joint project between the Centre, Aboriginal Community Capacity Building Project and the Kempsey Local Aboriginal Lands Council.

**10.2 Library- "In Living Memory" Exhibition.**

The library is submitting an application to have this exhibition displayed at Kempsey. It is an exhibition of the State Records and NSW Aborigines Welfare Board.

Mayor Betty Green - Is the Library or the Gallery the appropriate place?

The Aboriginal members responded that the Library is the appropriate place to hold this exhibition.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Mary-Lou Buck  
Seconded: Gary Morris**

- a) That the Aboriginal Liaison Committee agrees in principle to support the Library's efforts in bringing the exhibition to Kempsey.
- b) That the Aboriginal community and organisations give consideration to providing letters of support and forward to the Aboriginal Liaison Officer.

**10.3 Fair Trading Newsletter**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: John Kelly  
Seconded: Gary Morris**

That the information be noted.

**10.4 Sistergirls- An Information session for service providers.**

A workshop for service providers who have dealings with Transgender/Sistergirl clients.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Gerald Hoskins  
Seconded: Ruth Maruca**

For information only

**10.5 Partnership for Aboriginal Care 2005 – 2006 Annual report**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Mary-Lou Buck  
Seconded: Gary Morris**

That the information be noted.

**10.6 Centrelink- Letter of Request**

Request for the Indigenous Service Officer to be a member of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Mary-Lou Buck  
Seconded: Gary Morris**

That the Indigenous Service Officer, Jamie Donovan be accepted as a member on the Aboriginal Liaison committee

**10.7 6<sup>th</sup> National Indigenous Environmental Health Conference**

Calling for Abstracts for Oral and Storyboard/Posters presentations.

Let the Aboriginal Liaison Officer know and if a copy is requested it will be sent out.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Mary-Lou Buck  
Seconded: Gary Morris**

That the information be noted.

**10.8 East Kempsey Cemetery- Possible Boora ring**

Council would appreciate information as to the possible location of a " borra ring" at the East Kempsey Cemetery site. Council staff have been made aware of the unusual formation for a number of years; however verification of the use of this spot has not been confirmed.

The area is located on the eastern side of the East Kempsey cemetery adjacent to the uniting Lawn cemetery amongst camphor-laurel trees on the 'ring".

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Gerald Hoskins  
Seconded: Mary-Lou Buck**

That this matter is referred to the Kempsey Local Aboriginal Lands Council, Dunghutti Elders Council and they will deal with this matter in the appropriate manner.

**10.9 East Kempsey Cemetery- Future Radar Scanning**

Council has been verbally advised that Aboriginal graves exist in another area of the Cemetery site. This is approximately half the area just recently scanned.

Council is requesting any local knowledge of Aboriginal members being buried in this section to pursue scanning of this area.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Gerald Hoskins  
Seconded: Jamie Donovan**

That this matter be referred to the Kempsey Local Aboriginal Lands Council, Thunghutti Local aboriginal Lands Council and the Dunghutti Elders Council for their investigations and report back to the Aboriginal Liaison Committee.

**10.10 East Kempsey Cemetery- Memorial plaque and Unveiling**

A copy of the wording was presented to the members. The plaque will be back in early December .The boulder has been chosen by the Elders and is being organised to be placed at the site chosen. At this stage there are no dollars to provide the seat as first determined in the preliminary meetings

Need a date for the unveiling of the plaque, and time.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: CI Betty Green  
Seconded: Gary Morris**

That 10:30am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006 be nominated as the date for the official unveiling of the Aboriginal Memorial plaque.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Ruth Maruca  
Seconded: John Kelly**

- a) That organisations and groups be approached for financial donations towards the purchase and installing of a seat for the official unveiling of the Plaque.
- b) That a small plaque be placed on the seat with the wording donated by the sponsors.
- c) That consideration be given to the provision of shade and toilet facilities (e.g.; porta loos and gazebos) for the unveiling ceremony.

**10.11 Mary-Lou Buck**

The council's website regarding Aboriginal issues is lacking in Aboriginal information. Who is going to be the Aboriginal representative onto the website committee?

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Gerald Hoskins  
Seconded: John Kelly**

That Mary-Lou Buck and Jamie Donovan be the nominated Aboriginal representatives to meet with Council's Web- site Administrator.

**10.12 Wutuma Aboriginal Keeping Place**

This Committee has been having high profile meetings that have been facilitated by the Indigenous Coordination Centre.

Would like to know if Council is in support and how?

What is the status of the DA?

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Ruth Maruca  
Seconded: John Kelly**

That the Aboriginal Liaison Officer follows up and report back to the Committee.

**10.13 The proposed Sam Hoskins Park at North Street**

Mary-Lou Buck advised that a letter was sent 5 years ago and that she still does not know what Council's decision on this matter was.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Ruth Maruca  
Seconded: John Kelly**

---

*THIS IS PAGE 8 OF THE REPORT OF THE ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER AND 4<sup>TH</sup> 2006 AND SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007.*

That the Aboriginal Liaison Officer follows up and present information back to Ms Mary-Lou Buck.

#### **10.14 Department of Housing- Evicting single mothers**

Mary-Lou Buck advised that from the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, with the Department of Housing, is this their response by (Department of Housing) evicting single mothers and what actual confirmation is there that no other families are being relocated to Kempsey from out West.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Gerald Hoskins  
Seconded: John Kelly**

That the information be noted.

#### **10.15 Community Consultations- The Corporate Strategic Plan – 10 years**

Discussion took place and the Aboriginal members felt that there should be a consultation process specifically with the Aboriginal community.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Moved: Ruth Maruca  
Seconded: John Kelly**

That this matter be deferred for consideration when this meeting is reconvened on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2006.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED:**

At this stage, the time being 3:30PM the meeting was adjourned to be reconvened on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

#### **MEETING RESUMPTION**

The meeting was reconvened on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006 at 10:30am.

#### **PRESENT**

Mayor Councillor Betty Green (Chairperson); John Kelly (Chairperson Kempsey Local Aboriginal Lands Council); Ruth Maruca (Chairperson Dughutti Elders Council); Jamie Donovan (Indigenous Worker Centrelink); Noleene Griffen (Burrn Dalai Aboriginal Corporation representative); and Debra J Morris (Aboriginal Liaison Officer).

Also in attendance was Veronica Waters (Community Elder)

#### **APOLOGIES**

Jim Gribbin (Councillor); Bruce Snape (Director Corporate and Community Services); Guy Whelan (Manager Community Services and Lifestyle); Gary Morris CEO (Booroongen Djugen Aboriginal Corporation); Judy Blomfield (Community

---

*THIS IS PAGE 9 OF THE REPORT OF THE ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER AND 4<sup>TH</sup> 2006 AND SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007.*

Madeline Donovan ( Coordinator Goorie Galbans Aboriginal Corporation) ; Bob Mumbler (Coordinator Greenhills Community Centre) ; Fred Kelly ( Manager Djigay Student Association) ; Ivy Brown (Student Support Officer Djigay Centre ) ; Lillian Greenup (Case Manager Department of Community Services); Drew Roberts (General Manager Macleay Aboriginal Housing Association); Betty Mumbler (Community) ; Bronwyn Leon (Aboriginal Project Officer Department of Community Services); Victor Darcy (Coordinator Attorney General's Department Circle Sentencing); Ren Perkins (Manager Digay Centre); Caroline Bradshaw (Chairperson Local Aboriginal Consultative Committee); Mavis Davis (Community); Gerald Bradshaw (Aboriginal Development Officer – Kempsey Department of Sports and Recreation); Mary-Lou Buck (Community/Elders/RTA ) ; Gerald Hoskins (Workforce Equity Manager North Coast Area Health Service) and Betty Mumbler (Community).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

*Moved: John Kelly  
Seconded: Jamie Donovan*

That the apologies be accepted

### **11: Statement of Commitment Information Package- Communications Strategy.**

A copy of the draft Communications strategy presented to members for comments, spell checks, errors and changes and these were done during the meeting.

- Changes to the Artworks and front cover.
- Wording
- Include some background information
- Final draft to Council

## **RECOMMENDATION**

*Moved: Cllr Betty Green  
Seconded: John Kelly*

a) That the artworks of Thomas Sines be incorporated in all documents pertaining to Aboriginal matters and documentation.

b) That the final draft Communications Strategy attached at [appendix A](#) be forwarded to Council's meeting for consideration.

### **12: Statement of Commitment Action Plan.**

#### **12.1 Welcome to Country signage**

Awaiting response from letters sent out to the Roads and Traffic Authority requesting further information for signage to be erected at the Northern and Eastern boundaries of the Pacific Highway.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

*Moved: John Kelly  
Seconded: Jamie Donovan*

a) That negotiation with the Roads and Traffic Authority be progressed with reference to signage on Armidale Road.

**RECOMMENDATION**

***Moved: Cllr Betty Green  
Seconded: Jamie Donovan***

That the Welcome to Country Artworks be included in the Statement of Commitment Apology and Information package section called "Leadership" strategies.

**RECOMMENDATION**

***Moved: Cllr Betty Green  
Seconded: Jamie Donovan***

That the following protocol be included, That the "Welcome to Country" and a Smoking Ceremony be included in all Council's functions and events when requested.

**12.2 Local Government Aboriginal Mentoring program**

**RECOMMENDATION**

***Moved: John Kelly  
Seconded: Jamie Donovan***

That Council consider implementing the Local Government Aboriginal Mentoring program in 2007.

**12.3 Cultural Awareness Package**

The draft package is being developed and the document will be presented to the Council's EEO Reference Group.

**13: Statement of Commitment Action Plan- Draft Aboriginal Protocols**

This is still in draft form and members have perused the draft document with comments, changes, spell checks and errors.

The final draft will be presented to the Kempsey Local Aboriginal Lands Council, Dughutti Elders Council, peak Aboriginal organisations and community and then presented back to the next ALC for the member's determinations.

**14: Remainder of the Statement of Commitment Action Plan Matters**

There are only a few more issues to be dealt with in this document due to time constraints and it was felt that the remainder be put over.

**RECOMMENDATION**

***Moved: John Kelly  
Seconded: Jamie Donovan***

That this matter be deferred to the first meeting of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee in 2007.

## 15: Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference Report

Refer to agenda item 8 and recommendations.

## 16: Corporate Strategic Plan- Aboriginal Consultation

Facilitated by ETC- Leonie Grant

Power Point presentation was presented by ETC Facilitator, Leonie Grant.

Written submission for comments will be closed 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

The Aboriginal community were very enthusiastic and offered many suggestions for the following areas;

- Council's Vision

Agree accept include the Dunghutti Meaning in italics and brackets underneath.

- The word mission is an uneasy word for Aboriginal people to accept and would like to something similar- "*Our future Path*"
- Goal 1 to include the Wutuma Aboriginal keeping Place
- Goal 2 to include the strategy of maintaining of the ALO position
- Goal 3 that all Aboriginal festival and events be included on the website and all other events.
- Goal 3 That Aboriginal artworks be included into the township area and this way it will address the anti social behaviour theory.
- Goal 5 - The council is part of a regional group of Councils working together and the same principal applies to the Aboriginal Nations in this area and it is recommended that the MOU's drawn up between the Aboriginal Nations be added and acknowledged- Traditional boundaries and Lands Council boundaries also.
- Goal 6 to include any major Aboriginal projects as they also will benefit the wider community economically as well as social.
- Goal 6- that the Council in partnership with the Lands Councils and Elders Council employ a Culture and Heritage Officer in the Sustainable Department.
- Goal 7- That there is a review of council's resources and consideration is given for resource sharing.

- Council has an obligation to environmental health of the Aboriginal community as well as the general community and this is lacking in this Council, with no projects happening at all.
- Recommends that Ruth Campbell, John Kelly be the Aboriginal representatives onto the Corporate Strategic Plan- 10 year's committee.
- That Council list a status of their corporate achievements over the years and for future generations.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

ETC Facilitator – Leonie Grant was the scribe for the meeting and refer to the recommendations and suggestions from the Aboriginal Community Consultation in the Community Consultations Report.

**17: General Business**

Nil

**18: Evaluation**

The meeting was well represented, information shared, guidance and direction and positive outcomes were achieved.

**19: Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Aboriginal Liaison committee to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007 commencing at 10:30 AM in the Council's Committee Room.