



DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

3rd February 2009

DCCS13	ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE		
	FILE: 540	TLE	{ Folio No. * }

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the suggested change of name for the Aboriginal Liaison Committee.

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DESCRIPTION:

In the early 1990's the Aboriginal Liaison Committee was established with the objectives of:

- Advising Council on matters concerning the Aboriginal community
- To develop and implement a Cultural Protocol
- To develop and implement The Statement of Commitment to the Aboriginal community made by Council May 26th 1999.
- Effective communication and information flow to develop strategies by which Council can meet the community's expressed needs.
- To advise Council on an Aboriginal Employment Strategy.
- To advise Council on issues relating to Aboriginal Culture and Heritage and to encourage the preservation and restoration of local Aboriginal Culture.
- To increase awareness and respect for Aboriginal culture by other members of the Kempsey Community.

During the period from October 2007 until November 2008 the committee received mixed success and was plagued with lack of quorums resulting in actions not being further progressed.

Having an effective communication mechanism with the indigenous community is important to Council. Accordingly at the Aboriginal Liaison Committee meeting of the November 2008 those members present recommended that the Aboriginal Liaison Committee be renamed the Aboriginal Consultative Working Party.

In becoming a working party it would permit positive and affirmative actions to be undertaken by both Council and the community in addressing common issues.

Council is now asked to give consideration to this request.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Nil

- *Social*

The social implication of this report is that in the present format of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee is ineffective which is impacting on the provision of services to the indigenous community.

Council's charter includes the provision, "after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community".

The recommendation seeks to have the current model for community consultation and stakeholder engagement changed.

- *Economic (Financial)*

Nil

- *Policy or Statutory*

Council is required to develop a social plan at least every 5 years. The current Social Plan 2004 - 2009 is in its final stages, and a new Community Development Plan is to be prepared within the next year.

One of the target groups required for the Community Development Plan is to address issues affecting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) community. The Aboriginal Consultative Working Party is an effective mechanism for this engagement.

- *Director's Review*

It is evident that the structure of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee is not effective in engaging members of the Aboriginal Community, a new revamped structure provides opportunities for targeted engagement and progress.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Aboriginal Liaison Committee be renamed the Aboriginal Consultative Working Party.
2. That relevant organizations and community members be invited to participate and be members of the Working Party.

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K E OLIVER

ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES