



19 October 2023

**Meeting Notes
Harbour Trust
First Nations Advisory Group**

Time: 2.30 pm – 5.30 pm

Venue: Harbour Trust Head Office (28 Best Avenue, Mosman)

First Nations Advisory Group

Alison Page, *Acting Chair*

Bryce Liddle

Chris Ingrey

Jessie Longbottom

Lloyd Walker

Peter White

Apologies

Donna Daly

Nathan Moran

Harbour Trust

Janet Carding, *Executive Director*

Kathryn Roberts, *Director, Marketing & Visitor Experience*

Alastair Fisher, *Community Engagement Officer*

1. Welcome, Welcome to Country and introductions

Lloyd Walker (LW) opened the meeting with a Welcome to Country. Alison Page (AP) welcomed attendees. Members of the Advisory Group and Harbour Trust Staff introduced themselves. Donna Daly and Nathan Moran sent apologies.

2. Advisory Group Charter and Governance

AP discussed the draft First Nations Advisory Group Charter and the background to how it was produced as terms of reference for the group. Peter White (PW) noted the need to be mindful of considering First Nations Military history within the group.

AP noted that following the approval of the Master Plans with the Harbour Trust Board there will be a deeper investigation into the Aboriginal history on the sites and contemporary relevance. She added that every site the Harbour Trust manages still needs to have more culture and heritage research work done.

The First Nations Advisory Group members all accepted the charter as it was presented to them.



JC sought the views of the group on whether the Harbour Trust should develop a further Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) or a First Nations Strategy instead/as well. She noted the discussion in workshops hosted by the Harbour Trust in 2021 around RAPs and whether they work for Aboriginal people or government organisations.

Chris Ingrey (CI) understood the need for corporate businesses to have a RAP involving Reconciliation Australia, however as a government agency a RAP is not as relevant for the Harbour Trust, and he would support the development of a strategy. LW and Jessie Longbottom (JL) supported strategy development, adding that it would allow greater flexibility and input from the group without the need to ratify it with Reconciliation Australia.

PW agreed that government agencies don't need a RAP and that a strategy is more appropriate. Asked how the Harbour Trust was tracking against its previous two RAPs. JC confirmed that the Harbour Trust has performed well and currently there is one member of staff and one Board Member who are Indigenous.

Bryce Liddle (BL) noted that there is no accountability within a RAP. JC agreed but noted some of the positives that have come out of the Harbour Trust's previous RAPs including regularly working with Indigenous suppliers and staff training including regular cultural awareness training.

The group agreed to pursue the development of a First Nations Strategy. JC thanked the group for this direction and agreed to start the process of developing a strategy framework to present to the group at the next meeting for discussion and input.

CI requested that the previous two RAP's are shared with the group.

Action: Harbour Trust to circulate previous two RAP's and notes on strategic discussions held with the internal RAP working group

Action: Harbour Trust to prepare a strategy framework for discussion in Meeting 2 (Feb 24)

3. Upcoming Draft Master Plans

a) North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan

JC provided an overview of the North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan that is on public exhibition until 31 October 2023. AP noted that the First Nations Advisory Group was not formed in time to input into the North Head Sanctuary Draft Master Plan, with JC adding that the Harbour Trust worked with the Gujaga Foundation and did a Walk on Country with Michael Ingrey to talk through the project. The draft master plan is a starting point for the conversation and not the final position.

PW asked about the non-indigenous heritage listings found on the site. JC confirmed that the Barracks are nationally heritage listed in their own right and the site is on the Commonwealth Heritage listing.

PW asked about the recognition of Aboriginal defence on the memorial walk. JC confirmed there would need to be a conversation about how the memorial walk develops over time.

PW asked about the discussions with New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS). JC noted that NPWS would like to move walkers off the North Head Scenic Drive so they will not be putting a pavement along



it. Adding the Harbour Trust is looking to work with Q Station on a joint approach to wayfinding and paths, as well as with First Nations people on paths and stories that can be told around the site.

AP noted that the Gujaga Foundation reviewed the draft master plan and provided feedback, it is not an expectation that this group does this at this stage in the project.

PW noted that Aboriginal naming is supported in some agencies but difficult in others. JC confirmed that work was done with the Gujaga Foundation on the dual name for North Head, but they advised more work was needed on this before a name was used. PW noted that there is a risk adverse nature around moving forward with dual naming that is holding back the conversation around language. Noted that the Harbour Trust should show leadership in this area.

A group discussion was had around language and use of it. AP suggested the group could work on creating a naming protocol for the Harbour Trust. The group agreed.

Action: Harbour Trust to consider this in the strategic planning for discussion at the next meeting

b) Cockatoo Island / Wareamah Draft Master Plan

JC provided an overview of the Cockatoo Island / Wareamah Draft Master Plan that will be on public exhibition from Wednesday 1 November until Wednesday 13 December 2023.

JC noted that Harbour Trust is trying to use the island's dual naming where possible and have spoken to Transport for NSW on changing the ferry stops name. This change had been agreed in principle. AP requested a pause on the renaming of the ferry stop until the group has come up with a structure to govern naming. PW noted that the dual name for the island has not been tested properly but was approved by the Geographical Naming Board.

BL questioned what wildlife was on the island. JC noted that it is thought cockatoos once lived there within the angophora forest.

AP suggested having on Country learning experiences on the island. Noting that the Connecting with Country section of the draft master plan is light on detail currently. She added that when the public exhibition concluded and the feedback is received, the document can be updated with more details.

PW questioned what the process was for the draft master plan. JC confirmed that the plan would go out to the public for consultation, the Harbour Trust would work on the business case simultaneously, the final master plan would then be produced following the feedback received.

PW noted that very few of indigenous businesses has the capacity to scale up in size quickly and would need support. JC added that the Harbour Trust is responsible for ensuring the island is operated but there is flexibility on how it is done. An existing organisation could expand and take on more staff to function on the island, but also the Harbour Trust could aim to generate revenue to fund and provide grants to indigenous partners for their operations.

AP recommended the Harbour Trust tells the Burri Burri story on the island.



4. Annual Workplan and Public Announcement

JC asked the group if they wanted a public announcement about the formation of the group and for the group to be put on the Harbour Trust's website. The suggested taking a group photo at the next meeting and posting that on the website.

AP noted there would be 4 meetings a year with any additional ad hoc meetings as needed.

AP discussed the report started by Paul Irish on the heritage of Middle Head that was not completed. The group agreed that Paul Irish should be asked to restart and complete this work.

AP acknowledged the Aboriginal owners report is out and will be finalised by the end of the year. She suggested the group should develop a strategy for indigenous artists as a long-term prospect for the Harbour Trust.

Action: The group agreed that Paul Irish should be asked to restart and complete the heritage report of Middle Head

The meeting closed at 5:30 PM