

MEETING NOTES

FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2026 | 3:00PM-5:00PM

Attendees:

First Nations Advisory Group Members:	Harbour Trust:	Apologies
Alison Page (Chair)	Janet Carding, <i>Executive Director</i>	Donna Daly
Peter White	Brad Manera, <i>Member of the Trust</i>	Bryce Liddell
Lloyd Walker	Helen Lochhead, <i>Member of the Trust</i>	Jessie Longbottom
External Attendees:	Eloise Dalmas, <i>Community Engagement Officer</i>	Chris Ingrey
Rowena Welsh Jarrett	Bernadette Or, <i>Chief Operating and Financial Officer</i>	
	Belinda Wulf, <i>Manager Procurement</i>	
	Daniel Sealey, <i>Director of Planning</i>	
	Nerida Campbell, <i>Head of Curatorial, Research and Production</i>	

MEETING OPENING

1. Welcome and apologies

Lloyd Walker opened the meeting with a Welcome to Country. The Chair, Alison Page (AP) noted the above apologies.

2. Chair Update

AP shared information regarding the ongoing membership from the group, stating that she will confirm with various members in writing whether they wish to undertake another three-year term. Confirmation regarding members is ongoing and will be confirmed in due course.

2.1 Review of Previous Meetings Minutes

Previous meeting notes (February 2026) were endorsed.

ACTION:

- AP to send letter to current members regarding a further 3-year term.

- AP to contact Traditional Owners Corporation for their nominations regarding Traditional Owners representation on the group.
- AP to send letters requesting nomination of a representative from both Land Councils.
- AP to contact the Traditional Owners Corporation once all members have been determined.

3. STANDING ITEMS

3.1 Arising Action Items from Previous Meeting & Terms of Reference Update & Discussion

Updates regarding various ongoing actions were provided regarding the previous meetings' actions (outlined below).

The group agreed that the Terms of Reference would remain in draft until the anticipated legislative changes come into effect.

3.2 Strategy Progress Update

Q3 updates on the strategy were provided to the group prior to the meeting. All actions are on track, with no concerns raised by the group.

Discussions were had regarding First Nations co-design, with HT encouraged to meet with the IndigiGrow CEO to discuss long-term ambitions for the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub and future collaborative opportunities at North Head. This may include a plant propagation site co-developed with the North Head Sanctuary Foundation, focused on the site's genetically unique plants.

A suggestion was made to consider the incorporation of a seedbank at Middle Head, recommending further discussions with IndigiGrow and the Botanic Gardens on potential education initiatives focused on ecology, place and Country.

ACTION:

- JC to invite IndigiGrow to North Head Sanctuary for further discussions.
- IndigiGrow & plant clan conversation placed as an agenda item at a later date.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Indigenous Procurement Policy

An initial discussion was held with the Harbour Trust procurement team to consider how cultural activations and programs that might include ICIP or require Traditional Owners input could be considered within the Commonwealth procurement processes the Harbour Trust must follow. The procurement team will bring forward a suggested process for further discussion.

5. Heritage Strategy Update

A briefing paper was provided for this agenda item prior to the meeting. Daniel Sealey (DS) was particularly interested in hearing from the group regarding the elements of First Nations cultural heritage that could be considered for inclusion in the strategy.

The group advised that various reports such as the Jumbunna Report, could be incorporated where possible, outlining how this may help in ensuring truth telling and explaining the duality of heritage. The First Nations Strategy and data sovereignty (ICIP) was also raised as an important matter to consider when reviewing this strategy, noting the commitments to First Nations engagement as the legislative changes to the EPBC Act come into place. Rowena Welsh Jarrett (RWJ) suggested consulting with the NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee. The Heritage Strategy should identify the need for further First Nations Cultural Heritage studies across the sites, similar to those undertaken for Middle Head, Cockatoo Island and Woolwich.

6. Jumbunna Report Update

Cultural business regarding this report was raised including visits to Country to further deepen the Harbour Trust's understanding of Country and the interplay of heritage and truth telling.

The report was endorsed by the group.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

7. Middle Head Masterplan Stage 1 Implementation

DS provided an update regarding the EPBC referral that is still in train. Work is progressing on the First Nations elements discussed in February. AP and First Nations 2D designer to meet with Coastal Sydney and Illawarra Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation regarding the traditional motifs that may form part of the interpretation.

8. Cockatoo Island Cultural Heritage final Report Update

RWJ stated the new information from the Jumbunna report will need to be integrated into her work which will delay the delivery date. The FNAG was supportive of the extension.

9. AOB

N/A