

MEETING NOTES

FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER 2025 | 2:00PM-4:00PM

Attendees:

First Nations Advisory Group Members:	Apologies	Harbour Trust:	Invited Guests:
Alison Page (Chair)	Donna Daly	Janet Carding, <i>Executive Director</i>	Rowena Welsh Jarrett
Jessie Longbottom	Chris Ingrey	Kathryn Roberts, <i>Director Marketing & Visitor Experience</i>	
Bryce Liddell		Susan Thompson, <i>Head of Engagement & Experience</i>	
Lloyd Walker		Eloise Dalmas, <i>Community Engagement Officer</i>	
Peter White		Margo Kouvaris, <i>Project Manager</i>	
		Annie Hazelton, <i>Strategy Officer</i>	

MEETING OPENING

1. Welcome and apologies

Lloyd Walker opened the meeting with a Welcome to Country. Alison Page (AP) noted apologies for Chris Ingrey, Donna Daly. There has been no contact from Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council for some time but the invitation is still open for their involvement.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

2. Cockatoo Island Draft Report

Rowena Welsh Jarrett's (RWJ) Cockatoo Island draft report was discussed with the group. Comments and feedback were sought from the group. RWJ were congratulated for the report, which pulls together research with community consultation.

Further discussions were had regarding current Harbour Trust documents such as Management Plans and master plans and how these could incorporate RWJ's findings/suggestions in due course. Emphasis was placed on First Nation's people's rights to participate in conversations regarding their cultural heritage and management of both intangible and tangible heritage; history written by First Nations peoples not about First Nations peoples.

3. Kayaking and Swimming project at Cockatoo Island - Project Inception

The Harbour Trust presented the project plan for swimming and kayaking at the Slipways. Information was sought from the group, regarding communities of interest, targeted procurement and the opportunities for First Nations led programs. The potential for a co-designed process was discussed with a focus on the restorative aspects of this project.

The group advised that external stakeholder discussions should occur between key First Nations partners, where retail/commercial opportunities and capacity building could be discussed, including the potential for the introduction of a mentor model for First Nations start-ups in tourism focused businesses such as kayak hire. The La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council used to run a kayak hire business and it was suggested that the Harbour Trust contact Chris Ingrey to discuss what happened to this enterprise and their advice for Cockatoo Island.

Restorative processes in this location, including by the Gamay Rangers and Sydney Institute for Marine Science (SIMS) were discussed, including considering their potential involvement in this project and opportunities for collaboration.

The group advised that consideration on how to make it a welcoming space for First Nations communities would be important

ACTION:

- Harbour Trust to contact La Perouse Alliance for advice regarding kayak hire based on their previous experience.
- Further discussions to be held between the Harbour Trust and Gamay Rangers regarding opportunities for collaboration.

4. Mosaic Crane Update

The Harbour Trust provided an update regarding the recent deterioration of the Mosaic Crane and how the removal and preservation of this piece of First Nations artwork - dating from the time of the Tent Embassy occupation of the island - will be managed.

Artist provenance has been hard for the Harbour Trust to ascertain, and they sought advice from the group regarding a contact. Following RWJ report on Cockatoo Island, it was suggested that Isabel Coe's family should be consulted on the artist's identity and to ascertain next steps.

ACTION:

- Harbour Trust to reach out to Isabel Coe's family to identify artist identity and ascertain next steps.

5. Executive Director Update

The Executive Director provided an update on the recent Harbour Roundtable discussions regarding the potential to develop a First Nations led whole of harbour cultural plan. Updates will be provided at future meetings.

6. Engaging with First Nations Suppliers, programs and activations

The Harbour Trust discussed a briefing paper that had been shared with the group in advance of the meeting. The paper shared initial thinking about the approach to identify suitable First Nations suppliers to both develop and deliver First Nations content and programs. The group raised the importance of ensuring that when Harbour Trust manages supply contracts with First Nation suppliers, there are due considerations of First Nation cultural standards

ACTION:

- Harbour Trust to continue to work with the First Nations Advisory Group on First Nations procurement and suppliers

7. 2026 Workplan

This agenda item was not discussed and will be discussed out of session.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

8. First Nations Strategy Implementation Process for performance reporting

The performance reporting matrix for the First Nations Strategy was shared with the group. Key goals and their timeframes were outlined, noting some crossover with actions from the 2025-26 Corporate Plan. This reporting will be sent out internally each quarter and then fed back to the group, where updates will be presented at each meeting.

ACTION:

- Harbour Trust to send reporting matrix to the group for feedback.

9. AOB

N/A