

MEETING NOTES

FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 2025 | 2:00PM-4:00PM

Attendees:

First Nations Advisory Group Members:	Harbour Trust:	Invited Guests:
Alison Page (Chair)	Janet Carding, <i>Executive Director</i>	Clarence Slockee, Jiwah
Jessie Longbottom (online)	Brad Manera, <i>Member of the Trust</i>	
Bryce Liddell (online)	Helen Lochhead, <i>Member of the Trust</i>	
Lloyd Walker (online)	Kathryn Roberts, <i>Director Marketing & Visitor Experience</i>	
Donna Daly (online)	Susan Thompson, <i>Head of Engagement & Experience</i>	
Peter White	Michelle DeCarteret, <i>Assistant Curator & Producer – Middle Head</i>	
	Eloise Dalmas, <i>Community Engagement 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.

The First Nations Advisory Group (FNAG) approved the notes from the previous meeting (February 13) with no comments.

2. Executive Director Update

Janet Carding (JC) provided an update to the group regarding Macquarie Lightstation and a recent visit from the new Minister for the Environment and Water, Senator the Hon Murray Watt. The visit from the new Minister was positive, being his first visit to a Harbour Trust site. The Harbour Trust is keen to invite the minister to not only visit more of its sites, but also to further the Minister's understanding of how richly embedded First Nation's stories are across Harbour Trust sites. The group agreed that another visit would provide a good opportunity for the Minister to meet with the advisory group to hear firsthand the story of the harbour.

A brief update was also provided regarding the \$10.2million election commitment from the Labor Government for swimming and kayaking at the slipway on Cockatoo Island/Waremeah.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3. Cockatoo Island / Wareamah First Nations research and progress report presentation

Associate Professor Kirsten Thorpe & Dr Lauren Booker from UTS provided an update to the group regarding the progress of their research work at Cockatoo Island.

A suggestion was made by the group to contact “The Healing Foundation” in order to understand the most appropriate way to approach the distribution of these stories to community.

ACTION:

JC to get in touch with the Healing Foundation to explore best practice in this space.

4. Cockatoo Island First Nations Cultural Heritage Review, Stage 2

This agenda item was postponed.

ACTION:

Rowena Welsh-Jarrett to connect with each member individually regarding First Nations business opportunities on Cockatoo Island.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5. Update on the staff First Nations Strategy training and proposed Staff Learning Plan on cultural competency

JC provided an update regarding the suggested cultural learning plan and skills matrix, which was developed following a staff training session (led by Terry Janke & Co) and survey in August.

The group discussed that all staff and volunteers should have a good understanding of First Nation’s peoples and history as it relates to Harbour Trust places. The group was also in agreement that those people who are visitor facing, need an intermediate to advanced level of cultural competency.

It was discussed that cultural training could be co-designed between the FNAG and the Gujaga Foundation.

ACTION:

Harbour Trust to explore developing an annual training program in consultation with the Gujaga Foundation

6. Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh Interpretation Project

Michelle Decarteret (MD) provided an update on the response to the recent workshop and how this has developed into a First Nations interpretation concept at Middle Head / Gubbuh Gubbuh. An overarching interpretive theme for Middle Head is focused as a place of teaching and learning. A unified visual approach was suggested to further the relationship between each distinctive story

and the theme. MD advised that culturally relevant motifs informed by First Nations curated ecological datasets, is proposed. The intention is for these motifs to be embedded into interpretation outcomes. The group suggested that this project should be undertaken by a First Nations graphic designer and recommended an EOI process. It was suggested that a designer who is culturally connected to Country would be preferred.

The motif design brief, along with the curation of the ecological datasets, will be a collaboration possibly between the Gamay Rangers and the Harbour Trust.

Clarence Slockee (CL) provided an update of the landscape design of the loop track, informing the group of the various native plant communities that will be reintroduced to the area to help reinstate the local ecology. A suggestion was made by the group for a First Nations procurement for planting and plant cultivation.

ACTION:

Send draft landscape designs to the group post meeting.

7. Potential development of a First Nations Cultural Plan for Sydney Harbour

The Chair provided an update from the recent Harbour Roundtable meeting.

8. AOB

The group confirmed that they are happy with the proposed approach to publishing the First Nations Strategy on the Harbour Trust website.