



MEETING NOTES

FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025 | 2:00PM-4:00PM

Attendees:

First Nations Advisory Group Members:

Alison Page (Chair)
Bryce Liddell (online)
Lloyd Walker (online)
Jessie Longbottom (online)

Harbour Trust:

Janet Carding, Executive Director
Tim Entwisle, Member of the Trust (Chair)
Kathryn Roberts, Director Marketing & Visitor Experience
Susan Thompson, Head of Engagement & Experience
Eloise Dalmas, Community Engagement Officer
Daniel Sealey, Director of Planning (online)
Libby Bennett, Director Heritage and Design

Invited Guests:

Dr Paul Irish- *COAST History & Heritage*, Historian & Heritage Consultant
Michael Bennett – *COAST History & Heritage*, Senior Historian
Clarence Slockee- *JIWAH*, Director

MEETING OPENING

1. Welcome and apologies

Lloyd Walker opened the meeting with a Welcome to Country. Alison Page (AP) noted apologies for Chris Ingre, Donna Daly and Peter White.

The First Nations Advisory Group (FNAG) approved the notes from the previous meeting (October 16) with no comments. AP requested that future meeting documents be sent in a pack.

ACTIONS:

- Next meeting papers to be sent as a pack rather than individual documents.

2. Executive Director Update

Janet Carding (JC) updated the group on the recent case of tree vandalism in Horse Paddock at Woolwich Dock & Parklands, advising this is an ongoing investigation with State and Federal police.

The upcoming sea horse release at Cockatoo Island was discussed with JC advising the release date was postponed from Friday 14 February will hopefully be rescheduled shortly (the release subsequently took place on Wed 26 February).

Advised the work at Macquarie Lightstation continues with the interpretation of the shifting coastline a priority since the group's advice at last year's meeting.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3. Middle Head- Mosman Council Amenities Block Update

Daniel Sealey (DS) updated the group on the recent determination on Mosman Council's proposed new amenities block. DS outlined the determination procedure post the public consultation process via the Have Your Say platform, which received 233 submissions. The application was granted based on various key conditions which can be viewed [here](#).

4. Mosman Council Amenities Block- First Nations Landscape Design

Clarence Slokee (CS) from JIWAH attended the meeting to present and further discuss with the group Mosman Council's amenities block development. CS outlined his engagement with Council and their architects, including his contribution to a revised landscape design which was shared with the group. The original landscape design included large areas of hard-surfaced space. Hard-surfaced areas have been greatly reduced in the revised landscape design, replaced with soft planted areas of native vegetation, including Angophora trees.

The group requested an image of the building, including confirmation of the architect Council have engaged- DS confirmed Tomek Archer as the architect. (Images of the building are available online, here, [Summary Document Middle Head Oval amenities building revised .pdf](#)).

The group also asked about the materials that will be used for the building. Please refer to Annexure A (extract from Council's documentation) which provides relevant information.

DS identified that Council's landscape design also needed some changes to ensure seamless connection with the loop path around the precinct, which is a key element of the Middle Head Masterplan.

ACTIONS:

- DS to provide ED with the Council drawings to be shared with the group (link to summary document provided above).

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5. Update on First Nations Strategy

Group was advised the Members of the Trust are all very happy with the strategy following their review and meeting earlier that day and confirmed that the workshops between the Advisory Group and Staff were beneficial to its development. It was noted that this strategy will feed into the upcoming Harbour Trust Corporate Plan.

It was confirmed with the group that implementation of this strategy will occur at an operational level with regular updates to the Group on progress against objectives.

With the inclusion of the below actions the strategy was endorsed by the group.

ACTIONS:

- Staff capability to be moved up and Summary page to be moved to the beginning of the document.
- Review Vision Statement.
- Include more definitions in terminology section.

6. Woolwich Management Plan

DS talked through the upcoming review of the current Woolwich Management Plan which will lead to an updated draft management plan for the site. DS described the key achievements on the site to date, and identified matters that could be included in the updated plan, including more fully addressing the place's First Nations heritage values and its ongoing significance for First Nations people. DS outlined the general site structure and its relationship with adjacent Hunters Hill Council land. The management plan has led to significant bush regeneration across the site, and that this will be a continued key priority.

Consultants are being engaged to prepare supporting studies that will inform the updated management plan, including an Aboriginal History, a Conservation Management Plan, Transport Management Plan, and a Flora and Fauna Study.

DS informed the group that Hunters Hill Council is also reviewing its Plan of Management for the adjacent Clarkes Point Reserve, and that the Harbour Trust and Council will work closely to coordinate our respective planning. With Hunters Hill Council also reviewing its plan for the site, there is an opportunity to look into potential interpretation pieces across the adjoining parklands particularly in relation to the original coastline, as well as other built and non-built activations in the future.

7. Draft COAST Woolwich Dock Aboriginal History Overview

Dr Paul Irish (PI) & Dr Michael Bennett (MB) presented to the group the "Connected by Water" report regarding the Aboriginal History of Woolwich. The report outlined a broad history of Woolwich and the surrounds, with a focus on the location as "where the rivers meet". The report was well-received by the group and was useful in providing context to some of the locations visited on the Walk on country.

While the contents of the report will only be made public with the support of the First Nations Advisory Group, it was noted that Coast have developed a summary of the report that will become part of the draft Management Plan for consultation.

8. AOB

Group was reminded of Marine Biological Station Open Day on February 22,

ACTIONS:

- The Engagement team to provide details of the event to the Gujaga Foundation team.

Annexure A:*Middle Head Oval amenities building – materials:*

Photo caption: The southern entrance to the amenities pavilion. The architecture is constructed using materials selected for their performance, with integral finishes that are authentic, robust and that minimise ongoing maintenance.

