

Subject:	Reconciliation Action Working Group – Minutes of Meeting	Page 1 of 4
File No:	CCS/21/68	
Document Ref:	D23/131618	
Venue:	Via MS Teams	
Date:	30 th August 2023	
Time:	6.00pm	Started at: 6.05pm Closed at: 7.13 pm
Chair:	Jessica Harder	
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors	
Staff Convenor:	Sean Willenberg	
Circulation:		

Working Group Role:

The role of the Reconciliation Action working group is to:

- Provide advice, input and feedback for the City of Ryde Council's Reconciliation Action Plan
- Assist in the implementation and review of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan.
- To work with Council to develop and promote appropriate celebrations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture including Sorry Day, National Reconciliation week and NAIDOC week.

Working Group Members as per the Terms of Reference

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Clr Penny Pedersen	Councillor	City of Ryde
x		Clr Sarkis Yedelian OAM	Mayor	City of Ryde
	x	Clr Bernard Purcell	Councillor	City of Ryde
	x	Michelle Lawrence	Community Representative	
x		Jessica Herder	Chairperson	
x		Guarav Patni	Community Representative	
		Lilian Hong	Community Representative	
x		Kylie Tarleton	Community Representative	
	x	Melanie Gould	Community Representative	
	x	Adam Whereat	Community Representative	
x		Sean Willenberg	Community Project Officer Social Inclusion	City of Ryde
x		Linda Smith	EA to Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde
x		Sue Verhoek	Senior Coordinator – Community Services	City of Ryde
x		Mel Fyfe	Executive Officer for City Resilience	City of Ryde
x		Ray Alam	Guest from Yarnup	
x		Elle Blacklock	Guest from Yarnup	
x		Professor Michelle Trudgett	Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Indigenous Leadership Uni of Western Sydney	
x		Thomas Klobucar	Project Director	

Details**Action**

1.	<p>Welcome and apologies and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>Jess Herder opened the meeting and provided the Acknowledgement of Country.</p> <p>Those present and apologies are as noted above.</p>	Noted.
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Details	Action
<p>2. Minutes from the previous meeting held 31st May 2023</p> <p>The minutes from the meeting of 31st May 2023 were confirmed.</p> <p>Actions Arising: NIL</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>3. Centre for Indigenous Excellence presentation</p> <p>Professor Michelle Trudgett - Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Indigenous Leadership and Thomas Klobucar - project director at Western Sydney University gave the following presentation on the new Indigenous Centre of Excellence being built The Universities Parramatta South Campus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both Michelle and Thomas live in the Ryde LGA and although the building is not constructed, are living and breathing it daily. - In 2019 there was no indigenous strategy or RAP at the University of Western Sydney. - Michelle spoke to 22 groups to create an indigenous strategy which was launched in March 2020. - It was an ambitious strategy but each objective was endorsed. - The establishment of the building was part of the strategy. - It will be a very unusual building, not just about education, but also community, culture, indigenous people. - \$78.5 million has been provided by the govt to build the centre of excellence. - This is the largest grant ever given to the university. - The Connect with Country principles are well embedded in the project. - A jury of 8 people – 5 of whom are indigenous are on the competition design panel - The building will have a social enterprise café and spaces for exhibitions, art studios, art gallery, artists in residence, media labs, research and work space, research space, outdoor spaces, first peoples walk, library for first nations, auditorium, theatre for performing arts, cinema for indigenous movies, elders room, children’s play area, yarn circle, native garden, - There will be over 6000 sqm of useable space - 800 indigenous students are enrolled at the university, - 110 indigenous staff are employed. - The light rail and Victoria Road will service the site which is very prominent. - The new building will be the front door to the university. - It is hoped the surface of the building, will be suitable to allow projections onto it. - Developing a cultural and functional brief and site due diligence is also underway. - Cultural brief is being carried out by Darug people and knowledge holders 	<p>Noted</p>

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Details		Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have met with lots of key stakeholders - A national design competition, EOI and design proposal are underway. - This opened on 4th August and the EO closes on 12th September 2023 - A shortlist will then be drawn up. - It is hoped to appoint a successful design team by Dec 2023. - 2024 will then be for working on design and procuring a builder\. - 2025 will be construction and opening is planned for first semester 2026 - A \$50,000 per year scholarship for Indigenous PHD or Masters research student is available through the university. - 	
4.	<p>Consultation session for Innovate RAP</p> <p>William Trewlynn and Elle Blacklock from Yarnnup attended to advise the next steps for the Innovate RAP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The consultation with the Working Group could not proceed as a quorum was not present. - Despite this, William and Elle both gave brief backgrounds regarding their backgrounds and roles with Yarnnup. - Elle only joined the group 8 weeks ago - Consultation with the community has also been minimal. - Some meetings were booked for community consultation but did proceed due to cancellation by those due to attend., - Clr Pedersen advised she knew of a couple of people who could take part in consultation. - 	
5.	<p>West Ryde/Meadowbank Revitalisation Strategy</p> <p>Mel Fyfe, on behalf of Kylie McMahon - the Executive Officer for City Resilience at City of Ryde, gave the following presentation regarding the West Ryde/ Meadowbank Revitalisation Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council has been working internally and with stakeholders to ensure that “connecting with country” is being undertaken for the project. - Have been working internally and with stakeholder. - West Ryde and Meadowbank are being treated as one entity for the project - Staff are looking at ways to respond to change and provide opportunity and lifestyle on your doorstep. - It is hoped to connect Victoria Road the railway, and the two precincts. - Want to use walking, cycling and make a place for tomorrow. - Want to unlock opportunity and design for everyone. - Need to think how to respond to matters that might have an impact before they happen. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Contact details of both Mel and Kylie will be provided</p>

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	Details	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Want to think about connection to country from the start of the project. - Shaping and project delivery need to be undertaken together between community, stakeholders etc. - Still in early stages but want to work with this group to ensure that design and planning for country is done together. - Council is working with Mac University. - A question was raised as to whether it would be worthwhile to have a narrative just for Ryde rather than using the one that Council is currently using which is more far reaching. - This would help to pilot the project well and it could then be considered for all future works projects. 	
6.	<p>Feedback on National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week</p> <p>National reconciliation week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 activities were held including 3 Aboriginal history talks that were held in English, Korean and Chinese. - Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions about Aboriginal history. - An event with traditional Aboriginal games was held at Ryde Park. - Families could learn traditional Aboriginal games and attendees had the opportunity to go on a walk around the park to learn about how the different plants and trees were used to make tools, food and other items. - Two Cultural Walks led by Aunty Leanne King were held along the Wulaba Track at Gladesville. - Attendees gained an insight to the history of the Wallumedegal and how they used the waterways to connect with other clans along the river and their connection to the Country. - Approx 220 people attend the events. <p>NAIDOC Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A cultural dance performance was held with the Walangari dance group who provided stories about the Didgeridoo and provided people the opportunity to take part in traditional dances. - 3 Nowey boat making sessions for children and families were held which taught attendees how to build a Nowey boat and how these were used to travel along the rivers. Attendees also learnt about songlines and how these connected clans across the country. - An event was held at Helene Park called ‘A Day for our Elders’ which gave attendees the opportunity to be part of a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, learn about the Didgeridoo/ Yidaki, traditional bush foods, take part in traditional Torres Strait Islander dances and hear music from First Nations Artists. - Over 450 people attend these events. 	Noted

	Details	Action
7.	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gary asked if his partner could attend next meeting. - She does work at Mac Uni involving CALD communities teaching teachers. - Her attendance would be as an observer only, - It was determined that approval of the group would be required before this request could be considered and as a quorum is not present, no decision could be made. - To arrange for the consultation on the RAP, it was considered that an extraordinary meeting of this group might be required. 	
8.	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting of this Committee will be held on Wednesday 29th November 2023 in person and via TEAMS</p>	Noted.