



**23 April 2024**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Harbour Trust**  
**First Nations Advisory Group**

**Time:** 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm

**Venue:** Harbour Trust Head Office (28 Best Avenue, Mosman) and online via Microsoft Teams

**First Nations Advisory Group**

Alison Page  
Bryce Liddle  
Jessie Longbottom  
Lloyd Walker  
Peter White

**Apologies**

Nathan Moran, Metro LALC  
Chris Ingrey, La Perouse LALC  
Donna Daly

**Harbour Trust**

Janet Carding, *Executive Director*  
Kathryn Roberts, *Director, Marketing & Visitor Experience*  
Alastair Fisher, *Community Engagement Officer*  
Catherine Macarthur, *Heritage Architect – Part*  
Libby Bennett, *Director, Heritage and Design – Part*  
Nerida Campbell, *Curator, Cockatoo Island Interpretation – Part*

**WSP**

Michael Hromek, *WSP - Part*

**1. Welcome to Country and Apologies**

Lloyd Walker (LW) opened the meeting with a Welcome to Country. Alison Page (AP) welcomed attendees. Nathan Moran, Chris Ingrey and Donna Daly sent apologies.

The First Nations Advisory Group members agreed to approve the meeting notes from the February meeting, requesting that future meeting notes capture high level themes of the discussions and the actions.

**2. Executive Director Update**

The group was informed that actions from the last meeting including the cultural research work on Cockatoo Island has begun, and the requested Connecting with Country briefing paper shared with the group. A meeting date has been agreed for the group and Bush to Bowl on Thursday 9 May at 1pm.



Janet Carding (JC) informed the group that Wirra Birra Park at Sub Base Platypus had been successfully opened to the public at Easter. The Harbour Trust has also produced a draft Volunteer Strategy which is currently out for review and feedback with the volunteers. A suggestion was made to include cultural awareness for volunteers in the strategy. JC noted that cultural awareness training will be organisation-wide to include staff and volunteers.

JC updated the group that the Harbour Trust has recently completed the purchase of the Fitzroy boat, a wooden ferry that was built on Cockatoo Island by apprentices and used to transport workers to and from the island in the 1920s – 1960s. The Harbour Trust is currently investigating how to share the history of boat including the potential for trips around the island.

The Harbour Trust has also begun the partnership with UTS and the Maritime Museum to hold canoe building workshops on Cockatoo Island with undergraduate students looking to use Cockatoo Island for Connecting with Country projects. A pilot project with SIMS has also begun on the Island, with the discovery of an abundance of kelp around the island and the discovery of a white seahorse in the kelp [NB this is confidential until Ministerial announcement planned for 7 June]. This is the furthest upstream a white seahorse has been found. It was suggested that the Gamay Rangers could be involved in the project as well.

It was also noted that at the Board meeting it was agreed to proceed with the first stage of work at Middle Head for the master plan. This involves reinstating landscape, bush support, and the creation of an interpretive walk around the site. JC confirmed that this would be the first opportunity for the Group to be involved in the design and input of a project from this early stage. It was agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting.

**Action:** Harbour Trust to share draft volunteer strategy with the group for review and feedback.

**Action:** Harbour Trust to explore potential for partnering with Gamay Rangers in Cockatoo Island marine biodiversity project.

**Action:** Harbour Trust to bring Middle Head project to Group for discussion.

### 3. First Nations Strategy Scope

JC sought the Group’s feedback on the draft First Nations Strategy scope document, including when the Group would like to engage a consultant to begin workshops to support the strategy development.

The scope document was supported by the Group and suggested that further details and timings should come from the consultants as they will have a stronger understanding of what is required to be included. It was agreed that the structure of the strategy would be mapped out in the first workshop, and that the process should begin immediately, with the request for quotes going out as soon as possible.

AP noted that the strategy will capture the big picture for the Harbour Trust, including partnerships and help to bring to life the frameworks that have been developed. JC noted that there is already a well-established reporting framework and measurements in place at the Harbour Trust and that the goals in the strategy would complement the goals included in the corporate plan.

JC agreed to update the scope document and recirculate with the group ahead of going out to providers.

**Action:** Harbour Trust to update and recirculate the First Nations Strategy Scope document to the group.



#### 4. Interpretation Projects Discussion – Macquarie Lightstation

Catherine Macarthur (CM) provided the group with the context and history of the Macquarie Lightstation project including the work that is going to be undertaken and the proposed space included for interpretation.

Michael Hromek (MH) outlined the elements of Connecting with Country and place for the site, including the proposed themes and stories to be told at the site. MH provided the group with the background research and consultation that had been undertaken to develop the proposal for interpretation.

CM noted that the group was being asked to provide feedback and direction on the stories that are proposed to be told and the way in which they are proposed to be told. AP supported the approach being taken as a good start, noting the importance of the Connecting to Country Framework and cultural heritage. The Group suggested that a more comprehensive deep dive is preferred prior to moving to delivery and requested the undertaking of further cultural heritage research to be undertaken on the Macquarie Lightstation site, including more discussion with community, to understand the cultural heritage of the site and stories that are best placed to be told there. It was agreed that the ends of the walls could be left as a blank canvas until this work was completed.

**Action:** further research to be undertaken on the cultural heritage and stories of importance for Macquarie Lightstation.

#### 5. Cockatoo Island / Wareamah Interpretation Project Discussion

Nerida Campbell (NC) discussed with the Group the historical research that she had undertaken on First Nations history connected to the Convict era on Cockatoo Island.

The Group agreed that the stories are very important and connected the story of place to the larger colonisation story. They recommended commencing work through healing, truth telling and cultural exchange as telling the story will involve different clans around NSW. The Group suggested the project be envisaged as a cultural project. AP agreed that the story is very important to tell adding that it will help to drive the arts and cultural strategy of the Island. She suggested further work be done to look at how other stories and truth telling are occurring around the harbour.

The Group agreed on the need to work with the different communities to develop a framework on the cultural exchange that will be required and supported the direction of the project being a cultural project that involved truth telling and healing.

#### 6. AOB

**Action:** Discussion on Gujaga Foundation work on Dual Naming of Harbour Trust Sites to be carried over to the next meeting.

**The meeting closed at 4:30 PM**