

Terms of Reference – Aboriginal Advisory Committee

1. Role

Central Coast Council has an adopted Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan that will shape all activities and projects over the next four years. Council's Advisory Groups are an important mechanism for consultation, advice and feedback to Council and staff on implementation and review of the Community Strategic Plan.

The role of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (the Advisory Group) is to identify, examine, and formulate a collective response to issues that affect the Central Coast Aboriginal community.

2. Responsibilities

The Advisory Group is responsible for providing advice and feedback to Council and staff on:

- Any issue that affects the Central Coast Aboriginal community.
- Council initiatives that aim to improve the quality of life of the Central Coast Aboriginal community
- Approaches to address relevant social issues identified in the Community Strategic Plan.
- Approaches to address outcomes aligned to the Central Coast Council First Nations Accord.

3. Membership, voting and quorum

Membership

Stakeholder representation on the committee will be a mix of representatives of groups aligned to traditional ownership interest and community services focused on improving the quality of life of the local First Nations community, and community members identifying as of Aboriginal ancestry..

There shall be 8 community representatives, with no more than one representative per organisation, and they shall be appointed by resolution of Council following advertisement for nominations.

Nominations are to be in writing and the Advisory Group is not involved in the evaluation or selection process, it is a matter for Council.

The staff holding the following Central Coast Council positions may attend Advisory Group meetings:

- Director, Community and Recreation Services (or their delegate)
- Unit Manager, Community and Culture

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Council officers will provide professional advice and administrative support. Employees of the Council are not subject to the direction of the Advisory Group or any members of it. Staff attendance is at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate.

Non-staff members are appointed to the Advisory Group for the remainder of the current Council term, although membership can be altered at any time by a resolution of Council.

Membership can be withdrawn by resolution of Council.

If a member misses three consecutive meetings without apology, their membership may be withdrawn, and their position deemed vacant.

Casual Vacancy

A casual vacancy is caused by the resignation or death of a member or the withdrawal of membership. To fill a casual vacancy:

- The Advisory Group staff contact will report the vacancy to the Advisory Group and then to the next available Council meeting.
- If the member was nominated as a representative of an organisation, it will be recommended that the organisation be invited to nominate a replacement member.
- If the member was nominated as an individual, the original expressions of interest will be reviewed to identify an appropriate replacement member.
- Where there are no appropriate alternate nominations, expressions of interest will be called for to replace the member.
- Where the vacancy occurs within nine months of the end of the term of the Advisory Group the vacancy will not be filled.

Chairperson

The Chairperson is a member of the Committee.

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson will be elected biennially by the Committee in December by nomination and a decision will be made on a show of hands. In the event of a tie, all names of nominees will be drawn by lot.

The tenure of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson will be two (2) year period.

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings.

The Deputy Chairperson fills in as Chairperson if the Chairperson is unable to attend the meeting.

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The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson may resign from their position without resigning from the Committee. In such case, the Committee shall hold an election among its members to fill the vacant position.

The Chairperson is to have precedence at the meeting and shall determine the order of proceedings, generally as set out in the agenda.

Coordinator

A Central Coast Council staff position shall be nominated as Coordinator by the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate. They will be a staff member responsible for coordinating the preparation of agendas, invitations, and minutes.

Voting

No formal voting rules apply.

As the Advisory Group has an advisory role, its recommendations are to be made by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, a vote may be taken at the request of the Chair. The vote will be carried by a majority of voting members. The meeting record will reflect this process.

Council is the decision making body and the Advisory Group provides recommendations for consideration.

The Advisory Group may agree to allow participation in meetings through conference calls and other technology.

As no formal voting rules apply, there is no proxy voting. The Quorum for a meeting is half the voting non-Councillor representatives. However, the Chairperson shall use their discretion to determine if a meeting should be postponed due to insufficient members being able to attend.

4. Meetings

- Meetings are held quarterly
- The Chairperson has the authority to call additional meetings
- The agenda and meeting papers will be distributed to members at least three days prior to the meeting
- Meetings will be recorded by the taking of minutes. The minutes are a record of agreed outcomes and do not record discussion.

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5. Communications and reporting

The agendas and minutes of the Advisory Group will be stored as a permanent record of Council. All agendas and meeting records will be published on Council's website.

Where the Advisory Group recommends an action that is outside the delegation of staff to determine, a report will be provided to Council.

Staff will prepare the report that recommends that Council note the minutes of the Advisory Group. Reporting of Advisory Group recommendations to Council will be reported as Committee Recommendations without change. Staff will also provide professional commentary on the Advisory Group's recommendation where appropriate and provide a staff recommendation which may or may not align to that of the Group. The Council may, at its discretion, resolve to adopt some or all the Advisory Group's recommendations and advice.

Where the Advisory Group has not recommended an action, the minutes will be reported to Council as an Information Report only.

6. Conduct

Members of the Advisory Group will be provided with Council's adopted Code of Conduct. Conduct of members is expected to be consistent with the principles outlined in the Code of Conduct.

Members of the Advisory Group are not permitted to speak to the media or make representations on social media on behalf of the Advisory Group or Council unless approved by Council.