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| MEETING NAME | Indigenous Strategic Reference Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| ATTENDEES    | E Imbs (Manager Customer Engagement and Experience), M Nelson (Manager Infrastructure Engineering), C Argent (Director Shire Connections), P Buckley (Director Shire Services), Mayor Matt Gould (Chair), Councillor Ally Dench (Deputy Chair) (left at 5.43pm), Councillor Suzy Brandstater, Daniel Chalker, Leann Dykes, (Aunty Kazan) Kazan Brown, Karen Magee, (Aunty Karen) Karen Adams, Eddie Wiradjuri Birrang, David Cianci (Artscape Consulting), Kristy Cianci (Artscape Consulting) and one Minute Taker. |
| APOLOGIES    | Jason Mitchell, Glenda Chalker, Karen Breeze and Star-Jade Lavery                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| DATE         | 2 September 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| TIME         | 4.10pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

| ITEM                                  | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Opening                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mayor acknowledged the recent passing of Uncle Ivan and, on behalf of Council, extended his deepest condolences to Uncle Ivan's family, friends and the wider community.</li> <li>The group observed a minute's silence in honour of Uncle Ivan and to reflect on his contributions and legacy.</li> <li>Aunty K Adams and E Wiradjuri Birrang shared reflections and memories of Uncle Ivan, recognising his significant impact on the community.</li> <li>Director Shire Services acknowledged the recent passing of Tony Mundine.</li> <li>The Mayor reflected on the group's progress, noting that the SRG is now at the halfway point of its term. He encouraged members to continue making the most of the opportunities available to work cooperatively together and contribute positively to the group's objectives.</li> <li>The Mayor advised that he would be trialling a revised meeting format aimed at fostering open and inclusive discussion, ensuring all members have the opportunity to share their views and perspectives and that these are heard and understood by the group.</li> </ul> |
| Declaration of Interests              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aunty K Brown declared a Non-Pecuniary, Less than Significant, Conflict of Interest in relation to the Appin Place Plan item. The reason being that she sits on multiple panels to do with the future Appin planning and development. Aunty K Brown remained in the meeting for this item.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Confirmation of Minutes               | <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 June 2026 were confirmed.</p> <p>Mover: Mayor Matt Gould</p> <p>Seconder: Karen Magee</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Matters Arising from Previous Minutes | <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were discussed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manager Customer Experience and Engagement mentioned that the Question on Notice from the previous meeting had been responded to.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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|                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Director Shire Services provided an update on Actions 8,12, 13, 14 and 15 as part of his Grant Funding Projects Item.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Grant Funding Projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Director Shire Services provided an update on Grant Funding projects that have recently occurred.</li> <li>He noted that two hands on workshops, ran by Aunty Annette Houston, on weaving using sustainable and reclaimed materials. These workshops were both at full capacity.</li> <li>The group were advised that the Cultural Burn Project will not be going ahead this season although with all of the planning work completed, the plan is to undertake this burn next year.</li> <li>The Director Shire Services noted that due to the grant time line, our grant provider Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC), have confirmed the funding allocated for this project can be redistributed to other projects including biodiversity monitoring and additional Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Legislation Awareness training for Council staff and Councillors. It was confirmed that this will not affect the funding for the future burn to occur next year.</li> <li>Aunty K Brown requested confirmation on who the fire practitioner is. The Director took the question on notice to provide an answer out of session.</li> <li>He advised that Council is continuing to work on the Picton Botanic Gardens signage project and advised that the landscape restoration works will commence this week with a First Nations contractor (Cypress Environmental).</li> <li>It was mentioned that the third Cuppa on Country gathering is scheduled for September and that the feedback received has been positive for these events and noted that Council welcomes any other members who would like to be involved.</li> <li>Aunty K Brown mentioned that she had not yet had the opportunity to attend a Cuppa on Country event. The Director Shire Services noted that Council staff had previously reached out regarding arrangements. The Director confirmed that Council staff would be delighted to organise this and would make contact again to coordinate.</li> <li>An update on the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was provided including the status of discussions with Reconciliation Australia and advised that staff work to engage a First Nations consultant to undertake community consultation.</li> </ul> |

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|                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Director Shire Services confirmed that the First Nations consultant is Peter Lett.</li> <li>• The group were advised that Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Legislation Awareness training sessions are scheduled in September for technical staff across Council. The training is to be facilitated by Rebecca Chalker from Dharawal Environment and Heritage.</li> <li>• An update was provided on the biodiversity monitoring and that Council is investigating opportunities to expand the biodiversity monitoring/ eDNA program and include school and community education workshops.</li> <li>• The Director Shire Services also noted that Council staff are currently locking in additional hands-on cultural/educational workshops, in fibre craft, to be delivered by First Nations facilitator Andy Oldfield.</li> <li>• Auntie K Adams thanked the staff involved in the Grant Funding projects and noted she is proud to be working on the Picton Botanic Gardens signage project.</li> <li>• D Chalker and Auntie K Brown both expressed how they feel a separation within the Indigenous community when it comes to events. The Director Shire Services clarified that any invite to an Indigenous event is open to all those who wish to attend.</li> <li>• L Dykes shared her experience in facilitating cultural events and explained how she invites all those within the community and allows those who would like to, to attend.</li> <li>• Auntie K Adams provided her opinion on the separation within the Indigenous community in particular attendance at events and noted her understanding of Council's position between it all.</li> <li>• Auntie K Magee noted that the whole community needs to band together more.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>ACTION 16: Seek confirmation on invitations for Cuppa on Country events and provide an update at the next meeting to discuss how we can spread awareness for Indigenous events more broadly.</i></b></p> |
| Appin Place Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David and Kristy from Artscape Consulting presented to the group and sought the SRG's input into the Appin Place Plan, which focuses on the existing Appin Village while considering the effects of surrounding growth on identity, infrastructure, movement, environment and community life.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

- Kristy explained to the group that the place plan is broader than a conventional master plan. It considers multiple different things including built form, open space, identity, purpose, culture, public art, etc.
- David and Kristy explained to the group that the information received from Walker Corporation focused mainly on walking trails, public art and interpretation rather than a dedicated cultural centre, and did not identify the cultural advisers involved.
- The group were given the opportunity to outline what they see the Appin Village becoming so that it can be successful economically, culturally and in terms of its identity.
- The group discussed whether existing Appin should retain a lower-density village character and a distinct identity rather than being absorbed into surrounds development. David explained that new neighbourhood centres and different housing densities will change the village's context, so the plan should identify what Appin can offer that new growth areas may not, including better crossings, seating, connections and gathering places.
- The group repeatedly stated that roads, sewerage, electricity, schools, public transport and other infrastructure must be planned and delivered before or alongside housing. They raised concerns that housing is often delivered first, leaving communities with inadequate services.
- The group all agreed that they would like to see vegetation brought back into Appin with the wildlife being considered during the process.
- Aunty K Adams asked what consideration has been given to the Koala corridor.
- The Mayor acknowledged on behalf of the group their feelings towards the level of koala protections and reminded the group that this work is at State Government level. He advised the group that we should focus on enhancing the vegetation within the area we are looking at and remove the focus of the broader area.
- L Dykes suggested incorporating statues or similar public art installations recognising significant Aboriginal people from Appin, providing a visible feature for residents and visitors travelling through the town.
- Cr Dench emphasised the importance of ensuring the place plan acknowledges the area's environmental and cultural history including the tree

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|                             | <p>and wildlife. She suggested incorporating elements that enable the community to reflect on and remember what has been lost including reflective seating areas, statues, culturally significant artwork and a visual memorial recognising the history of the Appin Massacre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L Dykes suggested the possibility of being able to utilise trees from other parts of Appin into the Place Plan area. David and Kristy confirmed they could add this as a recommendation that any materials salvaged and in usable order can be reused.</li> <li>• The group were advised that the Appin Place Plan is still available on Council's YourSay page.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>ACTION 17: Circulate the link to the Appin Place Plan Your Say page to the group.</i></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Engagement News and Updates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manager Customer Engagement and Experience advised the group that the Appin Place Plan and Community Development Plan are open for feedback on Council's YourSay page.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| General Business            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auntie K Adams mentioned a short documentary 'Reawakening Aboriginal Place Names'. She provided a document to be shared with the group.</li> <li>• Director Shire Connections provided an update on the Draft Council Asset Naming Policy and advised the team are currently reviewing the feedback received from public exhibition and the next step will be to report back to Council.</li> <li>• L Dykes commented that, when travelling through Bargo, the town now appears to have a stronger Wollondilly identity and sense of place.</li> <li>• L Dykes also thanked Council on behalf of Community Links for the help and support that went into the NAIDOC Week events.</li> <li>• Cr Brandstater highlighted the success of the recent Together Arts event held since the last meeting, noting its value in bringing the community together and celebrating local arts and culture.</li> <li>• D Chalker raised the challenges faced by Aboriginal people in practising culture due to limited access to Country and expressed a desire for Council to begin discussions on opportunities to provide suitable spaces for cultural purposes. The Mayor clarified that this would involve exploring opportunities within Council-owned or Council-managed land.</li> </ul> |

***ACTION 18: Share copy of document 'Reawakening Aboriginal Place Names' from Aunty K Adams to the group.***

***ACTION 19: Future workshop to be explored on Cultural Stewardship and what that could look like.***

MEETING CLOSE: 5.55pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 25 November 2026.

REFERENCE: CM 15598~5#156