

Communique - Meeting No. 31/2024

8 May 2024

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (the Council) held Meeting No.31/2024 on 8 May 2024 at Dumas House, West Perth. Council members participated in person and online via MS Teams. An expression of interest process is currently underway and appointed members will be announced in the coming months. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet acknowledge the dedication and leadership of the retiring members and their significant contributions to the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy and Aboriginal Affairs since their [appointment in 2019](#).

The meeting was led by co-chairs, Ms Gail Beck, and Mr Martin Sibosado and included Ministerial engagements with Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA and Hon David Templeman MLA. Discussions were additionally held with Department of Treasury, National Indigenous Australians Agency, Department of Communities, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and Department of the Premier and Cabinet*.

Key items discussed and considered by the Council included:

Ministerial Engagement

Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA: Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

Hon Tony Buti, Minister for Education, Aboriginal Affairs, Citizenship and Multicultural Interests returned to Council following his engagement with members in [March](#), providing members with an update on the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio and priorities.

Minister Buti acknowledged members work with Department of Treasury in providing significant input and guidance on the Aboriginal Expenditure Review. Minister Buti commended the contribution of outgoing members for improving the Government's relationship with Aboriginal people and communities and the subsequent impact on the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio, noting key work such as the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy.

Hon David Templeman MLA; Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; Heritage

Council met with Hon David Templeman MLA; Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; and Heritage. This was the first meeting between Minister Templeman and Council, he provided an overview of his portfolios and highlighted the importance of community relations and building trust with Aboriginal communities. Minister Templeman acknowledged the importance of preservation of Aboriginal culture as a priority for his Culture and Arts portfolio. Council members thanked Minister Templeman for his attendance and openness to discussing a range of topics.

External Presentations

National Indigenous Australians Agency

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) returned to the Council following previous attendance in March 2024 to continue discussions regarding the Federal [Remote Jobs and Economic Development \(RJED\) program](#). NIAA noted the Commonwealth Government's establishment of a [new First Nations Reference Group](#) in March 2024 to oversee and advise on the design and implementation of the RJED program. The Commonwealth has launched [face-to-face and virtual consultation session](#), available April to June 2024, with a [discussion paper](#) and online public submissions available.

Department of Treasury – Aboriginal Expenditure Review

The Department of Treasury (Treasury) provided Council members with an update on the second iteration of the [Aboriginal Expenditure Review \(AER\)](#). Treasury and members workshopped opportunities for improved engagement, understanding, accountability, and new areas of interest. Council will continue working with Treasury ahead of the AER release late this year, focusing on reviewing current spending on Aboriginal programs and services and identifying opportunities for reprioritisation and elevation of investment to Aboriginal-led organisations in WA.

Department of Communities – Remote Communities

The Department of Communities (Communities) returned to Council alongside their Department of Planning, Lands, and Heritage (DPLH) colleagues following their engagement in October 2023. Agencies provided further information regarding the Remote Communities Housing Fund including an overview of remote Aboriginal communities. Council members raised concerns including quality of life for remote residents, services available in remote communities, and overall housing availability for remote and regional residents. Communities and DPLH noted member's feedback and committed to providing the Council with further updates, when available.

The next meeting (Meeting No.33/2024) is scheduled for 28 and 29 August 2024.



Ms Gail Beck
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA



Mr Martin (Marty) Sibosado
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA

* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communiqué.