

355 BEM Committee

18 November 2019



Minutes

HELD AT Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Present

Glen Wilcox (CEO Bega LALC)	Mayor Kristy McBain
Donna Aldridge (Chair Bega LALC)	Alice Howe (BVSC)
Mark Bateman (CEO Eden LALC)	Graham Moore (BVSC)
BJ Cruise (Chair Eden LALC)	Keith Tull (BVSC)
Terry Hill (CEO Merrimans LALC)	Sophie Thomson (BVSC)
	Laura Golding (BVSC) <i>minutes</i>
<i>Apologies: Ken Campbell, Glenn Campbell and Di McVeity</i>	

1 Welcome to Country

By Ms Aldridge

2 Confirmation of minutes

That the minutes of the previous MoU Meeting held on 13 June 2019 be taken as read. Motion moved by Mr Cruise and seconded by Ms Aldridge.

3 Harmony Day Cultural Event

The Mayor discussed ways of celebrating Harmony Day in the wider community, incorporating involvement, diversity and multicultural collaboration.

New Action: Graham Moore to retrieve more information for a letter on behalf of the Mayor.

New Action: Council's Community Engagement Coordinator, Mr Scott Baker, to organise a catch up to commence event preparations for Harmony Day in Littleton Square on 21 March 2020.

4 Acknowledge Country in Language

The Mayor raised her concerns around feeling 'robotic' during the delivery of her Acknowledgement of Country and asked the Committee for suggestions on any changes.

Discussion ensued on the prospect of the Mayor delivering an Acknowledgment of Country in one or more indigenous languages relevant to the Shire.

Mr Cruise noted his concern with the friction from other language groups.

Ms Aldridge advise Mayor in the meantime to continue with delivery until further notice.

Mr Hill noted LALCs to agree upon wording of an Acknowledgment of Country in language.

New Action: The Mayor requested the LALCs to formally meet to discuss and agree on a proposed acknowledgement before the next meeting.

5 Council updates Rural Residential Strategy

Ms Thomson, Strategic Planning Coordinator, updated the Committee on the draft Rural Residential Strategy, which was recently exhibited.

Mr Wilcox tabled a copy of the Bega LALC's submission regarding the draft Strategy. Mr Wilcox noted he was disappointed in relation to the constraints in the Strategy on development potential for held by the Bega LALC.

The Committee raised concerns that LALC land holdings are inappropriately zoned and it has become impossible for them to utilise for economic or community benefit. Mr Cruise noted if land Council cannot develop, credit of compensations should be granted.

Dr Howe advised that BVSC could add a section to the Strategy reflecting that further investigation into the development potential of LALC land holdings should be undertaken.

Mr Hill highlighted the lack of support and encourages BVSC to advocate on behalf of local Aboriginal organisations.

Mr Bateman recommended BVSC liaise with the NSW Government to commence progress.

The Mayor advised LALCs to comment on BVSC's draft amendment in writing in order for BVSC to staff to support BEM. Striving together for the best possible outcome.

New Action: BVSC to follow up with the NSW Government regarding its intentions in relation to the transfer of land to LALCs the land in question.

New Action: BVSC to draft additional wording to be included in the Strategy and circulated to LALCs and NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for review prior to finalisation of the Strategy.

Council support for rezoning process

As discussed throughout Item 5 BVSC will amend the Rural Residential Strategy to provide for LALC land holdings to be further investigated.

6 MoU action plan progress

Action 2: There are x11 identified Aboriginal positions with BVSC. Mr Hill encourages BVSC to ensure that positions are filled throughout the hierarchy.

Action 18: Mr Hill noted that to apply effective traditional bushfire management regimes around 20 mitigation teams would be required for the Shire.

Action: Mayor requested that the potential for traditional bushfire management practices to be applied more broadly in the Shire be referred to the Bega Valley Bushfire Management Committee and feedback be provided back to the BEM Committee.

Action 19: Bundian Way was identified as an area of cultural significance.

Action 28: Aboriginal Environmental Health Officer trainee position to be advertised in the coming weeks.

Mr Wilcox questioned the 2019/20 funding for NAIDOC week, announcement of dates.

Dr Howe advised the Committee Council has resolved to sell its shares in Southern Phones and allocate the \$800k to festivals, events and community donations, the Disaster Relief Fund and the remainder to infrastructure reserve.

Mr Cruise raised a flag pole issue in Eden, the Aboriginal flag has been flown lower than the Australian flag. Advised both flags need to fly respectively at the same level.

New Action: Mr Tull to follow up with the Chamber of Commerce in regard to the raising of flags. An update to be provided at the next BEM Committee meeting

7 Review of the MoU (2021-2024)

Dr Howe noted that the MoU is due for review and work should commence in 2020, including how to proceed, views and perspective.

Mr Hill advised that LALCs can include Native Title claimants in discussions. BEM to engage with Native Title Claimants and applicants on needs by needs basis or as by requirement.

Mr Cruise suggested inviting youth to participate.

New Action: Mr Moore to arrange workshop with BEM early 2020 to revitalise action plan.

New Action: Ms Thomson to update related page on website to the MoU Aboriginal Land Council.

8 Presentations/Updates to the Committee

Cultural Mapping and Development Application referral processes (Carley McGregor)

Cultural Mapping endorsed by BEM LALCs to go public.

Community Engagement Strategy and Aboriginal Cultural Awareness activities (Scott Baker and Anne Cleverley)

Community Engagement Strategy expected to be considered for adoption at 27 November Council meeting. Mr Hill thanked Mr Baker for his engagement and his wonderful support with the wider community.

Procurement services (Aaron Johnston)

Procurement processes and services were discussed, including a way of improving communication with suppliers.

New Action: LALC CEOs to work with Mr Johnston on utilising the Tender link process in early 2020.

Climate Resilience Strategy and Organisational Service Standards (Alice Howe)

The Draft Climate Resilience Strategy and Draft Organisational Services Standard Strategies are both currently out on public exhibition. Feedback is also welcomed on the Biamanga Alcohol Free Zone (AFZ) proposal via the Have your Say page on BVSC's website.

9 Future chairing of BEM Committee

The Committee all agreed sharing chairing on a yearly basis to commence as of next meeting in the following rotation;

- 2020 – Merrimans
- 2021 - Bega
- 2022 - Eden

Meeting closed 1:57pm