



## ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MEETING NO. 09 – 27 May 2020

### COMMUNIQUE

The Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee (the Committee) enables whole-of-government co-ordination on strategic government initiatives and policies that affect the cultural, health and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

#### ***National Reconciliation Week***

The Committee recognised the start of National Reconciliation Week with a Welcome to Country and sand mural ceremony on the lawns of Dumas House in West Perth. This was followed by an address by Hon Ben Wyatt MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

#### ***Expanded Membership of the Committee***

Membership of the Committee has been expanded to include the following:

- Department of Justice;
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage;
- Western Australia Police; and
- Aboriginal Advisory Council (Executive).

The expanded membership will enable the Committee to work collaboratively with government agencies and the Aboriginal Advisory Council to deliver co-designed and relevant outcomes to improve the lives of Aboriginal people and their communities.

#### ***Revised Terms of Reference and Charter***

Members endorsed the revised terms of reference and a new Charter for the Committee. These documents are available to view [here](#). The 2020 meeting schedule for the Committee is also available on this website.

#### ***Aboriginal Policy and Engagement in State Recovery Efforts***

The Committee noted the paper prepared by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's Aboriginal Engagement Directorate outlining the Western Australian Government's efforts in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members discussed a number of key factors regarding the response and recovery processes, including:

- travel restrictions and Directions for remote Aboriginal communities – to protect vulnerable Aboriginal Western Australians;
- prohibition on regional travel Directions – restricting travel between the State's regional boundaries;
- quarantine (closing the Border) Directions – closing entry into Western Australia from interstate or overseas;
- Biosecurity Determination – which saw almost one-third of Western Australia become a designated area with restricted access; and
- The State's Complex Task Team for remote Aboriginal communities.

A number of decisions were made by the Committee primarily around the collaboration of multiple government agencies in engagement and co-design, and the statutory role of the Aboriginal Advisory Council in providing opportunities for coordinated and regional Aboriginal engagement in State recovery efforts.

#### ***Closing the Gap Update***

Members noted the update on the Closing the Gap Refresh, particularly the negotiation of a new National Agreement between the Australian Government and other State and Territory Governments to replace the 2008 National Indigenous Reform Agreement. The National Agreement is expected to be considered at the July 2020 meeting of the Council of Australian Governments.

Rebecca Brown

**CHAIR**

*\*Confidential deliberations are not included.*