

## Notes from Meeting

Thursday 27 January 2022

Tirkanthi Kuu – 5:00 until 7:00pm

Attendees:

- Les Wanganeen (Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation KYAC Chairperson)
- Madge Wanganeen (KYAC Deputy Chairperson)
- Tania Taylor (KYAC Secretary)
- Rosalind Coleman (KYAC Board Member)
- Mayor David O'Loughlin
- CEO, Chris White
- Director Community & Planning, Nathan Cunningham
- Manager Community Development, Brendan Lott (note taker)

Apologies: Nil

## Agenda

1. Introduction and welcome
  2. Background discussion / Development of Payinthe Kumangka
  3. Charter of Engagement / Discussion and Confirmation
  4. Use of Kurna language to name Wards
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## Background Discussion

Brendan provided a brief overview of progress to-date.

- Council meeting 22/09/2020 – “...investigate options and the process for progressing a treaty (or similar agreement) with Kurna people”.
- Initial discussion with Uncle Dennis Rigney, a long-time advocate of Kurna interests to Council.
- Council engaged Kurna Cultural Consultant – Darren Wanganeen
- Series of meetings with Kurna Elders to confirm our next steps.
  - KYAC Chairperson (previous) Jeffrey Newchurch offered the use of Kurna language to describe the process – Payinthe Kumangka.
  - The group decides upon the following three actions to be completed:
    1. Develop a Charter of Engagement
    2. Formally Engage with KYAC
    3. Meet with a broad representative group of Kurna people
      - Inform
      - Consult

- Nigel McBride (previous) CEO developed a draft Charter of Engagement 08/06/2021
- Council confirms membership of Payinthe Kumangka Steering Group 24/08/2021
  - Mayor O’Loughlin
  - Councillor Allen Harris
  - One Senior Council Officer (at the discretion of the CEO)
- Community Forum 1/10/2021
  - Attended by 25 Kurna Elders, representation from KYAC Board, Mayor O’Loughlin, Councillor Allen Harris and Councillor Kristina Barnett, residents.

## **Charter of Engagement**

**Action Brendan** - Changes to the draft Charter of Engagement will be made according to the dot points detailed below, with version 2 distributed to all attendees for further comment and confirmation.

**Action all attendees** – provide feedback to Brendan regarding version 2 of the draft Charter of Engagement. Final draft to be discussed and confirmed by KYAC and then Council.

### Sovereignty

- Sovereignty is not just spiritual; it’s about taking control.
  - Delete the word sovereignty

### Truth Telling

- There needs to be a focus upon Truth Telling reflected within this Charter.
  - Change text “...*the truth over hurt and pain caused by more than 200 years of European settlement...*” This statement does not accurately reflect the truth, it is much more than hurt and pain.
    - Instead use “250 years of trauma”.
  - Consider incorporating two parts:
    - Invasion landing in NSW
    - Invasion landing in SA

### Listen and Understand

- Listen, understand, and agree upon the future that we want together.
- Ensure we focus upon Kurna people, keep the focus narrow.

### Makarrata

- Makarrata is a good word to use, however, can we use a Kurna word with the same meaning or intent?

**Action Brendan** - Contact Kurna Warra Karrpanthi requesting their advice for the use of Kurna language.

### Grieve

- Grieve – How would non-Kurna people grieve over the 250 years of trauma experienced by Kurna people?
  - Grieving needs to be understood as being a shared experience.
  - Keep the word ‘grieve’.

- Add the word 'empathy'.
- Change the text – “Coming together in good faith” add 'healing' or 'to heal' after 'to grieve'.

### Trauma

- Some discussion regarding what is meant by the word trauma.
  - Intergenerational
  - Being felt today
  - Recent re-burial of Kurna old people was traumatic.
  - Important to consider how we work with people who are dealing with trauma.
- Currently, most people are ignorant of the ongoing trauma impacting Kurna people.
  - Council needs to develop a policy and procedure to ensure staff (and contractors) are considerate of the timeless history of Kurna people.
    - i.e. – earth moving works to consider uncovering of Kurna artifacts and burials.
    - By doing this we are respecting Kurna culture, by not doing this we are not respecting Kurna culture.

### Resilience

- Acknowledge the resilience of Kurna people
  - How we have survived will inform our ongoing resilience.

### Model for Other Councils

- The process we are developing for Payinthe Kumangka may be used as a model for how other Council's develop similar initiatives.

### Senior Kurna Elders

- It is unnecessary to use the word 'Senior' when referring to 'Kurna Elders'.
- Only a few Senior Kurna Elders survive today.
  - We acknowledge the contributions to City of Prospect made by Uncle Lewis O'Brien.

### Indigenous

- Ensure that all use of the word Indigenous includes an initial capital letter.
- Remove the text 'Indigenous Stakeholders'
  - Needs to read “anyone who you think should be invited and involved”.

### Reconciliation Action Plan

- Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP) arose from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, addressing systemic racism. Needs to be led by Kurna people.

### Payinthe Kumangka Steering Group

- Kurna representation upon the Payinthe Kumangka Steering Group may be KYAC Board members or anyone else, who has been given authority by the Board, to act on their behalf e.g. Dennis Rigney and/or Darren Wanganeen, reporting back to the Board.
  - Both Kurna Women and Men should be represented upon the Steering group
  - A young person should be represented upon the Steering Group

- Paid less than Kurna Elders
- Involved in the process
- Developed as cultural successors of the elders
- Experience the knowledge of the Elders
- Hearing and learning about their stories.

**Action KYAC Board** - Confirm membership of Payinthe Kumangka Steering Group

### **The use of Kurna Language for Council Wards**

**Action KYAC Board** – Provide a response to Council correspondence dated 19/08/2021

- Council appreciates that KYAC has requested that where developments and projects undertaken by council are expected to impact Aboriginal heritage and culture, that notification is provided to KYAC in the first instance.
- Council has recently determined to consult with the community for the use of Kurna language for the naming, or potentially co-naming, of Council's four current wards.
- The Council of City of Prospect consists of a Mayor and eight Councillors, two per ward. Their term of office is four years. Currently, the naming of our wards is simply North, West, Central and East.
- Council invites advice from KYAC for our use of suitable and respectful Kurna language, whether this is a simple translation of the current English words to Kurna language or whether the use of alternative Kurna words, terms, or phrases, for the naming of our four wards.
- Acting upon KYAC advice, Council will then further consult with our community to determine their views and sentiments, prior to a final decision by Council in the first half of 2022.

Meeting Closed.