



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK



Mindeera Advisory Group

Notes – 22 February, 2023



WE'RE OPEN
VIC PARK

Table of contents

1 Opening.....	3
2 Attendance	4
3 Presentations	5
3.1 Local History Week	5
3.2 Planning and Feedback in the Town.....	6
3.3 Jirdarup Bushland Update.....	7
3.4 Metronet Presentation	8
4 Items for discussion	9
4.1 On the Table.....	9
4.2 Reconciliation Action Plan.....	11
4.3 26 January.....	12
4.4 Consultation of Noongar Language.....	13
4.5 Planning National Days	14
4.6 Black Cockatoo Preservation	16
7 Close	23

1 Opening

Acknowledgement of country

Ngany kaaditj Noongar moort keny kaadak nidja Wadjak Noongar boodja. Ngany kaaditj nidja Noongar birdiya – koora, ye-ye, boorda, baalapiny moorditj Noongar kaaditjin, moort, wer boodja ye-ye.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and respect past, present and emerging leaders, their continuing cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land, which continues to be important today.

2 Attendance

Mindeera Group Representatives

Murray Masters (Deputy Chair)
Gerard Siero
Jordanna Rebbeck
Flavia Pardini
Cr Vicki Potter
Cr Jesvin Karimi
Cr Peter Devereux

Manager Community Coordinator Community

Paul Gravett
Annie Withrow

Meeting secretary

Megan Jaceglav

Presenters

Rosemary Ritorto
Brendan Nock
Peta-Maree Ashford (Emerge)
Claire Paddison (Metronet)
Hannah Galloway (Hassell)

Observers

Nil

Apologies

Kelsi Forrest (Chair)
Roni Forrest
Stephanie Ludekens
Amber Ugle-Hayward
Xanthe Shaw
Natalie Martin-Goode

3 Presentations

3.1 Local History Week

Time	20 minutes
Presenter	Rosemary Ritorto
Attachments	Nil

Purpose of the item

To seek input on the best way to integrate and represent Noongar culture and history in the Town.

Outcome

Representation of Noongar stories and culture in local history awards and local history archives at the Town.

Strategic outcomes

Social	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
S3 - Facilitating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity.	Ensuring that the Town continues to be a place that promotes awareness, understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures.
S4 - Improving access to arts, history, culture and education.	Providing opportunities for residents to engage in events that promote cultural heritage and knowledge.

Outcome

- The Town's local history officer informed and advised the group of her role in the library and the way in which stories are traditionally sourced.
- Mindeera member advised that any knowledge solicited from the local Noongar population needs to be done in a culturally safe manner.
- Mindeera member advised that in the process of conducting oral histories, appropriate measures need to be put in place to protect copyright and IPIC of those whose stories are being recorded.
- Mindeera member advised that the State Library's project, 'Storylines', and the Aboriginal history unit, are both potential resources for local Noongar history of the Victoria Park area.
- Mindeera member advised that the Town should be mindful of finding ways to return, and knit, the Noongar stories into the Noongar community, as collecting and archiving of stories, is a colonial practise.
- The Town's local history officer noted that there is funding available for the sourcing and recording of oral histories, and that such funding could be utilized to address the deficit of known Noongar history in the Town.

Actions

- Town staff to liaise with Mindeera group member when developing oral and recorded history of Noongar people in the Town of Victoria Park.

3.2 Planning and Feedback in the Town

Time	20 minutes
Presenter	Natalie Martin-Goode
Attachments	1. Planning Presentation Mindeera Feb 22 [3.2.1 - 12 pages]

Purpose of the item

To clarify the process for planning decisions in the Town and the optimal space for Advisory Group Engagement.

Outcome

Timely and appropriate Advisory group engagement in Town planning initiatives

Strategic outcomes

Civic Leadership	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
CL3 - Accountability and good governance.	Engage the Community in Town priorities

Outcomes

- This Agenda item was cancelled and rescheduled for the next Mindeera Meeting.

Actions

- Nil.

3.3 Jirdarup Bushland update

Time	20 minutes
Presenter	Brendan Nock and Peta Maree Ashford
Attachments	Nil

Purpose of the item

To update the group on developments with the Jirdarup bushland replanting and yarning circle project and to seek the group's feedback.

Outcome

Inclusion of the Mindeera group on key cultural decisions that impact on this project.

Strategic outcomes

Social	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
S3 - Facilitating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity.	Ensuring that the Town continues to be a place that promotes awareness, understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures.
S4 - Improving access to arts, history, culture and education.	Providing opportunities for residents to engage in events that promote cultural heritage and knowledge.

Outcomes

- Officers and consultant from Emerge detailed the community engagement process for this project, the feedback received and the next steps forward.
- Feedback and support was given by the Mindeera group on key design elements of this project that reflect first nations cultural ways of knowing and being in country.

Actions

- Nil.

3.4 Metronet Presentation

Time	20 minutes
Presenter	Claire Paddison and Hannah Galloway
Attachments	Nil

Purpose of the item

To engage First Nations stakeholders in the Town in key planning projects and developments that impact on culture and country.

Outcome

Cultural engagement and advice on the Metronet elevated rail project.

Strategic outcomes

Civic Leadership	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
CL3 - Accountability and good governance.	Engage the Community in Town priorities

Outcomes

- Representatives from Metronet and Hassell Studio, outlined the proposal for the design of the elevated rail, landscaping of the project area and proposals for cultural integration and renaming.
- Detailed description of planned plantings and landscaping were provided.
- Metronet and Hassell Studio spokespeople communicated their intention to meet with a Mindeera group elder before the community engagement period is completed.
- Concern was raised by Mindeera members about the need to meet with Noongar elders in the Town more broadly, due to a lack of consultation on other developments, and significant distress being experienced in the First Nations community after the impact of the Optus Stadium development on Noongar songlines.
- Concern was raised by Mindeera members about the consideration of black cockatoo foraging habits in the design. Suggestions were made for closer attention to be given to the plantings of black cockatoo food sources, in terms of their proximity to the road and potential cockatoo fatalities.
- Suggestions were given by Mindeera members that the project leads consider the WALGA Biodiversity strategy in the development of their landscape design.
- Suggestions were given by Mindeera members that implementation of the Biodiversity strategy in this project plan, would allow for ecological corridors to be developed in the broader area, and thus assist in the population restoration and species protection of local fauna.

Actions

- Officer to coordinate meeting with Mindeera group in the next fortnight for the purposes of considering the plan in more detail, and collating feedback to be provided to Council and key stakeholders.

4 Items for discussion

4.1 On the Table

Reporting officer	Reconciliation Officer
Origin of request	Ongoing Agenda Item
Attachments	Nil

Purpose of the item

To provide an opportunity for Advisory group members to share feedback, generate ideas and facilitate discussion on matters of reconciliation and indigenous significance in the Town.

Outcome

To provide space for deliberation and innovation.

Discussion points

- Conversation from the Table
- Mindeera Spring
- Causeway Project

Strategic outcomes

Civic Leadership	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
CL2 - Communication and engagement with the community.	To encourage and enable the community to actively take part in and contribute to Town and community led projects.

Social	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
S3 - Facilitating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity.	To enable the community to be informed and engaged in the Town's reconciliation process.

Next steps

Nil.

Further information

Nil.

Outcome

- Officer updated the group on the Council's response to their feedback regarding the Causeway Bridge development, namely the removal of many trees including the potential removal of those with Black Cockatoo nesting hollows, and the impact of the bridge structure on culturally significant sites on Herrison Island. Officer noted that the feedback was included in the Council submission to the WAPC. Officer noted that since the Ordinary Council Meeting, WAPC has approved plans and work has commenced.
- Mindeera members discussed the Acknowledgment of Country training with Sharon Gregory. Members agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting when key Noongar Mindeera members are present. Officer emphasized the importance of speaking to AOC authentically and individually, and to this extent, shaping the text, where needed.
- A proposal was made by a Mindeera member to include in the daylighting of the Spring, excising a section of the corner block, adjacent to where the spring once was, such that it can be brought to ground level.
- A Mindeera member informed the group that the Mindeera Spring site cannot be registered as an Aboriginal heritage site until a local Traditional Owner, who can speak for this place, is identified.
- Mindeera members, who are elected members, communicated with the group, their intent to raise a Notice of Motion at the next OCM, that Council support the Voice to Parliament in its entirety. All Mindeera members present communicated that they were comfortable with this approach.

Actions

- Noongar Acknowledgment of Country as amended by Sharon Gregory to be circulated to Mindeera members and tabled at next Mindeera Meeting
- Reconciliation Officer to communicate proposal of excising urban section of the spring, to the project manager of this initiative.

4.2 Reconciliation Action Plan

Reporting officer	Reconciliation Officer
Origin of request	Ongoing Agenda Item
Attachments	Nil.

Purpose of the item

To include the group in processes that inform the development of the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

Outcome

To provide the group with an update on RAP progress and next steps in consultation.

Discussion points

- Next Steps

Strategic outcomes

Civic Leadership	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
CL2 - Communication and engagement with the community.	To encourage and enable the community to actively take part in reconciliation initiatives.

Social	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
S2 - Collaborating to ensure everyone has a place to call home.	To enable the community to be informed and engaged in the Town's reconciliation process.

Next steps

To continue to update and include group on plan developments.

Further information

Nil.

Outcome

- Officer communicated progress of the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan to group, including proposed timelines.
- Officer communicated plans for historical research project that will inform the RAP and subsequent Town projects.

Actions

- Officer to circulate draft of the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan to the group for feedback, two weeks (or thereabouts) prior to the next Mindeera meeting.

4.3 26 January

Reporting officer	Reconciliation Officer
Origin of request	Ongoing Agenda Item
Attachments	Nil.

Purpose of the item

Continue discussion from previous meetings.

Outcome

Deliberate on approach towards this date this year and changes for forthcoming RAP.

Discussion points

- Town approach
- Integration of this item in Innovate RAP

Strategic outcomes

Social	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
S3 - Facilitating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity.	To ensure the community are kept informed and engaged on key stakeholder issues.
S4 - Improving access to arts, history, culture and education.	To ensure opportunities are provided for the community to deepen their understanding of matters of shared cultural heritage.

Next steps

Integrate group feedback into Innovate RAP.

Further information

Nil.

Outcome

- Officer updated the group of the plans, approaches and outcomes that were proposed and/or actioned for truth-telling and recognition of 26 January this year.
- Officers and Mindeera members discussed the significance of the 26 January as an actionable item in the forthcoming RAP.
- Mindeera members requested that the Town no longer hold citizenship ceremonies on January 26.

Actions

- Officer to communicate request of Mindeera members, that citizenship ceremonies are no longer held on 26 January, to relevant Town staff.

4.4 Consultation of Noongar Language

Reporting officer	Reconciliation Officer
Origin of request	Ongoing Agenda Item
Attachments	Nil.

Purpose of the item

Continue discussion on significant renaming projects in the Town.

Outcome

Clarification/ discussion of future opportunities.

Discussion points

- Progress of this item in lieu of current status of RAPs

Strategic outcomes

Social	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
S3 - Facilitating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity.	Providing spaces for community education and the development of cultural literacies
S4 - Improving access to arts, history, culture and education.	Providing opportunities for residents to engage with, promote, and learn Noongar language, whilst ensuring that the language is preserved and appropriately honoured.

Next steps

Communicate implementation of this deliverable with relevant service areas in the Town.

Further information

Nil.

Outcome

- Mindeera member discussed the evolution of the current version of Acknowledgement of Country, and its current usage by the Town and Council.
- Officer advised that this Agenda item, given resourcing issues, is not active, until the new RAP is endorsed and in the process of implementation.

Actions

- Nil.

4.5 Planning National Days

Reporting officer	Reconciliation Officer
Origin of request	Ongoing Agenda Item
Attachments	Nil

Purpose of the item

Planning and reflection on events and celebrations for national days/weeks in the Town.

Outcome

Seeking thoughts and feedback from the group around planning and celebrations in the Town.

Discussion points

- National Reconciliation Week 2023
- NAIDOC Week 2023

Strategic outcomes

Social	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
S3 - Facilitating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity.	Ensuring that the Town continues to be a place that promotes awareness, understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures.
S4 - Improving access to arts, history, culture and education.	Providing opportunities for residents to engage in events that promote cultural heritage and knowledge.

Next steps

For the group to be engaged, consulted, and informed around the progress and planning of these days. Identification of collaboration opportunities within the Town.

Further information

Nil

Outcome

- Officer communicated that due to resourcing challenges and the authoring of a new RAP, events and actions for these two national weeks, will be tailored down this year.
- Officer communicated that the Town, where possible, would look for opportunities to partner with community groups, in celebration of National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week.
- Mindeera group members proposed that a panel of Elders' public discussion be held during NRW or NAIDOC week. Mindeera members indicated that they would collaborate on actioning this.
- Officers indicated that they would be happy to support this and supply services and resources where possible.

Actions

- Mindeera group members to coordinate next steps in developing an Elders' panel discussion for NRW/NAIDOC week.

4.6 Black Cockatoo Preservation

Reporting officer	Reconciliation Officer
Origin of request	Mindeera Group Member
Attachments	Nil

Purpose of the item

To consider and discuss Black Cockatoo crisis and preservation as an action of Caring for Country

Outcome

Black Cockatoo preservation is addressed across various service areas in the Town

Discussion points

- Engaging the Town and the Community in the preservation and restoration of Black Cockatoo habitat.

Strategic outcomes

Environment	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
EN1 - Protecting and enhancing the natural environment.	Town action in preserving and restoring Black Cockatoo habitat.

Civic Leadership	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact
CL2 - Communication and engagement with the community.	Involving the Community in protecting and caring for Country as a Noongar priority.

Next steps

Reconciliation Officer and Community Development Staff to follow up on outcomes from Mindeera discussion with relevant Town officers.

Further information

Nil.

Outcome

- Concern was raised by Mindeera members at non-native, and non-foraging, tree species being planted in the Town, as part of the Urban Forest strategy.
- Concern was raised that the trees proliferating in the local area, such as London plane trees, do not provide foraging or nesting habitat for the endangered black cockatoos who live in the area.
- Concern was raised that non-native trees of this type, also do not support other native wildlife.
- Concern was raised by Mindeera members, that not enough attention was being given and not enough preservation initiatives were in place to protect mature native trees, that provide important urban canopy and foraging and nesting sites for local, endemic, native animals.
- A recommendation was made that extant native trees are preserved at all costs, and that a commitment akin to a policy, is instituted to ensure the protection of such trees.

- A recommendation was made that native trees and/ or trees that are appropriate food sources for Black Cockatoo species, are selected as the prime species for planting in the Town.

Actions

- Officer to invite relevant Town staff to next Mindeera meeting to discuss actions that can be taken to ensure planting and appropriate representation of native/ cockatoo food source trees, and preservation and protection of existing native trees, for the purposes of supporting black cockatoo and native animal populations.

5 General business

Nil.

6 Actions from previous meetings

Action	Responsible Officer	Link to RAP Action(s)	Status	Comment	Close Date
Mindeera members to network with sporting groups in the Town and communicate details with the Reconciliation officer, to advance current and future, community engagement and Reconciliation partnership opportunities	Mindeera members	Rel 5	In progress		
Officers to investigate incorporating commitment to the Uluru Statement of the Heart in the development of the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan	Reconciliation Officer	TP 2	In progress		31 March 2023
Officers to investigate budget allocation and budget options for implementing the interactive signage at Koolbardi Park in 2022-2023.	Reconciliation Officer and Manager Community Development	Res 5	Suspended until resourcing available		
Mindeera Advisory Group member to consult with the DLGSC regarding the Mili Mili Gnarla Boodja project and opportunities to continue this project to include Noongar country situated within the Town of Victoria Park.	Mindeera Chair	Res 2	In progress		TBC
Planning to commence around further integration of reconciliation practices and processes into Town	Reconciliation Officer and Senior Social Analyst	Rel 5 TP 2	In progress		31 March 2022

Mindeera Advisory Group - 22 February 2023

systems as part of the new RAP.					
Mindeera members to contact Vic Park Collective in the New Year, regarding next steps in bringing the conversation, (around Jan 26) and additional engagement opportunities, to the community.	Mindeera Members	Res 1	In progress		TBC
Mindeera member to proceed with the registration of the Mindeera Spring as a cultural heritage site, within the next six months.	Mindeera Members	Op 2	In progress		31 July, 2023
Officers to discuss community courses in Noongar language with relevant Town staff	Reconciliation Officer	Res 8	In progress		31 July, 2023
Officers to coordinate workshop with Mindeera members and Whadjuk Cultural Advice committee to progress Albany Highway Precinct Redevelopment	Place Planning Officer and Reconciliation Officer	Rel 7	In progress		31 March 2023
Officers to facilitate discussion with Noongar community members through outreach to AEO at local schools, with the view to maximizing Noongar engagement in Town and community led projects	Reconciliation Officer	Op 5	In progress		31 July 2023

Mindeera Advisory Group - 22 February 2023

Officers to work with the Town's communications team to increase the media profile of reconciliation processes and outcomes in the Town.	Reconciliation Officer and Communication Service Area	Rel 6	Ongoing		n/a
Officers to consult with Mindeera group members regarding cultural history and ecological design of Ed Millen House. Officers to keep Mindeera group update on cultural research dimension.	Strategic Projects Manager	Rel 7	In progress		n/a
Officers to engage cultural heritage consultant for advice and guidance in the daylighting of the Spring and/ or present plans for the spring to the Whadjuk Cultural Advice committee	Strategic Projects Manager	Rel 7	In progress		TBC
Reconciliation Officer to consider including Mindeera Spring as an action in the forthcoming Reconciliation Action Plan	Reconciliation Officer	TP 2	Completed		
Reconciliation Officer to include 26 January as an Actionable item in forthcoming Reconciliation Action Plan.	Reconciliation Officer	Res1	Completed		
Officer to provide Mindeera Group comments to the WAPC for consideration	Manager Development Services	Rel 7	Completed		

Mindeera Advisory Group - 22 February 2023

Reconciliation Officer to integrate Culturally safe places as an Action in the Innovate RAP	Reconciliation Officer	TP 2	Completed		
Officers to consider Truth Telling as an Action to be included in the forthcoming Reconciliation Action Plan	Reconciliation Officer	TP 2	Completed		
Officers to consider including, celebratory, as a key component of Culturally Safe places in the forthcoming Reconciliation Action Plan.	Reconciliation Officer	TP 2	Completed		
Officers to consider including Dual Naming of the Town of Victoria Park as an Action / deliverable in the forthcoming Reconciliation Action Plan.	Reconciliation Officer	Res 5	Completed		
Reconciliation Officer to progress coordination of staff awareness / education opportunity around 26 January.	Reconciliation Officer	Res 1	Completed	Resources were unavailable for a Walk on Country. An address on the trauma associated with this date for First Nations people, was given at the 24 January All Staff Meeting.	

Mindeera members to consider drafting a statement about 26 January to be shared on the Town's social media channels on this date	Mindeera Members and Reconciliation Officer	Res 1	Cancelled	Consultation was had with C-suite about this statement. A decision was reached that a statement could not be shared on social media without further direction from Council.	
Reconciliation Officer to include 26 January as an Actionable item in forthcoming Reconciliation Action Plan.	Reconciliation Officer	Res 1	Completed		
Officers to implement Noongar language, dual naming, and re-naming as an Action in the Town's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.	Reconciliation Officer	Res 5	Completed		

7 Close

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm