

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative

Community Meeting 17 October 2022

Rulebook Refresh Consultation

1. Welcome by Chairperson

2. Respect Protocol – minute's silence

3. Attendance

Present: Phill Knox, Renee Layton, Jordyn Flagg, Tenaya Watts, Phill King, Linda Tanner, Sandra Manning, Hope Mathumbu, Rylie Evans-Knox, Layla Boseley, Eileen Smith, James McKinnon, Fiona Ryan, Wendy Brabham, Simon Flagg, Judith Dalton-Walsh, Debby Lovett, Brian McKinnon, Jill McKinnon, Vicki Figg, Jenny Megee, Genene Trickey, Jasmine-Skye Marinos, Doreen Griffiths, Joleen Ryan, Lachlan Edwards, Renee Owen, May Owen, Naomi Surtees, Mark Edwards, Kerry Edwards, Gina Chapman, Ryn Tacky, Bri Apma Hayes, Mick Ryan, Jay Hickey, Nellie Flagg, Emily Shelley, Sandra Brogden, Greg Cooper, David Tournier, Joylene Walsh, Craig Edwards, Jess Brody, Andrea Tournier, Megan Frazer, Beth Davis

Apologies: Shane Clarke, David Flagg, Ebony Hickey, Reg Abrahams, Georgina Brown, Jason Kanoa, Jamie Butcher, Jackie Brown, Lynette Leach, Matt Barnes, Tahlia Dempsey, Nikita Pillai, Yohan Kumaran, Shannon Moulton, Mark Shaw, Shantelle Lucas-Baillie, Richard Fry, Todd Fry, Michael Thorne, Simon Thorne, Syd Fry, Jo Chester, Kristi Watts, Samantha Watts, Jack Woolford, Joel Hayes, Dale Owen, Laurie Owen, Kay Edwards, Jason Edwards, Riley Chapman, McKenzie Chapman, Jasmine Knox, Patrick Tanner, Kerrie Black, Maxine Benson, Jenny Warburton, Jan McGilvray, Lyn McInnes

4. Previous minutes

a. Business arising from previous minutes

Action: Wathaurong's members are to be sent a media release regarding the Morgan Street redevelopment plans; and will include Woods Bagot PowerPoint presentation.

Outcome: Completed.

Action: At the next Community meeting, provide the list of Wathaurong's 22 properties, displaying the properties with the caveats removed.

Outcome: CEO presented the properties by postcode.

b. Acceptance of 20 February 2022 minutes

Motion: that the members accept the Community Meeting minutes of 20 February 2022.

Moved: David Tournier

Seconded: David Flagg

Carried

5. Presentation – Wathaurong Rulebook Refresh project

Wathaurong's Board of Directors and the CEO presented their vision of placing the Rulebook back into Community hands and shaping the Refresh with Community voices. The Rulebook Refresh will be split into two phases of Community consultation before the agreed final draft is taken to a Special General Meeting for membership endorsement.

Phase One: to address the core legal requirements that require pre-approval from our regulating body Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV)

Phase Two: to review the rest of the Rulebook to have it suit the needs, goals and language of the Wathaurong Community.

Presentation

The CEO presented a slideshow to introduce Community to the process that the Refresh will follow and the changes that require pre-approval from CAV. The main changes can be summarised as:

Item 5 – Objectives of the Co-operative

Reviewing the objectives of the Co-operative to better reflect that we want the organisation to be focused on in engaging our Community

Item 7 – Active Membership Provisions

Looking at the requirements of “active” membership, and what that might mean for members who are still connected with community, but possibly living off country for a period of time

Item 8 – Qualifications required for membership

Reviewing the eligibility requirements for becoming a registered member of the Co-operative, including the boundaries of the area serviced

Appendix 1 – Boundary of the Co-operative

Looking to replace the current complex explanation of the boundaries in the rules with a visual map

Community discussion

Suggested themes that the Rulebook should represent:

- Inclusiveness – Community getting together, knowing each other, kids growing up together, introducing new members in appropriate and safe ways
- History – Community should understand the origins of the Co-operative and what and why people came together to create it
- Community Control – what is our definition of a Community Controlled organisation
- Respect – for active membership across the board, e.g. potentially the weight of their voice/vote
- Honesty – the Co-operative as a safe place for difficult conversations
- Reciprocity – Wathaurong as a Community of contribution, not just taking
- Identity – we are the growers of our identity and must stop the genocide of our cultural identification
- Diversity and talent – embrace these qualities in Community

General discussion around other issues to explore:

- Membership (application and maintaining an active status) – review the appropriate of requirements with consideration for the nature of the diverse nature of Wathaurong Community
- Membership drives and incentives to apply for membership
- Eligibility for accessing services – the need for direct connection for non-Aboriginal people; and prioritisation for members

- Take advantage of the diversity in Community with activities that bring everyone together from children to Elders
- We need to reengage lost members
- Return to the openness of the past
- Frame who we want to be (objectives) succinctly and in simple terms

Boundaries discussion

- Co-benefits of extending the boundaries to include Werribee – community support and organisation support vs refocusing on improving existing services within current boundaries
- Cultural boundaries vs service boundaries
- Where does Colac fit as a priority
- Impacts on relationships or partnerships with neighbouring ACCOs and other service
- Need to understand the implications of accepting funding and Wathaurong's responsibilities

Active membership discussion

- Temporary relocation from Wathaurong Country
- Available housing might impact on someone's ability to live on Country

6. Other General Business

- Discussion about the need to understand full implications of the obligations Wathaurong accepts when it granted funding, and if it aligns with community goals.
- Community offered good news stories, including:
 - Success at VACSAL football and netball carnival
 - Aunty Nellie is appearing in a Fringe Festival play in Melbourne called The Whisper
 - Mick Ryan and Luke Biscan are supporting Goanna at Costa Hall on 18 Nov
 - Jordan Edwards is now the Youth co-chair for Treaty
 - Pride Day at Forster St last weekend was well attended

7. Meeting closed 8:02pm

The Chair and CEO thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.