

MEETING 3 MINUTES

Appin First Nations Reference Group

Date	Wednesday 10 June 2026
Time	09:30 am – 12:00 pm
Location	Appin Planning and Discovery Centre, 55 Appin Rd, Appin NSW 2560
Attendees	Tika EQ: Liam Harte, Claire Wade Walker Corp: Paul Melrose, Amanda McGuirk FNRG: Aunty Glenda Chalker, Kirsty-Lee Chalker, Justin Coplin, Kazan Brown

1.0 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

2.0 Project Update

2.1. Walker Project Update — Walker Corporation |Development Application (DA) Status

The Appin PSP and DCP have been legislated, marking the end of a five-year planning process. The Connecting with Country framework and Cultural Landscape Plan (drawing on the Kate Waters report) are embedded in the DCP.

The Stage 1 DA (2,499 lots concept, 630 lots detailed) remains pending and has been referred to the Land and Environment Court due to Council's non-determination. Traffic management on Appin Road and WSUD requirements remain the two outstanding issues holding up approval.

2.2. Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)

Council requires swales in street designs, though rain gardens remain the primary treatment device in the stormwater modelling. Around seven rain gardens are planned near the lake and upstream of development, functioning as ephemeral wetlands with gravel and sand filtration. maintained by Council on a five-to-ten-year cycle.

The Ousedale Creek farm dam is being dewatered and rebuilt with a liner, at a site identified as having the highest artefact density during recent AHIP testing.

Sydney Water is managing stormwater recycling for the aerotropolis, using recycled sewage and stormwater for airport and industrial uses. Concerns were raised about Sydney Water's record on emergency sewage overflows into local creeks during heavy rainfall.

3.0 General Items for Discussion

3.1. Connecting with Country | Cultural Landscape and Heritage

The Conservation Management Plan (Aboriginal heritage) has been submitted to Heritage NSW and requires formal sign-off to become operative. It builds on the Kate Waters report recommendations relating to the Appin Massacre landscape, covering Northampton Dale Reserve, the homestead area, Rocky Ponds Creek and Hon's Creek regeneration.

AHIP testing confirmed the highest artefact density near the farm dam and Ustark Creek confluence. Possible reburial of artefacts in place was raised as an option if the area is retained as open space, for further consideration. A concern was raised regarding Sydney Water's predetermined plans for creek embellishment potentially conflicting with Connecting with Country objectives.

3.2. Open Space, Parks and Embellishment

Open space embellishment is not included in the Stage 1 DA and will be addressed through a future DA. A three-hectare district park near Rocky Ponds Creek has been identified as the primary cultural open space and will be the first park embellished following Stage 1 approval. The group's expectation is that embellishment includes a cultural centre, not only a picnic shelter, though this is still subject to further planning and negotiation.

A Landscape Master Plan was proposed as a bridging document to set out embellishment intent for all parks ahead of individual DAs, with the FNRG positioned to influence and formally endorse this framework.

A cultural centre at Rocky Ponds is understood to be at least five years away, with earlier activation possible through lookout and village green spaces for Walk on Country inductions.

The artefact concentration sits within the proposed district parkland near the creek and streamline confluence. Overlaying AHIP test pit results onto the open space plan was agreed as a next step.

3.3. Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA)

The VPA (works in kind) mechanism allows Walker Corporation to deliver assets directly rather than making cash contributions, supporting earlier delivery and quality control.

The current VPA offer covers Stage 1 only and includes three community centres. A dedicated cultural centre is not part of the Stage 1 offer and is earmarked for later stage negotiation, with cultural centre space identified near Rocky Ponds Creek.

3.4. Connecting with Country

The document structure was endorsed by the group, with changes from the previous version confirmed and the register updated with member feedback.

Privacy and safety concerns were raised, noting that FNRG members and their families have been targeted on social media following identification in public documents and photographs, including images from a Campbelltown Council event.

The agreed approach is a single document with photographs generalised and language describing the group rather than naming individual attendees, framed as: "made up of Traditional Owners, custodians, Knowledge Holders with cultural links to the site and relevant cultural, ecological, or technical knowledge."

All on-site enquiries are to be directed to a single nominated contact, with no other FNRG members named publicly.

4.0 Questions, Comments, and Any Other Business

4.1. Biodiversity Offsets and Employment Lands

Biodiversity offset funding from non-certified land goes into the statewide Biodiversity Conservation Fund and is not guaranteed to return to this region. Contributions from CPCP-certified land are earmarked for the Cumberland Plain conservation area. A suggestion was raised to establish a new Aboriginal organisation as a recipient body ahead of fund distribution.

For the Picton Bypass, Transport for NSW invited the group to compile a cultural offset wish list, including upgraded Land Council facilities, a cultural shelter with artwork, spring interpretation and a cultural setting within Picton. This was noted as a positive precedent for proactive consultation on offset outcomes.

5.0 Close of Meeting

Liam closed meeting

Next Meeting

Date	Wednesday 12 August 2026
Time	09:30 am – 12:00 pm
Location	Appin Planning and Discovery Centre, 55 Appin Rd, Appin NSW 2560