

## Appin First Nations Reference Group Meeting 2

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| <b>Date</b>      | 29 April 2026                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Time</b>      | 9:30am – 12:00pm                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Location</b>  | Appin Planning and Discovery Centre<br>55 Appin Rd, Appin, New South Wales 2560                                                                                                  |
| <b>Attendees</b> | <b>Tika EQ:</b> Liam Harte<br><b>Walker Group:</b> Paul Melrose, Amanda McGuirk<br><b>FNRG:</b> Aunty Glenda Chalker, Kristy Lee Chalker, Justine Coplin, Kazan Brown (on phone) |

### 1. Welcome

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Welcome to Country by Aunty Glenda Chalker.

### 2. Project Status Update

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The project team confirmed that the Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) have reached a significant milestone, having been submitted to the Secretary of Planning for approval. It was noted that cultural heritage provisions remain unchanged from the public exhibition version, with updates primarily focused on aligning with other development control figures.

Key negotiations with Water NSW have been finalised, including a reduction in canal crossings from six to four. A 20-metre grass corridor with a cycle path has been incorporated along the canal, which will be treated as open space rather than active recreation in order to minimise impacts on the historic tunnel infrastructure. Additionally, medium density housing has been relocated away from sensitive tunnel areas.

#### Development Application (DA) Update

The Development Application is progressing through conciliation in the Land and Environment Court with Wollondilly Council, with resolution anticipated in the coming weeks. The application includes a Concept DA for 2,499 lots and a Detailed DA for 630 lots, covering residential, medium density, and parkland outcomes including Northamptondale Reserve and stormwater management areas.

Key matters under negotiation include traffic management along the main corridor and ecological management of riparian zones.

The Local Planning Agreement (LPA) is nearing completion and will address open space provision, maintenance responsibilities, and eventual handover to Council. It was also noted that the provision for granny flats on larger lots may introduce future challenges related to street parking due to narrower road widths.

#### Infrastructure Constraints – Gas Pipelines



The site contains three major gas pipelines installed across different decades. APA Works has established strict development controls, including a 30-metre no-build zone that will be treated as open space or road corridors, and a 125-metre buffer where sensitive land uses such as schools and childcare centres are prohibited.

Residential development is permitted within the 30 to 125-metre zone subject to mitigation and risk assessment. All crossings must be constructed as bridges with steel plate protection, and a long-term 30-year maintenance framework is in place.

### **Regional Park and Open Space Planning**

The regional park design has been revised to reduce environmental impacts while still meeting community recreation needs. The number of playing fields has been reduced from eight to four AFL-standard ovals, resulting in a reduction in vegetation clearing from three hectares to 1.5 hectares.

The northern portion of the park has been redesigned as passive recreation space, incorporating mountain bike trails and learn-to-ride facilities. Koala exclusion fencing will be implemented around conservation areas, and elevated crossings will maintain connectivity across Simpson Creek.

Concern was raised regarding the adequacy of the 20-metre corridor between the park and canal, particularly in relation to wildlife movement once fencing is introduced.

### **Cultural Heritage and FNRG Matters**

The group discussed significant tensions relating to First Nations Reference Group membership. Concerns were raised regarding external attempts to influence group composition and reports of inappropriate conduct, including harassment and pressure on FNRG members and associated consultants.

The group reaffirmed that the current membership structure is functioning effectively and supports both on-Country representation and appropriate expertise-based contributions. It was agreed that expanding the group at this stage would introduce risks and potentially undermine the collaborative progress achieved over the past two years.

A clear decision was made to maintain the existing membership structure and focus on protecting the integrity of the group and its processes.

## **3. General Discussion and Key Issues**

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### **Connecting Country Framework**

The DRAFT Connecting Country Framework was presented, outlining three key design themes developed through consultation and site engagement. These include tree canopy play environments that provide layered and immersive experiences, waterway education focused on crane habitat and ecological storytelling, and village green spaces designed for flexible community use.

The design approach emphasises intergenerational use, quiet and reflective spaces, integration of endemic planting, and careful management of lighting to minimise impacts on fauna. The framework will inform both Development Application submissions and future detailed design work.

The review period will be extended by 1 week for any final comments from participants and FNRG members.

### **Environmental and Wildlife Management**



The presence of approximately 40 goats on site was confirmed, with plans for removal based on successful approaches used in comparable projects. Deer management is also being addressed at a broader regional level.

Construction timing will be carefully managed to avoid impacts on bird breeding cycles, with pre-construction surveys, drone monitoring, and field assessments required prior to any clearing. Prescribed burning has been identified as a potential tool to support ecological regeneration and seed germination prior to fencing and exclusion of grazing pressures.

Discussion highlighted ongoing concerns regarding habitat fragmentation and the adequacy of ecological corridors. The group reinforced the importance of balancing development outcomes with cultural and environmental values and maintaining strong collaboration with Council and key stakeholders.

#### 4. 6.Next Meeting

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The meeting closed with thanks to all attendees for their participation and continued commitment to the project.

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|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date</b>     | 10 June 20266                                                                   |
| <b>Time</b>     | 9:30am - 12:00pm                                                                |
| <b>Location</b> | Appin Planning and Discovery Centre<br>55 Appin Rd, Appin, New South Wales 2560 |

These minutes are a record of proceedings and decisions of the Appin FNRG meeting. They do not constitute formal advice and should be read in conjunction with relevant project documentation.

