

# ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY PLAN, BAYIKULINAN

## ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

2-30 APRIL 2024

During April 2024, we asked local Elders, community groups, service providers, government organisations and community members for feedback to help review and update our Aboriginal Community Plan, bayikulinan (to act in the future).

The Lake Macquarie community participated in the engagement, which saw 46 per cent of participants identify as neither Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, 45 per cent of participants identify as Aboriginal and nine per cent of participants stating that they prefer to not answer.

### WE ASKED

- What programs, activities or initiatives you are aware of that Council provides to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community?
- What you think the top five challenges are facing our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community?
- How would you like to see Council support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and address local challenges?

### We reached



**20,453** subscribers reached via Council e-newsletters



**16,373** reached via Council's social media



**520** visits to Council's online engagement platform, Shape Lake Mac



**81** online survey responses



**Two** workshops with the Batahbah Local Aboriginal Land Council's Elders' groups and staff

### KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

- Lack of wider community awareness and understanding of Aboriginal culture, heritage and the challenges facing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community
- Discrimination and racism
- Access to culturally-appropriate health, wellbeing and other services
- Employment opportunities
- Limited representation and voice in decision-making processes
- Lack of cultural learning and wellbeing activities, programs and opportunities, especially for children and young people

### KEY THEMES RAISED

- Consult with and listen to the Aboriginal community, especially Elders when addressing community matters
- Strengthen relationships and create partnerships with the Aboriginal community, businesses and services to co-design programs and initiatives for the Aboriginal community
- Increase training and learning opportunities for community to develop a better understanding of Aboriginal culture and history
- Better access to culturally-appropriate health, wellbeing and support services
- Increase culturally-appropriate supports, programs and community connection opportunities for Elders, children and young people
- Increase cultural representation at community events
- Increase Aboriginal art and Awabakal language throughout the city and in Council's communications

### WHAT'S NEXT

We will continue to work with local Elders, community groups, service providers, government organisations and community members to develop the updated Aboriginal Community Plan, bayikulinan 2025-2029, which is expected to be presented to Council for public exhibition in the first half of 2025.