

**City of
Ipswich**

- **Email advice in relation to Multicultural Advisory Committee**
Attachment 1 Tabled email from Mayor Harding in relation to Multicultural
Advisory Committees 3

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From: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Request for advice for the 28 May 2026 Ordinary Council meeting

From: Sonia Cooper <
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2026 9:51 AM
To: Teresa Harding <>
Cc: Councillors; Melissa Fitzgerald <
Subject: FW: Request for advice for the 28 May 2026 Ordinary Council meeting

Mayor

In response to your request for advice, in regards to Queensland local government, as we are aware Toowoomba Regional Council has a Multicultural Advisory Committee with public information on membership and their terms of reference. Members are not paid but do have voting rights.

A meeting was convened by Councillor Augustine and attended by Melissa Dower in March of this year with members of the Toowoomba Regional Council Community Development team. A key discussion point was recognising the benefits of collaborating with key industry stakeholders. The Terms of Reference state that meetings are quarterly. While they have approximately a dozen representatives across their committees and a couple of Councillors they emphasised the importance of targeted engagement with subject matter experts.

[Multicultural Advisory Committee Toowoomba Regional Council](#)

Sunshine Coast has a Multicultural Advisory Group that provides advice. There is public information available via the link below.

Meetings are held quarterly on Wednesdays from 9.30 am to 11.30 am at Sunshine Coast Council City Hall in Maroochydore. The group includes around 10 members who reflect the cultural diversity of the Sunshine Coast and those whose professional roles support multicultural communities with 2 Councillors listed as members. Membership is for two years, with an option to renew for another two years. There doesn't appear to be voting by the group or payment made based on review of publicly available information.

[Multicultural Advisory Group | Sunshine Coast Council](#)

The City of Yarra in Victoria has public information on a Multicultural Advisory Committee with 2 Councillors and 10 members. The Terms of Reference are public via link below. Meetings are quarterly with no evidence of payment of members.

[Multicultural Advisory Committee | Yarra City Council](#)

Waverly Council in New South Wales has a Multicultural Advisory Committee that meets quarterly for 2 hours each year. Terms of reference and minutes are public. Committee membership comprises: The Mayor and up to three Councillors; Up to eight community members; Up to 4 subject matter experts/ representatives from local organisations. In cases where consensus can't be reached, recommendations are made by majority vote.

[Multicultural Advisory Committee - Waverley Council](#)

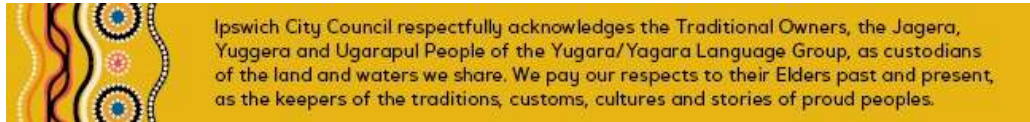
Sutherland Shire Council has a Multicultural Advisory Group / Reference Group that meets quarterly however appears to be officer based with up to 15 community member / organisation representatives.

[Multicultural Advisory Group \(MAG\) | Sutherland Shire Council](#)
[Sutherland-Shire-Multicultural-Advisory-Group-TOR-2025-A9830946.pdf](#)

Regards, Sonia



Sonia Cooper | Chief Executive Officer



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From: Teresa Harding
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 3:06 PM
To: Sonia Cooper
Cc: Councillors; Melissa Fitzgerald; Wade Wilson ; Mayor of Ipswich
Subject: Request for advice for the 28 May 2026 Ordinary Council meeting

Sonia,

As part of the discussion regarding the Multicultural Advisory Committee in the 30 April Ordinary Council Meeting, I had noted that the forthcoming report on this matter should include information on what other councils do in this space, what we can learn from them, and whether external committee members are paid in other councils, for example.

I note that this hasn't been included as part of the current report to the Finance and Governance Committee but I would still be keen to understand how other councils manage this space.

Could I please request this information and suggest it is circulated to all councillors ahead of the 28 May Ordinary Council Meeting for their information.

For reference, the request was made in the 30 April Ordinary Council Meeting at 1:58:30

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4oK-sqnvik>

Kind regards, Teresa

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Mayor Teresa Harding

Ipswich City Council

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Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul People of the Yugara/Yagara Language Group, as custodians of the land and waters we share. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.



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