

Paul McCarthy

iluminarcoogee@gmail.com

11 September 2026

Ref No: D06266394

Dear Mr McCarthy,

Thank you for your email and for sharing your blog post regarding opportunities to strengthen First Nations cultural recognition through public art within our coastal environment.

I appreciate the time and thought you have invested in documenting local Aboriginal history, identifying opportunities for greater visibility, and advocating for ambitious public art outcomes across Randwick's coastline. Your suggestion for a major artwork installation inspired by projects such as the Barangaroo shell wall is noted and appreciated.

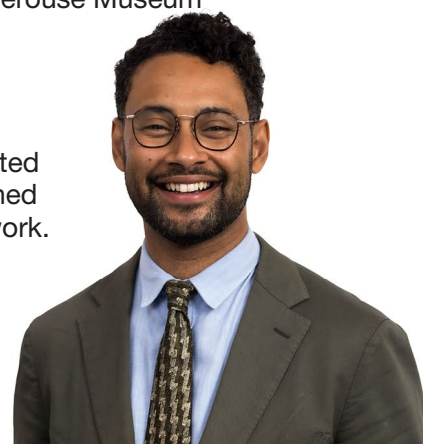
Council shares your commitment to ensuring that First Nations stories, culture and knowledge are meaningfully reflected within public spaces. A program of projects is currently underway which seek to embed Aboriginal culture, storytelling and artistic expression across the municipality.

This includes the Eastern Beaches Coastal Walkway project, which will create a continuous coastal connection from Clovelly to La Perouse. As part of this work, Council is incorporating dual naming within wayfinding signage and integrating First Nations artwork at locations along the route.

Council is also redesigning the Maroubra Beach Playground, which will incorporate First Nations storytelling as well as a custom play tower informed by local knowledge. While further along the coastline, investigations are underway for a whale watching platform that would incorporate interpretation, storytelling and artistic responses connected to the Burriburri (Humpback Whale) story.

Our recently introduced Creative Hoardings Program has created additional opportunities for First Nations artists and cultural expression, including commissions from Aboriginal artists as well as featuring shellwork created by First Nations Elders from the La Perouse Museum collection.

In recent years there have been major public outcomes, including the commissioning of acclaimed First Nations artist Reko Rennie through a Voluntary Planning Agreement process. Earlier this year, Council presented Sea Place on Country on the La Perouse headland which was co-designed with community and celebrated First Nations traditions, stories and artwork.



The program featured a major projection work by La Perouse artist Shane Youngberry on the Macquarie Watchtower, alongside a Council-commissioned documentary celebrating the cultural fishing tradition of the Mullet Run which was then screened as part of ABC's Compass program.

Additional projects include the incorporation of shellwork-inspired designs into the public realm surrounding the future Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club redevelopment.

Importantly, Council is progressing plans for a dedicated First Nations Cultural Precinct centred on the La Perouse Museum and surrounding headland. Developed in partnership with the local Aboriginal community, the proposed four-year strategy includes a strong focus on sharing local stories and histories while creating opportunities to showcase First Nations practitioners, exhibitions and cultural experiences.

Thank you again for your thoughtful contribution and advocacy. Community input plays an important role in helping Council identify opportunities to further celebrate and recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of our area. Your suggestion will be considered as Council continues to explore future public art and placemaking opportunities across the coastline.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dylan Parker', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Cr Dylan Parker

Mayor