

Document Name	Document Version Number	Review Date
Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practice Policy	1.0.0	September 2016
Date Adopted	Minute Number	Status
17 September 2014	3882	New Policy

### Purpose

Council has resolved to adopt a protocol that observes respect for the recognition of Aboriginal people at official meetings and events. This policy outlines Council's position with regard to the protocol.

Council recognises Aboriginal people's unique position in the history and culture of NSW. Aboriginal people are the original owners of the land and it is important that this special position is recognised and incorporated into official protocol.

By incorporating Aboriginal cultural practices into official events, Council is able to:

- recognise and pay respect to Aboriginal peoples, cultures and heritage.
- communicate Aboriginal cultural practices to the broader community to promote respect and understanding.
- demonstrate that Aboriginal cultures are living through maintenance and practice of ceremonies and protocols.
- demonstrate recognition of Aboriginal people's unique position which can assist in building relationships and partnerships.

### Scope

The policy applies to all formal Council meetings and all special events where Council has the lead organisational role, e.g. citizenship ceremonies and Australia Day events.

### Definitions

#### Acknowledgement of Country

This is a short statement (as follows) read by the chairperson of the meeting, master of ceremonies or speaker at commencement. Adopted wording for the Acknowledgment of Country is:

"I would like to acknowledge that this event/celebration/meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people, and pay my respect to elders both past and present."

### Policy Content

An Acknowledgement of Country is a way of showing awareness of and respect for the traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander owners of the land on which a meeting or event is being held, and of recognising the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to their Country.

An Acknowledgement of Country can be informal or formal and involves visitors acknowledging the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander owners of the land as well as the long and continuing relationship between Indigenous peoples and their Country.

At a speech or formal occasion the Chairperson or speaker begins the proceedings by offering an Acknowledgement of Country. Unlike a Welcome to Country, it can be performed by a non-Indigenous person.

At a formal meeting of Council, the Acknowledgement of Country shall immediately follow the prayer.

## **Links to Policy**

Nil

## **Links to Procedure**

Code of Meeting Practice

## **Links to Forms**

Nil

## **References**

- NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy
- Reconciliation Australia Q and A Factsheet – Welcome To and Acknowledgement Of Country.

## **Responsibility**

General Manager

## **Document Author**

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## **Relevant Legislation**

Nil

## **Associated Records**

Nil