



Policy Type

Council

Policy Purpose

To determine how and when the City will acknowledge the Beeljar people of the Whadjuk Nyungar nation as the traditional custodians of the lands upon which City of Cockburn has been founded.

Policy Statement

The City shall acknowledge the Beeljar people of the Whadjuk Nyungar nation as the traditional custodians of the lands upon which City of Cockburn has been founded and shall pay its respect to the Elders of the Nyungar nation, past and present.

- (1) Acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of a region can be done through:
 1. A Welcome to Country, which is a traditional protocol only delivered by an Aboriginal person widely recognised as having ancestral connection with the local area where the function or meeting is held. This is expected at more formal events.
 2. An Acknowledgement of Country which can be delivered by either Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal people, at both formal and informal functions, meetings and activities.
- (2) An Acknowledgment of Country is a statement acknowledging and showing respect for the Aboriginal history, culture and ongoing connection of traditional custodians with the land. For the lands on which City of Cockburn has been established, the traditional custodians are the Beeljar people of the Whadjuk Nyungar region.
- (3) Acknowledgement of traditional custodians is a foundation action of all Reconciliation Action Plans, with the goal of strengthening opportunities, respect and relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and all other Australians. It is a requirement of Reconciliation Australia, which oversees all Reconciliation Action Plans.
- (4) The City adopted the practice of Acknowledgement of Country in 2009 and reaffirmed it in the Reconciliation Action Plan.
 1. An Acknowledgement of Country will be delivered by the Mayor or other delegated official at all Council Meetings, Citizenship Ceremonies and formal functions and events.
 2. Acknowledgement of Country may also be delivered by staff or other attendees upon request, at City functions, meetings, events or activities.



3. A statement of Acknowledgement of Country will be displayed on the City website.
4. A statement of Acknowledgement of Country will be prominently displayed in Council Chambers, public reception rooms, customer service areas and at other City facilities.
5. A short Acknowledgement will be added as a footer to staff emails.
6. Acknowledgement of Country must be used within the City's Annual Report, Strategic Plans and Business Plans, and Powerpoint templates. It will be clearly located near the front of the document.
7. A Welcome to Country will be delivered at formal functions, Citizenship Ceremonies, events and activities. A list of acknowledged Elders or Custodians of the Whadjuk Nyungar region can be provided by staff to ensure appropriate protocol is followed.

Strategic Link:	Reconciliation Action Plan
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Lead Business Unit:	Community Development & Services
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