

<b>ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS POLICY</b>	
Administration Policy	
TRIM Reference	AR19/37779[v2]
First Issued	23 March 2009
Last Reviewed	February 2024
Next Review	April 2027

## **1. POLICY STATEMENT**

- 1.1** To ensure better community relationships and to assist the reconciliation process, this Policy provides guidelines in relation to acknowledgement protocols at public meetings and other events, to help promote greater appreciation of Aboriginal culture in the wider community, and to show respect for Aboriginal people living in the Council area.

## **2. PURPOSE**

### **2.1 Purpose**

To ensure Elected Members and staff are aware of correct protocols when acknowledging Aboriginal people at functions/event.

### **2.2 Scope**

All staff to ensure that the guidelines outlined within this policy are adhered to when making reference to Aboriginal people and other Australians and welcoming protocols as various events.

### **2.3 Strategic Reference**

#### **5 Governance and Financial Sustainability**

- 5.1 We are inclusive, engaged and open.

## **3. PRINCIPLES**

- 3.1** It is acknowledged that Aboriginal people are recognised as the original inhabitants of Australia. The Indigenous people of Australia are the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Straight Islanders.

### **3.2 Recognising Traditional Custodians**

#### **3.2.1 Welcome to Country**

- a) This involves Aboriginal people (usually traditional Elders within the local area) welcoming people to their land. It usually occurs at the opening of significant events or conferences involving visitors from interstate or other countries. Such events may include:
  - i) Conferences or large professional development events involving a wide cross-section of participants
  - ii) Community events
  - iii) Significant policy, report, project launches
  - iv) Professional development
  - v) Government functions
- b) The protocol for incorporating a Welcome to Country into the agenda for an event is as follows:

- i) After a brief welcome to those participating in the event, introduce yourself, then introduce the Elder, to conduct the welcome to country.
  - ii) Following the presentation, thank the traditional Elder and proceed with the event.
- c) The Port Augusta City Council has two Native Title Groups within the Council area – Barngarla and Nukunu. The Group providing the Welcome to Country should be determined in accordance with the location of the event being held.

### **3.2.2 Acknowledgement of Country Statement**

- a) This occurs when Traditional Elders are not available to provide an official "Welcome to Country", or the scale of the function does not warrant a traditional welcome. Such events may include:
  - i) Meetings
  - ii) Official events
  - iii) Smaller ceremonies
  - iv) Events involving external personnel, sector or community representatives
- b) The protocol adopted by Council for incorporating an 'Acknowledgement of Country' statement as part of this type of event is:  
*"We acknowledge and respect the Barngarla and Nukunu people as the Traditional Custodians of the ancestral lands. We pay respect to all Aboriginal cultural groups and individuals. As it has been in the past, Port Augusta continues to be a meeting place, with members of many different language groups living here."*

## **4. RESPONSIBILITY & REVIEW**

### **4.1 Responsible Officer**

Director City Services

### **4.2 Availability**

This policy will be available on Council's website.

### **4.3 Review**

This policy will be reviewed within 12 months of a General Election for Local Government, or as required to meet other obligations.

## **5. REFERENCES**

### **5.1 Legislation**

Not applicable.

### **5.2 Other References**

Not applicable.