

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY STATEMENT

The Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of our land - Australia. As a mark of respect to the traditional custodians, Gannawarra Shire Council events, official meetings, functions and other special occasions begin with an "Acknowledgement of Country".

The Shire encourages other organisations and community groups to include an "Acknowledgement of Country" on appropriate occasions.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

"Acknowledgement of Country" is where other people acknowledge and show respect for the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the event is taking place.

Such an "Acknowledgement of Country" can be used exclusively if an Elder or other appropriate member of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities is not available to perform a Welcome to Country.

The first speaker at the event or function or the Chair of the meeting should give the Acknowledgment of Country in the following way:

I would like to take this time to Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, and pay my respect to elders both past and present.

It is not necessary for subsequent speakers to give an Acknowledgement.

2. TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

Traditional owners and custodians are the terms used to describe the original Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples who inhabited an area.

Traditional custodians today are descendants of these original inhabitants and have continuing spiritual, cultural, political and often physical connection with particular land where their ancestors lived.

The traditional owners and custodians of the local area are known as the Barapa Barapa and Yorta Yorta people.

3. RELATED LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1989

Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 2010

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

4. STATEMENT REVIEW

Council will review this statement as required but always within 2 years after a general election of the Council.

At the time it was developed, this policy was compliant with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

Members of the public may inspect all Council Policies at Gannawarra Shire Council's Kerang and Cohuna offices or online at www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au.

Any enquiries in relation to this Policy should be directed to the Director, Community Wellbeing on (03) 5450 9333.

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