

# Acknowledgement of Country

## STATEMENT

Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Owners of our land – Australia.

As a mark of respect to the Traditional Owners, Gannawarra Shire Council events, functions, meetings or other special occasions will begin with an Acknowledgement of Country.

Such an Acknowledgement of Country can be used exclusively where an Elder or another authorised member of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community is not available to conduct a Welcome to Country.

An Acknowledgement of Country is an opportunity for anyone to show respect for Traditional Owners and the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to Country. It can be given by both non-indigenous people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

There are no set protocols or wording for an Acknowledgement of Country.

At Gannawarra Shire Council events, functions, meetings or other special occasions, the first speaker should give the Acknowledgement of Country in the following way:

*I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, their rich culture and connection to Country. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge Elders from other communities who may be meeting with us today.*

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

## TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Traditional Owners is the term used to describe the original Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people that inhabited an area. Today, Traditional Owners are descendants of the original inhabitants who have continuing connection with particular land where their ancestors lived.

The Traditional Owners of the Gannawarra area are the Barapa Barapa, Wamba Wamba and Yorta Yorta people.

## PROTOCOL REVIEW

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

At the time of review, this Statement was compliant with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Members of the public may inspect all Council policies at Gannawarra Shire Council's Kerang and Cohuna office or online at [www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au](http://www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au).

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

