



Gladstone Regional Council

Council Policy

Title	ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURAL PROTOCOL - EVENTS
Policy Number	P-2017-13
Responsible Directorate	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Responsible Officer	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Date of Adoption	23 JANUARY 2018
Resolution Number	G/18/3305
Date Review Due	23 JANUARY 2021

1.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Policy is to recognise the unique position of Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders in Australian culture and history. Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders are the original Custodians of the land. It is important this unique position is recognised and incorporated as part of official protocol at events to enable the wider community to share in this culture and heritage, facilitating better relationships between First Australians and other Australians.

2.0 SCOPE:

This policy applies to elected Council members, employees and consultants who deliver services on behalf of Council to ensure that correct protocols are adhered to.

3.0 RELATED LEGISLATION:

1. *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld);*
2. *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth); and*
3. *Native Title (Indigenous Land Use Agreements) Regulations 1999 (Cth).*

4.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Port Curtis Coral Coast People and Local Government Indigenous Land Use Agreement.
2. Native Title Determination Application QUD6026/2001 (Port Curtis Coral Coast People).

5.0 DEFINITIONS:

'Welcome to Country'

A Welcome to Country is a formal welcome onto Aboriginal traditional lands given by an Aboriginal Elder or person of that land. The Welcome to Country should be on the order of proceedings for an Event and may comprise of a single speech given by an Aboriginal Elder with or without an accompanying performance, such as playing of the Didgeridoo.

'Acknowledgement of People and Country'

An Acknowledgement of People and Country is a statement or recognition of the traditional owners of the land. An Acknowledgement of People and Country can be given by any person.

'Event'

For the purposes of this Policy, an event is a formal civic function within the Gladstone Region involving members of the community where Council is the recognised coordinator or facilitator of the event, but the policy excludes those commercially engaged performances delivered through the Gladstone Entertainment and Convention Centre Program of Events.

6.0 POLICY STATEMENT:

6.1 Event Protocol

This policy will provide guidance for a consistent approach to involving and engaging Aboriginal Elders and other First Australian cultural groups or representatives in events of the Gladstone Region through formal Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of People and Country addresses and other First Australian performances.

A Welcome to Country address should be incorporated into events where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues, programs or services are being promoted and may also form part of proceedings for events of a formal civic nature, where there are attendees and guests visiting from other Regions or Countries.

Examples of events suitable for a Welcome to Country address may include, but is not limited to:

1. Indigenous Land Use Agreement Signing Ceremony;
2. NAIDOC Week Celebrations;
3. Formal events associated with hosting overseas delegations (ie. Saiki Sister City Formal Welcome Ceremony, etc);
4. Council hosted Conferences;
5. Public Citizenship Day Ceremony; and
6. Mayor's Charity Ball.

Where events are of a less formal nature, an Acknowledgement of People and Country is the minimum requirement.

Examples of events suitable for an Acknowledgement of People and Country may include, but is not limited to:

1. Citizenship Ceremonies; and
2. Gladstone Art Gallery and Museum Exhibition Openings.

The following Acknowledgement of People and Country script, which has been endorsed by representatives of the Aboriginal Elders for the Gladstone Region, may be used when an Acknowledgement of People and Country address is delivered by a non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander event representative:

Script

Example 1:

I would like to pay my respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which this meeting takes place, and also pay respect to Elders both past, present and emerging.

Example 2:

I would like to Acknowledge the _____ people who are the traditional custodians of this land. I would also like to pay respect to Elders both past and present of the _____ nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.

6.2 Cultural Performances

Dancers, singers, artists and musicians may also be engaged for particular events.

6.3 Register of Expression of Interest

Council will maintain a Register of Expressions of Interest developed in consultation with the relevant stakeholder groups and individuals, which lists local Aboriginal Elders and First Australian Cultural Groups who offer their services for Welcome to Country and other cultural performances at events.

A Fee for Service guide for guests officiating and performing at events will be maintained in the Register.

The Register will also serve as a record of who has been engaged in various events throughout each year.

Executive Services will be responsible for establishing and maintaining the Register.

6.4 Sensitivity around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Protocols

Council recognises that some First Australian cultural ceremonies and protocols are sensitive and may not be discussed or shared with the broader community. It is important that the nature of the event and the expected proceedings are discussed with the First Australian representative/s prior to the event taking place.

6.5 Arranging a Welcome, Acknowledgement or Performance

Event organisers are responsible for liaising with the appropriate Aboriginal Elders and Torres Strait Islander cultural groups in the community to engage them for official welcomes and cultural performances.

7.0 ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

8.0 REVIEW TRIGGER:

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

1. The related legislation/documents are amended or replaced.
2. Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council
3. Periodic Review – 3 years from date of adoption.

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS		
Originally Adopted	23 JANUARY 2018	G/18/3305
Amendment 1	<INSERT DATE COUNCIL MEETING>	<INSERT RESOLUTION NUMBER>

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ROSLYN BAKER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER