

# Policy No. 95: Indigenous Recognition

## POLICY MANUAL

<b>Policy No. 95</b>	<b>Indigenous Recognition</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this Policy is to ensure Traditional Owners/Custodians of the land are acknowledged.
<b>Department</b>	Governance
<b>Author</b>	Jonathan Harmey, General Manager
<b>Council Meeting Date</b>	14 December 2021
<b>Minute Reference</b>	235/2021
<b>Next Review Date</b>	<b>October 2025</b>

## POLICY

### **1. Definitions**

Nil.

### **2. Objective**

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- acknowledge the Aboriginal culture and history relating to the lands within the Meander Valley Local Government Area;
- express the Council's commitment towards promoting the Aboriginal community, culture and reconciliation in the Meander Valley; and
- promote awareness of, and respect for, the Aboriginal community, as the Custodians of the land and waterways through appropriate acknowledgement at Meander Valley Council public functions and events.

### **3. Scope**

This Policy applies to Council Meetings, Council Committee Meetings and official Council ceremonies, functions and events attended by the public.

### **4. Policy**

1. The Council recognises the long standing cultural history of the now past Pallitore and Panninher peoples (the past peoples) and is committed to supporting a continuing recognition of their connection and history to the lands and waterways which now comprise the local government area of the Meander Valley.

2. The Council acknowledges the significant role the Aboriginal community of Tasmania (collectively known as the Palawa) plays in acknowledging and respecting the past peoples of the land and waterways.
3. The Council respects and supports the role of local Aboriginal people in acknowledging and preserving the connection of past peoples as well as their own culture and connection to the land and country that is now the Meander Valley Local Government Area;
4. The Council will be guided by the protocols of the National Indigenous Australians Agency which is a complement to the guidance of local Aboriginal people within our community.

## **5. Recognition and Acknowledgement Actions**

1. The Council will recognise the past peoples and local Aboriginal people and their culture and connection to this country, through the display of the Australian Aboriginal Flag in the Council Chamber at Westbury and at official ceremonies where the Australian and Tasmanian flags are also displayed.
2. The Australian Aboriginal Flag will also be flown externally at the Council Chambers during days of significance in line with national protocols and conventions.
3. When appropriate, the Council will invite a representative from the local Aboriginal community to perform a Welcome to Country at official ceremonies and significant community events and meetings delivered by the Council.
4. The Council will undertake an Acknowledgement of Country at the Council's organised public events, such as Council Meetings and Citizenship Ceremonies.

### *Welcome to Country*

A Welcome to Country is to be delivered by Traditional Owners or Custodians of the land on which the event takes place.

The Council will invite a recognised representative of the local Aboriginal community to conduct a Welcome to Country at Council-organised events of significance, including Citizenship Ceremonies.

In the spirit of community service, it is anticipated a Welcome to Country will be provided at no cost. The Council will, however, reimburse any demonstrated and reasonable costs incurred in attending or conducting the ceremony, or donate the equivalent to an initiative that benefits Aboriginal people.

### *Acknowledgement of Country*

The Meander Valley municipality was home to Aboriginal people from the Pallitore clan (to the West) and the Panninher clan (to the East).

Acknowledgement of Country gives recognition to both past peoples and also the present local Aboriginal people who live on the lands now known as the Meander Valley.

Acknowledgment will be given through the following words:

1. *I begin today by acknowledging the Pallitore and Panninher past peoples and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we gather today and pay my respects to Elders past and present. I extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.*

Or

2. *I begin today by acknowledging the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we gather today and pay my respects to Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.*

#### *Flying the Aboriginal Flag*

The Australian Aboriginal Flag will be permanently displayed in the Council Chambers at 26 Lyall Street, Westbury, in line with Australian Flag Protocols.

The Australian Aboriginal Flag will be flown externally at the Council Chambers in line with Australian Flag Protocols during significant events such as NAIDOC week.

## **6. Legislation and Related Standards**

*Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal People Act 2016*  
*Flags Act 1953*

## **7. Responsibility**

Responsibility for the operation of this Policy rests with the General Manager.