

# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RECOGNITION POLICY

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<b>Policy Reference No.</b>	POL/145
<b>File No.</b>	HCC11/274
<b>Strategic Objective</b>	3.2 Enhance community pride and sense of place
<b>Adopted by Council</b>	May 2010
<b>Re-Adopted</b>	15 March 2016
<b>Date for Review</b>	March 2021
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Manager Community Development and Learning
<b>Department</b>	Community Development and Learning

# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RECOGNITION POLICY

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## 1 POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 Council will acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the traditional custodians of land by flying the Aboriginal flag alongside the Australian and Council flags daily.
- 1.2 Council will acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as traditional custodians of the land at all Council events and functions.
- 1.3 Council will display symbolic recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as part of municipal Gateway treatments.
- 1.4 Council will display symbolic recognition to the Wurundjeri as traditional custodians, such as a plaque, on Council owned buildings.
- 1.5 Council will include Wominjeka, which means “welcome” displayed in the foyers of customer service centres, community facilities and on Council buildings where “welcome” is displayed in other languages.
- 1.6 Council will acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the traditional custodians of the land in writing on Council Strategies and Action Plans.

## 2 PURPOSE

- 2.1 This policy informs the daily display of the Aboriginal flag outside Council offices.
- 2.2 Acknowledgment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders may vary depending on the nature of the function or event. The policy is intended to include Council sponsored or funded functions, events or activities.
- 2.3 This policy also informs the symbolic recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities at municipal Gateway treatments and on Council buildings.
- 2.4 Acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in written form may vary depending on the document. The policy is intended to include significant Council publications, such as Action Plans and Strategies and written community documents such as rates notice.

## 3 SCOPE

- 3.1 This policy provides advice:
  - 3.1.1 On the display of the Aboriginal flag along with the Australian and Council flag.
  - 3.1.2 The mechanism for acknowledging Hume City Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities at Council events and functions.

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- 3.1.3** On the display of symbols as recognition of Hume's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community at municipal Gateways and on Council owned facilities.
- 3.1.4** On the wording to acknowledge Hume's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Council's strategies, action plans and rates notice.

#### 4 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1** Council will, as part of its commitment to recognising the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the traditional custodians of this nation fly daily from the left, the Australian flag, Aboriginal flag and Council flag, in the Civic Plaza, Broadmeadows and outside Craigieburn and Sunbury Customer Service Centres. In addition, the Aboriginal flag will be displayed in the Hume City Council Meeting Chambers alongside the Australian and Hume flags.
- 4.2** Council will acknowledge National Sorry Day on the 26 May each year by flying from left to right the Australian flag at full mast and the Aboriginal flag and Torres Strait Islander flag at half-mast.
- 4.3** Council will fly from left to right the Australian flag, the Aboriginal flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag during Reconciliation Week (27 – 3 June) and NAIDOC Week (1st week of July) each year.
- 4.4** At the Statutory Meeting of Council, or other official functions where Council has invited guests, the following acknowledgement will be read:
- 4.5** "I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on country for which the members and elders of the Gunung-Willam-Balluk community and their forebears have been custodians for many centuries. The Gunung-Willam-Balluk of the Wurundjeri are the Traditional Custodians of this land. I would like to pay respect to the existing family members of the Gunung-Willam-Balluk. I would also like to pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.
- 4.6** For less formal occasions where Council would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians, the following statement may be read:
- 4.7** "I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Gunung-Willam-Balluk land. The Gunung-Willam-Balluk of the Wurundjeri are the first and original people of this land. I would like to pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today."
- 4.8** There will be acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as part of any municipal Gateway treatments.

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- 4.9** On Council owned community facilities a plaque acknowledging the Wurundjeri as the traditional custodians of the land is to be displayed.
- 4.10** Other public displays acknowledging Hume City Council support for reconciliation are to be displayed in the foyers of Council buildings. Council will display Wominjeka “welcome” in customer service and community facility foyers and on Council buildings where “welcome” is displayed in other languages. In addition Council will exhibit the formal apology made on 13th February 2008 by the then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd in the customer service foyer at the Broadmeadows office.
- 4.11** Acknowledgement of Hume’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community on Council strategies, action plans and publications should be done in a prominent location such as on or inside the front cover of each document developed after May 2016. The Acknowledgement will include the following statement:
- 4.12** “Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Gunung-Willam-Balluk of the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal living culture as a vital part of Australia’s identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to the existing family members of the Gunung-Willam-Balluk and to Elders past and present.”
- 4.13** On other Council written documentation such as rates notice the following statement should be included from July 2016 at the bottom of the page:
- 4.14** “Hume City Council acknowledges the Gunung-Willam-Balluk of the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Custodians of this land.”

**5 DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

- 5.1 Gunung-William-Balluk:** The Aboriginal people recognised as the traditional owners within Hume City.
- 5.2 Wurundjeri:** The territory of the Wurundjeri lies within the inner city of Melbourne and extends north of the Great Dividing Ranges, east to Mt Baw Baw, and south to Mordialloc Creek and west to Werribee River. The Wurundjeri are a tribe composed of a number of different clans that are the traditional owners of separate pieces of land or estates. Although they are distinct in this way, the clans of the Wurundjeri tribe share many things in common. Of prime importance is their collective identity as Wurundjeri tribesmen and tribeswomen.
- 5.3 Function/Event:** Notable public occurrences, which showcase Hume City Council, its Councillors, staff and community, including the Statutory Meeting of Council, festivals and official openings and launches.

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**6 RELATED DOCUMENTS**

**6.1 Hume City Council Social Justice Charter.**

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