

Reconciliation Action Plan Benchmarking – SEQ

A preliminary evaluation of Council's ongoing engagement with the local ATSI community and the Native Title and Cultural Heritage requirements with Jinibara people and Kabi Kabi First Nation has been undertaken to understand both the legislative responses and the Reconciliation Action Plan moving forward. These options have been developed and benchmarked against like local governments in South East Queensland.

To further inform Council's considerations surrounding reconciliation practices, a benchmarking exercise was undertaken across South East Queensland (SEQ) councils. This exercise highlighted the following key points.

The ASTI composition on the Sunshine Coast is similar to other local government areas in SEQ. For example, Redlands 1.9%, Gold Coast 1.3% and Brisbane City Council at 1.4%. Morton Bay Regional Council is slightly higher at 2.3%, followed by Logan City Council at 2.5% and Ipswich City Council at 3.8%. This total comparison is represented below.

LGA	Males	Females	Total Indigenous Population	% of Total Pop	Total Population 2011	Native Title Determination
Gold Coast	3,069	3,127	6,196	1.3%	494,501	No
Brisbane	7,352	7,278	14,630	1.4%	1,041,842	No
Sunshine Coast	2,033	2,045	4,078	1.5%	272,723	Yes
Redland	1,256	1,363	2,619	1.9%	138,665	Yes
Moreton Bay	4,169	4,288	8,784	2.3%	378,046	Yes
Logan	3,767	4,028	7,795	2.5%	305,110	No
Ipswich	3,713	3,243	6,416	3.8%	166,904	No

Three local government areas have Native Title determinations; these are Sunshine Coast, Redlands and Moreton Bay.

Each local government has an endorsed strategic response towards reconciliation with the ATSI community, either through a Reconciliation Action Plan, Indigenous Land Use Agreement and/or a combination of working groups, policy, strategy and action plans.

Three local government areas have additional commitments in place, such as increasing ATSI employment, training and procurement opportunities. Gold Coast also identified the employment of a Solicitor dedicated to Cultural Heritage and Native Title matters.

With the exception of Logan, all other councils have at least one nominated ATSI identified position working in response to Cultural Heritage management, competing interests with Traditional Owner groups, and the development of protocols and processes, to deliver community projects and programs and raise the visibility of the ATSI community.

These officers were either located within the Community Service Department or centrally within the CEO's Office or Corporate Governance area to ensure an organisational wide influence.