



Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 Implementation Summary

This summary outlines the progress and key outcomes associated with the implementation of the *Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 (RAP)*.

The *Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016* was Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan. It set out a vision for regular engagement and support initiatives to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to enjoy social and economic opportunities through the values of respect and equality. The Plan also helped establish and promote our reconciliation commitment, protocols and outcomes, whilst providing guidance for building respect, and promoting social inclusion and equality.

Some of the key outcomes of its implementation include:

- Welcome to Country and Acknowledgements now form part of standard practice at Council events and meetings
- Regular attendance at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector network meetings to consult, build respect and create opportunities with key stakeholders
- Provision of funding (totalling over \$300,000) through Council's Community Grants Program and levies to support projects, programs and events specifically related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander initiatives
- Partnerships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to deliver annual NAIDOC and Flag raising events on days of significance – with events promoted on Council's website, and Council staff invited to attend
- Representation from the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples on the Sunshine Coast

Cultural Heritage Reference Group (SCCHRG), to provide advice on preserving and accessing cultural heritage on the Sunshine Coast

- Consultation with Traditional Owners, the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara First Nation peoples, in regards to environmental and cultural heritage protection and preservation, as per statutory requirements
- Provision of traineeship and job vacancies specifically dedicated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags displayed in Council foyers
- Continued development of Council's Cultural Heritage website and library catalogue, containing extensive Indigenous history resource materials
- Commissioning of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to create various public artworks in the public realm, which contribute to the sense of place and narrative of the Sunshine Coast Region and its history
- Recruitment of a designated Senior Advisor, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships officer to enhance relationships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and advance reconciliation.

A number of specific projects and programs have also been supported through the implementation of the *Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016* in an effort to advance our reconciliation commitment, including but not limited to:

- Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Walk (held in September each year)
- Shared History Forums (three events held in 2016)
- Racism. It Stops with Me event hosted in 2016
- Artwork commissioned from local Kabi Kabi First Nation artist, Mr Lyndon Davis, installed at the Sunshine Coast Airport
- Delivery of a playground upgrade at Muller Park, Bli Bli in 2015, inspired by, and in recognition of, the Kabi Kabi First Nation people and their historical connection with the area
- Delivery of accredited cultural competency training for designated staff across the organisation to work effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Hosting of a regional Cultural Awareness Tour with Traditional Owners, State Government representatives, Councillors and staff in 2015
- Council staff participation in the Bunya Cultural Bus Tour in 2011 and 2012
- Nambour Library hosting of The Corner installation 'Strait Home', courtesy of the State Library of Queensland during 2012
- Black Swans Big Day Out program, utilising sports, recreational, and cultural activities to engage youth (12-25 years) and to reduce at-risk behaviours
- SevGen Spring Fractal, a two-day Indigenous cultural awareness workshop to strengthen Indigenous and non-Indigenous relationships
- MOTIVATE Our Place, Our Culture, Our People, a region-wide cultural and creative camp.

Council's *Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016* has provided a solid foundation for our ongoing commitments to support local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations, programs, events, and the implementation of respectful protocols. It has achieved this in parallel with raising awareness of reconciliation across our local communities.

Through ongoing commitments and implementation of new extended initiatives, Council will continue to be a leader in reconciliation for the region, as demonstrated by the successful outcomes in the first *Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016*.

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