

Sunshine Coast Council
Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016







Story of the Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is shared in the timeless traditions of storytelling, paintings and song.

The story of this Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan is represented in painting by Paul Constable Calcott and was endorsed by Traditional Custodians.

The Sunshine Coast region is represented in the colours of green for the hinterland, yellow and orange for sandy beaches and blue for the ocean.

The large circle is a group of white people meeting the Councillors of the Sunshine Coast Council.

On the path from the meeting are council people yarning with elders and members of the community. Permission is sought and endorsement given as they agree to walk together and yarn with the whole community.

The smaller circles are yarning circles of community members who have gathered together to talk and share.

You can see where the black and white community have sat side by side. Yellow surrounds each seat – it is the common life force of all living beings, recognising that we are one, deserving of mutual respect.

The last circle has council and the community walking together with the information they have gathered from the yarning circles, carrying a plan to move forward.

Making a difference together

"We acknowledge the traditional custodians and Elders of this land and pay our respects to the leaders both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of all Aboriginal people."



Reconciliation Australia is pleased to welcome the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). RAPs are business plans that use an holistic approach to build meaningful relationships and create sustainable opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. By developing and implementing their RAP, Sunshine Coast Regional Council has joined a community of over 280 organisations, large and small, that have committed to turning good intentions into real actions.

Through this first RAP, Sunshine Coast Regional Council will focus on dreaming, yarning and learning, three important aspects of reconciliation. This is demonstrated by their commitment to developing meaningful relationships with the community aimed at guiding council processes and projects. It is also evident in their commitment to engaging with the next generation of leaders on the Sunshine Coast. I encourage all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to take these opportunities to be heard and to shape the future of the region.

In particular, I would like to commend Sunshine Coast Regional Council for its engagement with the local Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi peoples and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council's focus on consulting with local elders and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community has delivered a plan that respects the significant Aboriginal history and culture of the region and focuses on developing relationships for the benefit of all.

Reconciliation Australia thanks Sunshine Coast Regional Council for taking this important step in promoting reconciliation. On behalf of Reconciliation Australia, I wish you well for the important actions you have set for the Council for the coming years.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leah Armstrong".

Leah Armstrong
Chief Executive Officer
Reconciliation Australia

Contents

A Message from the Mayor	6
An Introduction by Cr Jenny McKay Portfolio Councillor, Community Services.....	7
A Message from the The Honourable Curtis Pitt, Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.....	8
Why a Reconciliation Action Plan?	9
Introduction.....	10
Our business.....	12
Partnership with Reconciliation Australia	12
The way we developed the Reconciliation Action Plan	13
Delivering the Reconciliation Action Plan	13
Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2011–2016.....	15
Enriching relationships.....	16
Enhancing respect	19
Creating opportunities.....	22
A story from Bianca Bond	26
Annexure 1	28
Annexure 2.....	29
Annexure 3.....	30



A Message from the Mayor

The Australian Government's apology in 2008 to the Stolen Generations was a significant and historic moment for all Australians. As a country we have a responsibility to acknowledge the pain, suffering and injustices felt by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from past and present times.

Sunshine Coast Council is committed to reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians.

We welcome the sharing of the heritage, knowledge and cultures of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise their rightful position as custodians of this land, Australia, and that of the Sunshine Coast.

The launch of the Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2011–2016 is a positive way forward in building respect, promoting social inclusion and equality, upholding rights and bridging the gap to create communities that are healthy and safe, connected and productive for all Australians.

The Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan will focus on Enriching Relationships, Respect and Creating Opportunities, recognising council's responsibility in making a difference together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Bob Abbot'.

Bob Abbot
Mayor



An Introduction by Cr Jenny McKay Portfolio Councillor, Community Services

Council has committed in its Corporate Plan to 'Work with the Indigenous community to promote reconciliation'. The development of the Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan will put these words into actions.

The Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 will be the trigger for a yearly planning process to be carried out by internal and external representatives to report on key objectives on a yearly, measurable basis. It will inform capital infrastructure planning, and operational budget commitments by council.

Our vision is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to enjoy social and economic opportunities through the values of respect and equality.

Council acknowledges the support of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in developing this Reconciliation Action Plan and thanks all staff and stakeholders involved in this process.

We look forward to implementing the actions outlined in this document and achieving our targets in the coming years.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read 'J. M. McKay'.

Cr Jenny McKay



A Message from the Honourable Curtis Pitt, Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

I am pleased to support the Sunshine Coast Council's Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 which represents a practical commitment by the Sunshine Coast Council to the process of Reconciliation and recognition of the First Australians.

The Queensland Government is committed to closing the gap in life outcomes and opportunities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Queenslanders. Through practical and supportive partnering arrangements the Queensland Government will continue to collaborate with Local Government and community to improve the circumstances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Sunshine Coast Council, through its Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016, highlights the rich connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to the Sunshine Coast region in history, heritage and culture and the valuable contribution they make to the community.

Through the vision and guiding principles, which are grounded in a spirit of reconciliation and making a difference together, this Reconciliation Action Plan charts actions which will yield positive outcomes for the community of the Sunshine Coast.

This plan presents a significant contribution and opportunity for the community of the Sunshine Coast to work together in building a positive future.

I commend the Sunshine Coast Council for contributing to advancing Reconciliation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis Pitt".

Curtis Pitt MP
Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Partnerships
Member for Mulgrave

Why a Reconciliation Action Plan?





Introduction

The Sunshine Coast Council values its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rich contribution and connection that the community has to the Sunshine Coast region, in history, heritage and culture.

The Sunshine Coast Council has given the following undertaking in its Corporate Plan, under the following sections:

1.4.1

In partnership with industry review the nature, purpose and governance of Sunshine Coast peak tourism entities to better market the region and its destinations.

5.2.4

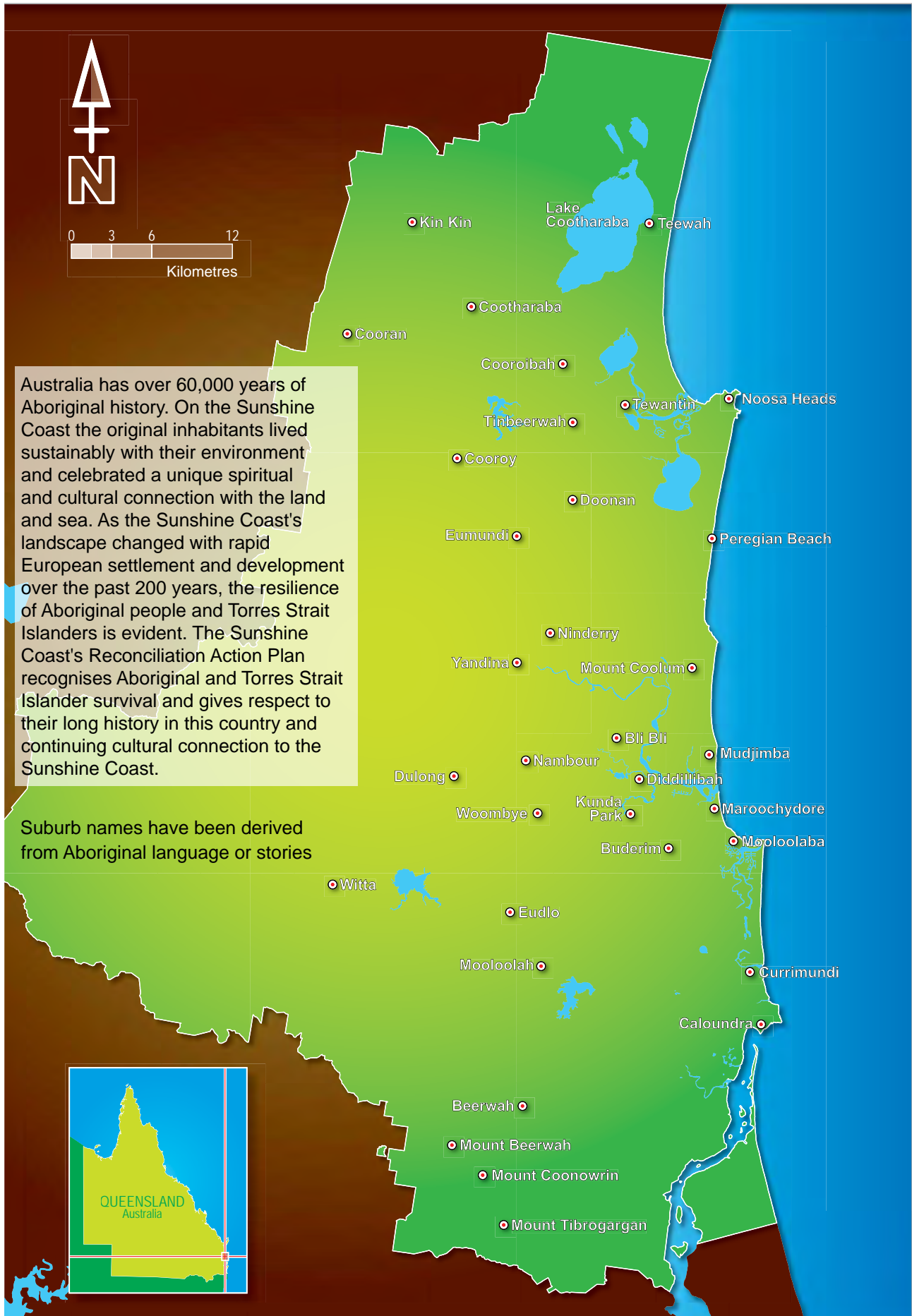
Work with the Indigenous community to promote reconciliation.

The Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 is Council's undertaking to honour this commitment.

Council makes a commitment to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the endorsement of the Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 to create an inclusive community that respects the culture, history and heritage of its people.

In partnership with Reconciliation Australia council will deliver to the community the Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016.

Council established relationships with Elders, Traditional Owners, community and organisations that deliver services to the community to inform the development of the principles and performance indicators of the Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016, whilst adhering to the framework set by Reconciliation Australia.





Our business

In honouring the past, Sunshine Coast Council looks forward to the opportunities for partnering with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in sharing culture, knowledge and *creating an inclusive community* by supporting reconciliation on the Sunshine Coast.

Partnership with Reconciliation Australia

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges Reconciliation Australia and the process they have identified to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Reconciliation Australia is an independent, not for profit organisation established in 2000 by the former Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and is the nationally recognised peak body for building and promoting reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Australians for the wellbeing of the nation.

In July 2006, as part of the 40th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum that saw 90 per cent of Australians say “YES” to equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Reconciliation Australia launched its Reconciliation Action Plan Program.

Reconciliation Australia has identified three principles for guiding a Reconciliation Action Plan:

- 1 Enriching Relationships
- 2 Enhancing Respect
- 3 Creating Opportunities

The Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 will include a yearly assessment of achievements and provide direction for planning for the next 1-5 years (through formalised meetings with the community, council and other tiers of government) to develop priorities.

The way we developed the Reconciliation Action Plan

The Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 was developed in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Council used many forms of engagement including: meeting with Traditional Owners, Elders and community members, and conducting surveys to establish the community's needs.

Paintings used in this document and the process of the Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples attending the Suncare Art Group (Nandjimagaji) and have significant cultural meaning for the recognition of culture within the action plan.

Council established a Reconciliation Action Plan Sub Group which comprised a Traditional Owner and two community representatives to inform the initial process and development of the Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 for endorsement by council.

Also council has worked closely with Reconciliation Australia to gain future endorsement and validation of the Reconciliation Action Plan process.



Delivering the Reconciliation Action Plan

The success of achieving each of the principles (Enriching Relationships; Respect; Creating Opportunities) is dependent upon council addressing the following focus areas:

In the Spirit of Reconciliation

Means respecting and acknowledging the history, heritage and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Deadly Dreaming (Visioning)

Means a process (whilst partnering with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community) of visioning and sharing ideas, then deciding and agreeing on priorities and recommendations for government services.

Yarning (Consultation)

Means continuing to speak, partner and connect with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and all levels of government. It means the way we engage and consult with the community in determining outcomes and common purposes, whilst finding the best possible way forward.

Learning Circles (Formal Meeting)

Provides opportunities for strategic planning sessions with council and the community to better determine needs, limitations and priorities. Through listening to and reflecting with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, Learning Circles will provide annual reflection on achievements, challenges and evaluation of future planning for services with State and Federal Governments and council.



How to read the Reconciliation Action Plan

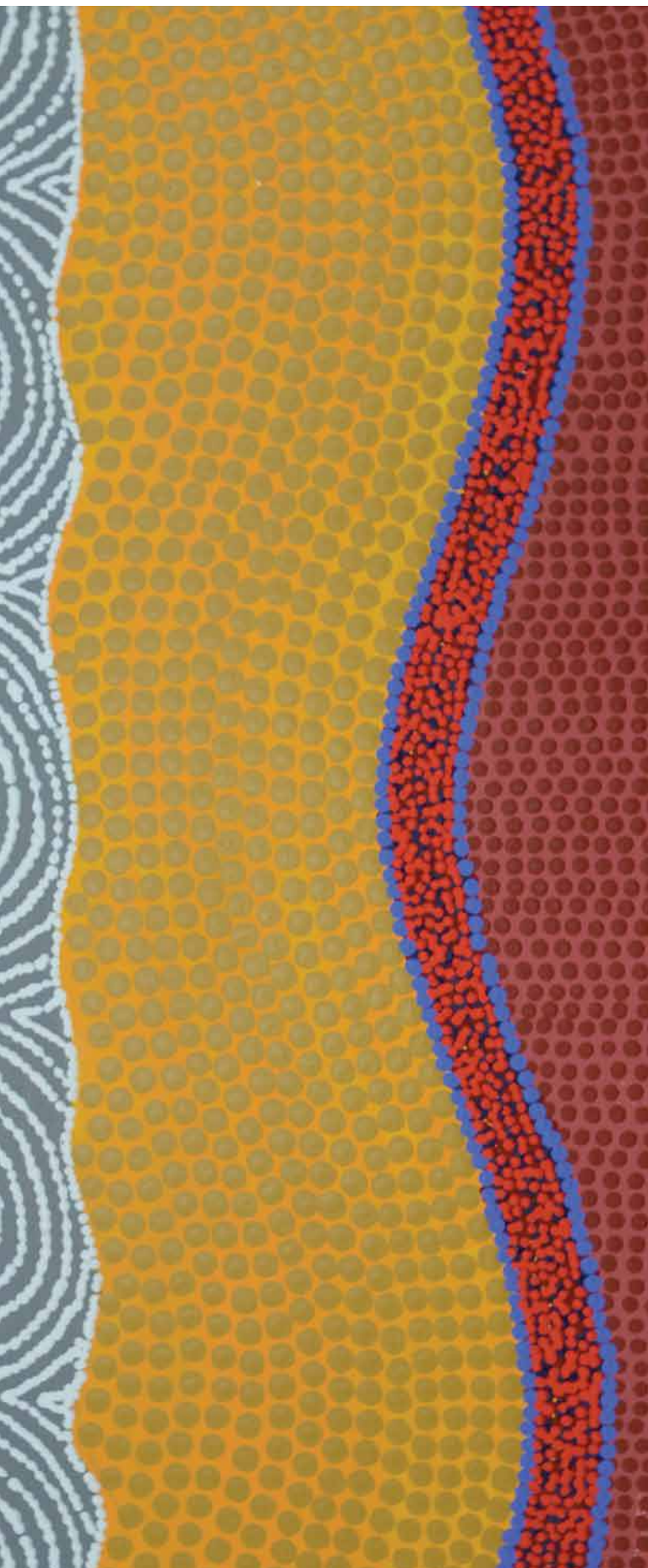
Title	Description
Action	Proposed action to achieve the performance measures
Measurable Target	How we plan to measure success in achieving the Principles
Timeframes	When we plan to start or complete the actions
Funding	Core business Costed in our day-to-day activities associated with core business New Initiatives Research and costings need to be conducted
Responsibility	Specific council branch that will lead the implementation

Sunshine Coast Council would also like to acknowledge the Department of Communities' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander branch for its continued support and looks forward to delivering the actions of the Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2016 in partnership well into the future.

Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2011–2016

Enriching Relationships | Enhancing Respect | Creating Opportunities





Enriching relationships

As for the part 'the next step is ours' , I really love this because it doesn't say the next step is yours or mine. It states that it is 'ours'. Ours to share. All us mob as Indigenous people need to take this step together in unity, walking together in solidarity. But not only for us as Indigenous people but for Non-Indigenous and Indigenous people to start truly walking these steps together for a better future of embracement and respect of our Indigenous history, cultural beauty and the contribution our people make to our region ... the next step is ours!!!!

Bianca Bond

I am a Kabi Kabi woman I am an Oxfam International Youth Action Partner chosen for my dedication, commitment to social justice, humanity and equality. I have been a member of the inaugural Indigenous Youth Parliament and the Queensland Youth Parliament where I sat in the first ever Kabi Kabi electorate within QLD Parliament House, I was also Sunshine Coast Regional Council Australia Day Awards recipient for Young Citizen of the Year 2010. I have achieved great things in my young life but what I am most proud of is being a Kabi Kabi woman. I have a passion for my culture, my history and my heritage.. I am proud of where I have come from, who I am today and the path I will leave behind for my children's children.

Enriching relationships

In the Spirit of Reconciliation				
Action	Responsibility	Funding	Timeline	Measurable Target
Support significant events in the community such as National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC week, Flag Raising event, MABO day, Cotton Tree Park annual event, Sorry Day, Apology Day, Celebration of Country and the Coming of the Light.	Community Services	Core Business (\$5,500 per year)	Ongoing	<p>Listing all days on the "What's on" section on council's Internet site.</p> <p>Encourage council staff to attend events.</p> <p>Provide fact sheets to council staff (Intranet).</p> <p>Annexure 2 – Historical Timelines (A list of significant dates known at this time).</p> <p>Partner with community to deliver these yearly events.</p>
Build partnerships, relationships and programs including but not limited to SCING, Black Swans, and the Cultural Heritage Reference Group.	Community Services	Core Business (\$3,500 per year)	Ongoing	Partnering in programs, with mutually agreed successful outcomes.
Strengthening relationships with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through endorsed Youth Strategy, and partnered events or programs that provide young people with the opportunity to speak up and engage.	Ongoing	Partnering in programs, with mutually agreed successful outcomes.	Ongoing	<p>Aligning with Youth Strategy –Speak Up Engage - successful facilitation of forums for young people to be heard, with meaningful engagement.</p> <p>Enabling input to the decisions that affect their lives.</p> <p>Use of appropriate methods of communication that are relevant and appealing to young people.</p>

Deadly Dreaming				
Action	Responsibility	Funding	Timeline	Measurable Target
Partnering and engaging with the community to contribute to council processes, strategy and policy development.	Whole of council	Core Business	First meeting to occur in February 2012	Develop a framework for identifying opportunities to partner with the community through four yarning circles per year in various locations with the first meeting being held in February 2012.

Deadly Dreaming				
Action	Responsibility	Funding	Timeline	Measurable Target
Working group, comprising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians, established to support the development of the Reconciliation Action Plan.	Community Services	Core Business	Ongoing	Call for a meeting of Reconciliation Champions in February 2012 to develop engagement process. Meet at least four times a year
An internal working group to discuss current and future projects represented by the four branches.	Whole of council	Core business	Ongoing	Meet at least four times a year coordinated by Community Programs.

Yarning				
Action	Responsibility	Funding	Timeline	Measurable Target
Engage with the community to strengthen relationships and provide opportunities for input to council processes	Whole of council	Core Business (\$3000 per year) Community Services (Community Programs)	Ongoing	Partnering in programs with mutually beneficial outcomes. Yarning circles to be held with the community in various locations at least four times per year.
Working with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through existing endorsed youth programs.	Whole of council	Core Business (from the \$2000 funds referred to above against Youth Strategy)	Ongoing	Attendance at least at 5 networks annually.
Participate in current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander networks and committees.	Whole of council	Core Business	Ongoing	Aim to attend four networks annually.

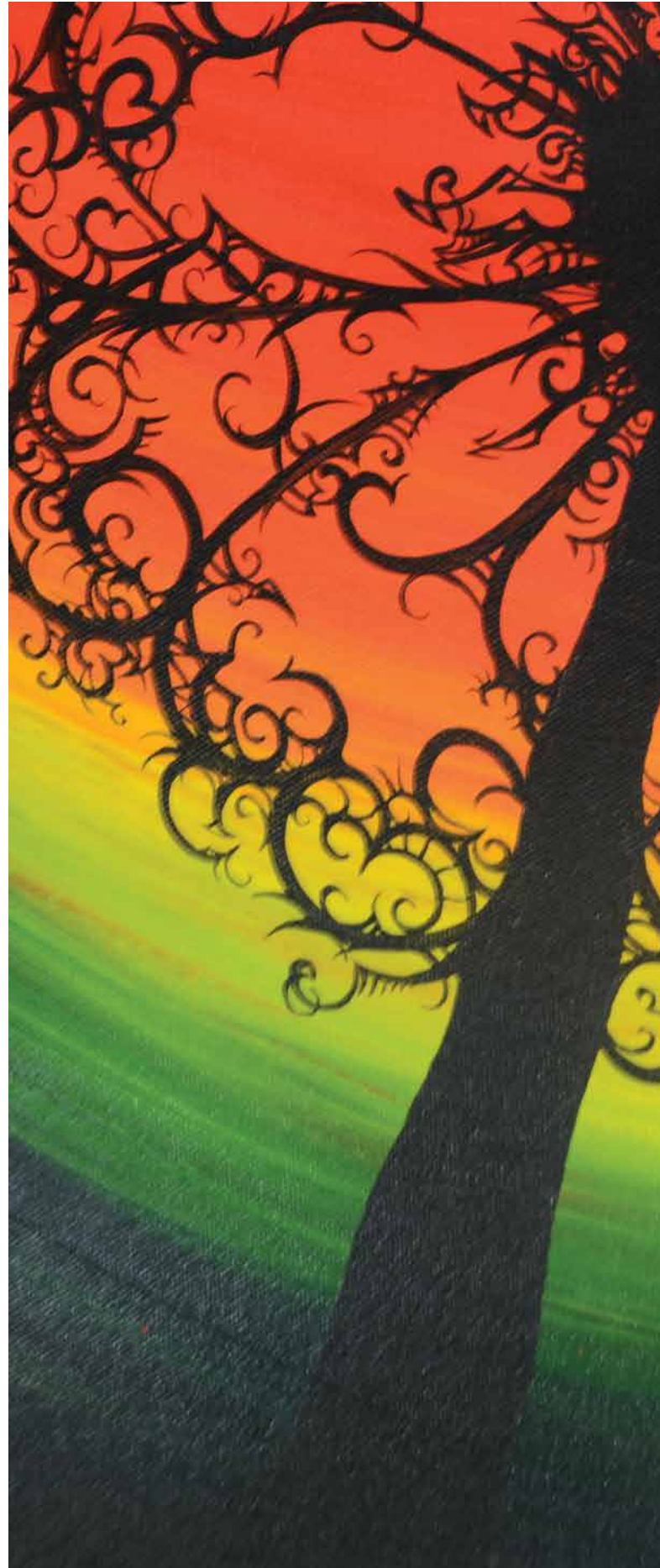
Learning Circles				
Action	Responsibility	Funding	Timeline	Measurable Target
Engage the community and council to provide a space to reflect on partnerships, agreed vision and the way forward to contribute to council processes, strategy and policy development.	Whole of council	Core Business	Ongoing	Learning circles to be held with the community as required. Mutually agreed successful outcomes. Measurable input to council processes, strategic directions and policy development.

Enhancing respect

We must respect each other's right to choose a collective destiny, and the opportunity to develop the legal and political rights for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples so that we may enjoy the right to maintain our culture, our heritage and our land, as a united Australia.

Jackie Huggins

Australian Aboriginal author, historian and Aboriginal Rights activist of the Bidjara Central Queensland and Birri-Gubba Juru North Queensland peoples



Enhancing respect

Sunshine Coast Council respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their culture, land and history for the rich contribution they have made to our past, present and future.

Focus area: Adopting practices that raise awareness on the Sunshine Coast of supporting reconciliation.

In the Spirit of Reconciliation				
Action	Responsibility	Funding	Timeline	Measurable Target
Develop a series of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interpretive signage to raise public awareness of and acknowledge the region's rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.	Community Services and Infrastructure Services	New Initiative	2012-2016 dependent on council funding	<p>Installation of a series of Indigenous interpretative signs across the Sunshine Coast.</p> <p>Timeline: October 2012</p> <p>Target: Council will consult with community regarding appropriate signage.</p> <p>Timeline: October 2013</p> <p>Target: Council will develop the signage, with first sign to be completed, installed and reported in the RAP Annual Report.</p> <p>Timeline: October 2016</p> <p>Target: All signs, as per recommendation to Executive, will be installed across the Sunshine Coast.</p>
Council adopts protocols for "Welcome to Country" and "Acknowledgements" as identified by the Sunshine Coast University.	Whole of council	Core Business	Commence by January 2012	<p>Include guidelines on the intranet as proposed in Annexure 1.</p> <p>Welcome to Country preformed at Australia Day ceremonies, Flag Raising events and NAIDOC day celebrations.</p>
Incorporate the use and display of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and design in public buildings and public spaces and include an explanation of their significance and meanings.	Community Services	New Initiative	2012-2016 dependent on council funding	All new strategic and master plans to include consideration of the Reconciliation Action Plan.

In the Spirit of Reconciliation				
Action	Responsibility	Funding	Timeline	Measurable Target
Raising of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on days of significance: NAIDOC week, Sorry Day, Apology Day. Locals and visitors to the Sunshine Coast will begin to see and learn about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history.	Community Services	Core Business	Ongoing	Flags will be raised on days of significance See Annexure 2 – Historical Timelines (A list of significant dates known at this time, provided for staff).
Placing of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in public areas or customer service points.	Community Services	New initiative	2012-2016 dependent on council funding	Purchase flags for Maroochydore, Nambour, Caloundra and Tewantin customer services points.
Engage employees to increase understanding and appreciation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's cultural differences.	Community Services	New Initiative	2012-2016 dependent on council funding	Staff to receive cultural awareness training as part of the Draft Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Action Plan. Provide information and access to Cultural Tours for council employees.
Make sure Traditional Owners are consulted on cultural heritage planning and management according to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.	Infrastructure Services/ Regional Strategy and Planning	Core Business	Ongoing	Increased consultation with Traditional Owners or appropriate databases on the disturbance of land in accordance to the Act Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003. Research and develop a process of engagement with Traditional Owners.
Place a "Welcome to Country" sign in the Sunshine Coast Airport.	Community Services	Core Business \$5000 (Community Programs)	Commence by January 2012	Welcome to Country sign installed in Airport. With the design input and final approval from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
Include identified areas of cultural significance(which can be made public) on the GEO Hub mapping system.	Community Services/ Finance and Business/ Cultural Heritage	New Initiative	2012-2016 dependent on council funding	Prepare in consultation with Traditional Owners, a register for significant sites and landscapes and integrate into council planning on confidential and published layers as appropriate. Begin research and conversations in 2012.



Creating opportunities

We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love... and then we return home.

Australian Aboriginal Proverb

Creating opportunities

Sunshine Coast Council is committed to making a difference by discovering new opportunities identified to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in 'Closing the Gap.'

Focus area: Identifying new ways that create positive outcomes for the community.

In the Spirit of Reconciliation				
Action	Responsibility	Funding	Timeline	Measurable Target
Sunshine Coast Council investigates and researches with the community, the creation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spaces and places across the region.	Community Services Infrastructure Services Regional Strategy and Planning	New Initiative	2012-2016 dependent on council funding	Begin partnering with the community, informing the cultural enhancement and recognition of public spaces and places, Providing advice and regular opportunities for consultation/yarning on current projects with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within the existing program of events.
Online resources available to the community on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history.	Community Services	Core Business (\$1500)	Ongoing	Current links to historical data listed in library resources. Partner with the community in the transition from the current website 'Yan Garbandjilum' to the proposed community hub.
Contribute to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and projects to the current Cultural Heritage work that council is facilitating.	Community Services/ Infrastructure Services	Core Business	Ongoing	Opportunities to inform and contribute to current and future projects.
Inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander material in heritage collections.	Community Services	Core Business	Ongoing	To be developed with collaboration of the community, including the State Library online database developed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander use around cultural knowledge. Begin in 2012.

Learning Circles				
Action	Responsibility	Funding	Timeline	Measurable Target
Support and engage the community in grant opportunities that exist in council through learning circles.	Community Services	Core Business	Commence by March 2012	Two meetings per year.
Sunshine Coast Council will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in employment opportunities through Traineeships, Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program and Cadetships.	Human Resources	Core Business	Ongoing	Council seeking opportunities for positions in 2012 and build relationships with necessary organisations. Increased numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people taking advantage of these opportunities.
Appropriate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in council's workforce relevant to Australian Bureau of Statistics data for the Sunshine Coast.	Human Resources	Core Business	Ongoing	Ensure employment opportunities are listed on council's website and the Community Hub Portal. Conduct a census of current staff.
Engage the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, in Healthy Communities Initiatives.	Community Services	Received funding from the Commonwealth Government over the next 2 years.	Commence during 2012-2014	Community members participating in Healthy Communities' programs held in 2012.
Provision of accredited training, mentoring and employment pathways in Fitness Leader and Personal Trainer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Healthy Communities Initiatives.	Community Services	Received funding from the Commonwealth Government over the next 2 years.	Commence during 2012-2014	Accredited trainers will lead to the creation of clear pathways into fitness or personal training.
Annual Report on the progress of the Reconciliation Action Plan commitments.	Community Services to co-ordinate	Core Business (\$4,500)	Commence November 2012 (yearly)	Annual Report to Council and Reconciliation Australia.

Tracking progress and reporting				
Action	Responsibility	Funding	Timeline	Measurable Target
Annual Report on the progress of the Reconciliation Action Plan commitments.	Community Services to co-ordinate	Core Business	Commence by March 2012	Two meetings per year.



A story from Bianca Bond



Here in this landscape, deep within its crevices there are stories to be told...lessons and values to be learnt. These are for the people of the land. The custodians of this 'country.'

Not so long ago just some 150 years ago this land, this 'country' was in the custodianship of the people known today as the Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi Language Group People.

Today this landscape is in the custodianship of the people of the 'Sunshine Coast.'

I believe we should be sharing more of our stories; our relationship with this landscape and how this 'country' makes our spirit feel. How each of our perspectives is a contribution to a holistic approach to our understanding of each other and this region of the Sunshine Coast.

The way I understand it is that Maroochy and Coolum were young lovers betrothed to each other by the Elders and in deep love.

Coolum and Ninderry were warriors and Ninderry was the fiercest of all warriors, who wanted Maroochy for his own and stole her from Coolum while he was out hunting.

Upon his return, he found Maroochy was not there so he picked up their tracks and set off to find her. After following the tracks he found his beloved Maroochy and the warrior Ninderry, just before the sun had gone down across the land.

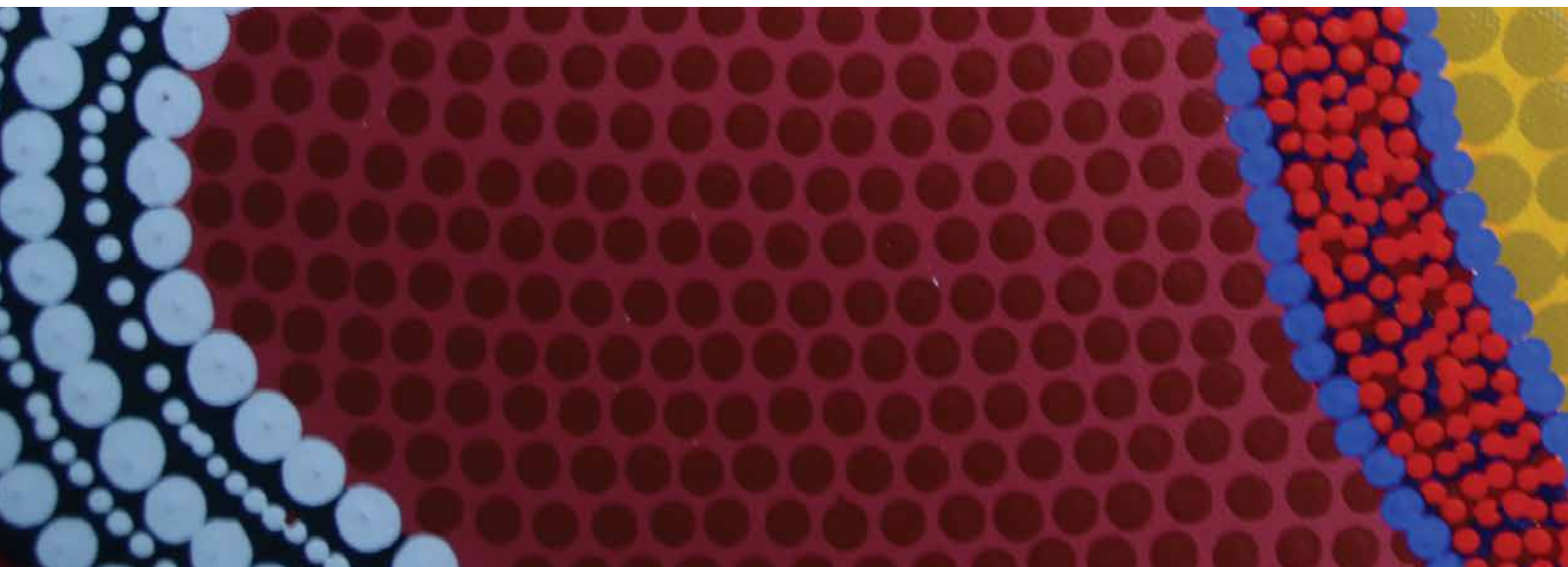
Coolum being far too fearful to confront Ninderry for his love decided it would be best to play a trick and sneak in and take Maroochy back in the middle of the night.

So Coolum snuck into Ninderry's camp and freed Maroochy, they both ran back to their homelands.

When Ninderry awoke the next morning to find Maroochy gone he was furious and flew into a big rage and set out for Maroochy and Coolum.

Meanwhile the Elders had become aware of what had been occurring and when finding the two men they told them they must fight it out, like warriors, like men.

Ninderry and Coolum had a battle and Ninderry threw his Nulla-Nulla, which chopped Coolum's head off. His head then rolled into the sea. The two warriors were turned into stone and Maroochy so sad after losing her loved one, Coolum, ran to the top of the Hinterland Mountains and cried and cried. Her tears formed the Maroochy River and the Warriors turned to stone formed what we now know as Mount Coolum, Ninderry and Mudjimba or Old Woman Island.



Within this very region we have some very significant stories of creation, of love, of family, of relationships. The landscape is the legacy of our Ancestors, ancient beings who formed what we see as the mountains, the rivers, the islands and so on.

The lesson to be learnt in this story as I see it is;

Through Ninderry's actions - you must never steal another man's woman or just take what you want.

Through Coolum's actions- you must confront your fears and you must not use tricks or sneakiness to reach attainment. You must be brave and honest.

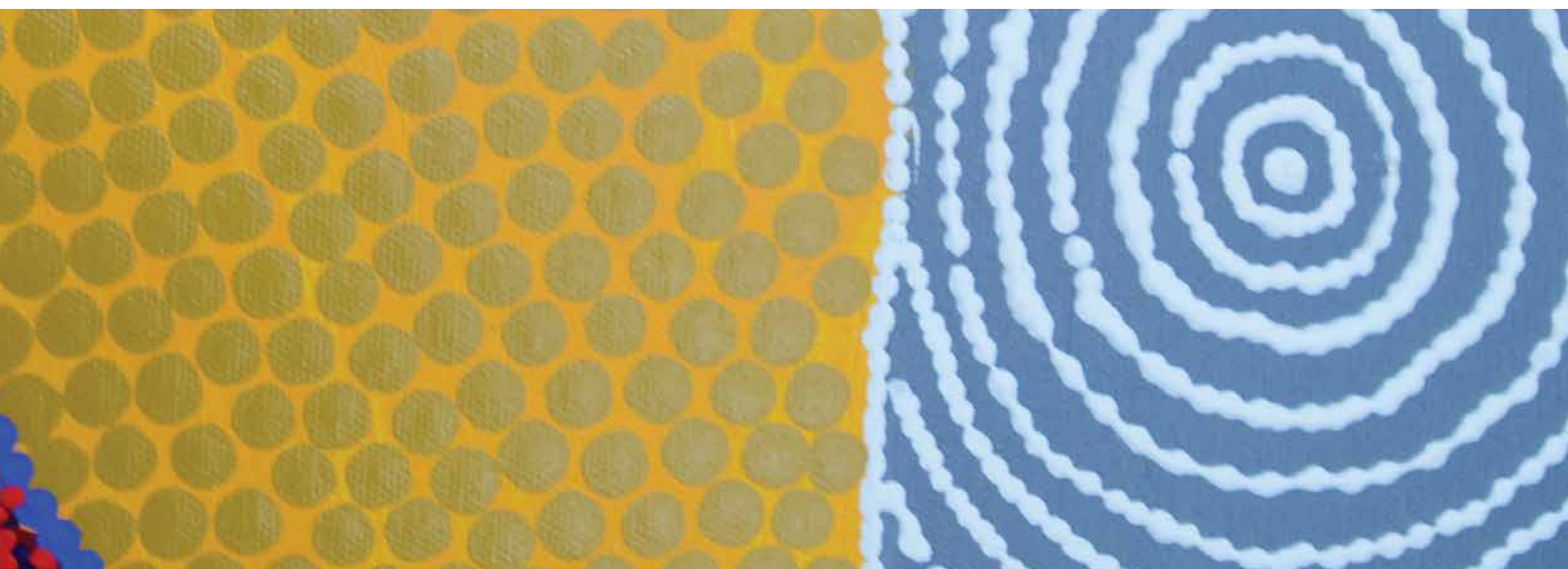
Through Maroochy's tears – her tears speak of love and loss and the need to embrace and release emotions and feelings. Also that through loss of loved ones there is still beauty in this world like the glistening of the sunshine reflecting on the water.

There are many different understandings and interpretations for these stories because we all each have a different relationship with the landscape and with each other. From the North, the South, The West and the East, stories of the landscape have a different purpose to the people. So you will hear other versions but there will always be a continual thread that is within all the stories.

We must always remember life is a kaleidoscope of perspectives, of vibrant colours that need to be embraced and gathered through sharing of stories. Even 'History' s His Story, someone's interpretation and perspective through what they seen, felt, heard or experienced.

I am just one person and this is my story, I encourage us all to go out and hear the stories from many and to share our own stories with others.

Making a
difference together



Annexure 1

Protocols for “Welcome to Country” or Acknowledgement

Welcome to Country

Welcome to Country, also known as the Traditional Welcome, allows the Traditional Owners of the region to give their blessing for the event to take place on their land. It must be done by a representative of the Traditional Owners of the location at which the event is taking place. If it is not possible to arrange a Traditional Welcome by a local representative, a simple acknowledgment of Traditional Owners by other speakers is appropriate.

A fee for service may apply.

When a “Welcome to Country” should be performed

- 1 Public Events
- 2 Citizenship ceremonies
- 3 Annual Public Events
- 4 Flag Raising Ceremony
- 5 Launches of public places or spaces
- 6 Conferences
- 7 Festivals and launches

Acknowledging Traditional Owners

As a sign of respect, it is appropriate for speakers at public events to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the place at the beginning of their speeches.

Examples of Acknowledgements

“We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the leaders both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of all Indigenous people.”

or

“I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on Aboriginal land and recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of Aboriginal people in this land.”

There is no fee for an Acknowledgement.

When “Acknowledgements” should be performed

- 1 Community Forums
- 2 Network meetings that have internal and external guests
- 3 Council’s statutory meetings and Standing Committees

Annexure 2

Historical Timelines

19th April 1842	Bunya Proclamation Act to reserve the area for Aborigines
1st January 1898	The Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1897
27 May 1967	Referendum – Vote for equality
12 July 1971	National Aborigines Day
30 October 1975	Racial Discrimination Act takes effect
15 April 1991	Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Royal Commission Report
2 September 1991	Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation established
29 May 1992	Torres Strait Islander flag launched
3 June 1992	High Court recognised Native Title. Mabo Day
1 January 1993	Native Title Act proclaimed
9 August 1994	International Day of Indigenous peoples declared for this date
5 April 1997	“Bringing Them Home” Stolen Generations Report
27 May 1997	National Reconciliation Convention
26 May 1998	Sorry Day (An Australian event held to express regret over the historical mistreatment of Aboriginal peoples)
Days of significance celebrated yearly:	
13 February Apology Day	In 2008 Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologises to the Stolen Generations
2–9 July (yearly)	NAIDOC Week (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee)
1st Monday of NAIDOC Week	Flag Raising Event
2nd Sunday of NAIDOC Week	Cotton Tree Park Annual Event for NAIDOC
1 July (yearly)	Coming of the Light Event (Commemorating the arrival of the first Christian missionaries in the Torres Strait (Erub Island))

Annexure 3

Legislation

Council is responsible for complying with the following Legislation and any other Acts of Parliament that pertain to the Reconciliation Action Plan:

Commonwealth Acts

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (Queensland Discriminatory Laws) Act 1975

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (Queensland Reserves and Communities Self-Management) Act 1978

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

State of Queensland Acts

Aboriginal Communities (Justice and Land Matters) Act 1984

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003

Aboriginal Land Act 1991

Anti-Discrimination Act 1991

Sustainable Planning Act 2009

Local Government (Aboriginal lands) Act 1978

Local Government Act 2009

Further, the Queensland Parliament passed a Bill to insert a Preamble to the Constitution of Queensland. The Preamble honours Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians.

Extract from the *Constitution of Queensland 2001 Act* (Preamble):

Preamble –

“The people of Queensland, free and equal citizens of Australia ... (c) honour the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share; and pay tribute to their unique values, and their ancient and enduring cultures, which deepen and enrich the life of our community ...”

Sunshine Coast Council adopted plans and Strategies:

Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020

Community Plan - 2030

Corporate Plan 2009-2014

Open Space Strategy 2011

Operational Plan 2010/2011

Social Infrastructure Strategy 2011

Sunshine Coast Youth Strategy 2010–2015

Sunshine Coast Council Reconciliation Action Plan
2011-2016

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Disclaimer

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