



ABORIGINAL RECOGNITION AND PROTOCOL

Summary:

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear direction on the recognition of Australia's Aboriginal people in the Tenterfield Shire.

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Department	Civic Office
Policy Custodian	Chief Executive
Superseded Documents	V6.0
Related Legislation	N/A
Delegations of Authority	Chief Executive

1. Overview

Tenterfield Shire Council recognises the importance of having an Aboriginal Recognition and Protocol policy that is aligned with local community standards and broader standards at national and state levels.

2. Policy Principles

All Aboriginal people have the right to retain strong relationships with their people, their culture, values, customs and connections to land and waterways. This is demonstrated through the "Welcome to Country" and "Acknowledgement of Country" ceremonies, the Aboriginal flag and public displays of indigenous culture.

3. Policy Objectives

The objective of this policy is to observe and promote the culture, values, customs and connections of Aboriginal people in Tenterfield Shire.

4. Policy Statement

Council meetings, events and displays will acknowledge and recognise the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land by conducting one or more of the following cultural activities, where possible:

- Welcome to Country ceremony;
- Acknowledgement of Country ceremony, and
- Raising and flying of the Aboriginal Flag.

Council will also promote the Aboriginal history and culture of Tenterfield Shire through:

- An Aboriginal history and information page on Council's website, and
- A permanent display of significant Aboriginal culture at the Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts.

5. Scope

Welcome to Country

The traditional custodians of the land, usually a senior representative of the local Aboriginal community, should undertake the "Welcome to Country" ceremony. However, this is dependent upon the location of the event and the practice of the community.

Steps should be taken to ensure that the appropriate Aboriginal representative is invited and that the representative has been involved in, and is comfortable with, the arrangements.

Acknowledgement of Country – Public Meetings and Events in Tenterfield

At the commencement of public meetings or events, an "Acknowledgement of Country" should be spoken; e.g. "I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land that we are meeting on today. I would also like to pay respect to the Elders past, present, and emerging, of the Jukembal, Kamilaroi and Bundjalung nations and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present."

Aboriginal Flag

The Aboriginal Flag will be flown outside the Tenterfield Shire Council Administration Building at 247 Rouse Street every working day throughout the year.

The Aboriginal flag shall be flown or displayed with the black at the top and the red at the bottom and for the purposes of this policy shall be flown on the flagpole to the far right of a person facing the building.

The Aboriginal Flag will be flown at Council's Australia Day Celebrations and will be displayed along with other flags.

Council Policy "Flying of Flags" refers in detail to the order of precedence for flying of flags outside the Council Administration Building and flying of flags at half-mast.

Council's Website

Tenterfield Shire Council's website will include a section which includes Aboriginal history of Tenterfield Shire and links to relevant organisations and government agencies.

Commemorative Display – Sir Henry Parkes Memorial School of Arts

The commemorative display regarding the first official Welcome to Country performed in Tenterfield in October 2008 will remain on display in the Banquet Hall at the Sir Henry Parkes Memorial School of Arts.

6. Accountability, Roles & Responsibility

Elected Council

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors:

- Acknowledgement of Country statement to be read out at public meetings and events.

Individual Managers

Executive Assistant and Media:

- Management, liaison and coordination for Welcome to Country ceremonies;
- Management of website Aboriginal history and information content, and
- Management of Flying of Flags protocols.

Manager Arts, Culture & Library Services:

- Management of the Welcome to Country October 2008 Commemorative Display at the Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts.

7. Definitions

- The term "Aboriginal" is used to refer to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and
- An Aboriginal Elder is a person of authority who is entitled to respect and is recognised by their community as being that person who guides the community.

8. Related Documents, Standards & Guidelines

Nil.

9. Version Control & Change History

Version	Date	Modified by	Details
V1.0	26/08/09	Council	Adoption of Original Policy (1167/09)
V1.1	28/10/09	Council	Revised Policy Adopted (1295/09)
V2.0	27/07/11	Council	Revised Policy Adopted (350/11)
V3.0	23/09/15	Council	Revised Policy Adopted (300/15)
V4.0	23/08/17	Council	Revised Policy Adopted (168/17)
V5.0	28/02/18	Council	Revised Policy Adopted (17/18)
V6.0	28/08/19	Council	Revised Policy Adopted (164/19)
V7.0	26/10/22	Council	Revised Policy Adopted (221/22)