



Statement of Commitment to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities of the City of Moreland



Moreland
City Council

In May 1998, Moreland City Council endorsed the 'Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians'. The Moreland City Council has now renewed this statement to strengthen and formalise its commitment to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the City of Moreland.

Vision for reconciliation

Moreland City Council's vision for reconciliation is respectful and inclusive recognition of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Moreland. Council commits to addressing dispossession and dislocation of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from their traditional lands by establishing and maintaining into the future, respectful partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community.

Council recognises, that:

- The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people are the Traditional Owners of these lands and waterways in Moreland.
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First People of the lands and waterways and are intrinsic to Australia's national identity.
- City of Moreland is home to many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from diverse family and community groups from across Australia, and therefore peoples of many moiety, kinship and language groups.
- Living Elders and knowledge holders, as well as their ancestors, are central to the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of their communities. They continue to play a pivotal role in sharing, and keeping alive, heritage, history, songs, dances, and languages.
- Diversity, inclusive of culturally varied views and opinions within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family and community groups requires respect and consideration when making decisions related to Moreland.
- Past government policies and acts were responsible for injustices including forcible

removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their homes, families and traditional lands and the ongoing effects of these injustices continue to this day.


- Such injustices while leaving a devastating impact on the traditional life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, have not erased their connection to country, culture or community, their resilience and their strength.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have never ceded sovereignty of their lands and have continuously cared for their country for over 60,000 years and continue to carry forth the legacy of being the world's oldest living culture.
- January 26 commemorates the British invasion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands and oppression of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and is therefore an inappropriate date for an inclusive national celebration.


Council supports


- A process towards self-determination and local, regional or national Treaty or Treaties that enshrine the rights of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.
- The right for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to enjoy their identity and culture, maintain and use their language, maintain their kinship ties and maintain their distinctive spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land and waters as defined in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.
- Campaigns for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights, especially to land and waterways.
- The call contained in the Uluru Statement from the heart and its aspirations for justice, truth-telling, Makarrata (agreement-making) and a voice.
- The right of all Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the City of Moreland to respect and equality and to live free from discrimination based on age, sex, gender identity, race, disability and any type of disadvantage.

Council commits itself to:

- Build trust, collaborate and support partnerships with the Traditional Owners the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, communities and individuals and seek their guidance, and respect their leadership towards, self-determination as per the recommendations of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.
- Guide staff and Councillors to meaningfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and engage Traditional Owners in delivering Welcome to Country and other traditional ceremonies.
- Engage Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people in providing Aboriginal cultural competence and diversity inclusion learning and training initiatives for Council staff so that Council can deliver culturally sensitive and inclusive and accessible services that provide equity and access for all members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Undertake cultural consultations with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and seek to include Woi-wurrung names in the process of naming and renaming spaces, places, roads and parks in the City of Moreland.
- Protect Aboriginal cultural heritage through ongoing connection and engagement with Traditional Owners the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and continue to protect the Aboriginal history of Moreland.
- Work with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people in developing strategies and projects that protect our waterways, communicating Aboriginal water values and interpreting landscapes.
- Engage the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Team to bring cultural values and cultural practices to natural resource management projects in managing parks across the City of Moreland.



Julieanne Axford



Gail Smith

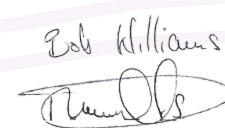

P. Davis


Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders
Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural
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Members
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