



Aboriginal Heritage Policy

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Policy

Aboriginal Reconciliation

- 1.1 That the Shire of Denmark make the following statement in support of reconciliation with the indigenous people of this country, especially those from the south coast of Western Australia –
- Aboriginal Reconciliation is an issue in which each and every Australian has a choice: to silently ignore injustice and inequality or lend their voice to the growing call to face the truth of the past treatment of indigenous people.
 - What was done to Aboriginal people in the past was unjust and regrettable – particularly the taking of Aboriginal children from their families.
 - The Noongar people’s historical presence in and special attachment to this district is acknowledged, as is their right to continue living according to their own values and customs, within the law.
 - The special places, culture and history of the Noongar people are respectfully recognised.
 - Changes brought to this district by early white European Settlers were dramatic, imposed without regard for the indigenous people and frequently damaging to them, through the taking of their land, their health and sometimes their lives.
 - This Council expresses sorrow at these injustices, and commits itself to participating in a future in which all people enjoy mutual respect, full recognition and equal rights.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

- 2.1 The Shire of Denmark acknowledges Indigenous Australians (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders) as the first inhabitants and traditional owners of Australia, their presence and contributions to the history of Denmark, both in the past and into the future.
- 2.2 In this regard, the Shire of Denmark will;
- a) Through the flying of the Aboriginal Flag at its administration building, recognise and observe;
 - i. National Aboriginal and Islanders’ Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week (in the first full week of July); and
 - ii. The anniversary of the High Court decision in the Eddi Koiki Mabo land rights case of 1992 (3 June 1992); and.
 - b) Incorporate and co-ordinate at appropriate Council coordinated functions and events that bring people together to that event from outside of our District, either;

- i. An Aboriginal 'Welcome to Country' Ceremony (it is noted that a Welcome to Country Ceremony will be subject to the consideration of the Budget of the particular event, the cost of performing the Ceremony (should the ceremony attract a fee for service) and the availability of local recognised Elders, with the Ceremony based on the South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council's Welcome to Country (Noongar Protocols) publication); or
- ii. An Acknowledgement of Country – in accordance with the South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council's Welcome to Country (Noongar Protocols) publication.

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