

# Reconciliation Policy

CEO



11 May 2022

*This policy was adopted by Council to set governing principles in place that align with the Strategic Community Plan 2040: Focus Area People: Outcome PE.1: Diverse cultural values are respected and adopted.*

## Objectives

1. To build mutually respectful relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples that allow us to work together to solve problems and generate success that is in everyone's best interests.
2. To raise awareness and knowledge of and respect for Aboriginal histories and cultures and in particular the rich cultural heritage of the Wadandi and Pibulmen peoples as the first inhabitants of the Capes Region.
3. To encourage action where everyone plays their part in building a better relationship between all Australians.
4. To foster collective respect for *boodja* (Country) and collective responsibility to uphold the rights of *boodja*.

## Application

This policy applies to Councillors and employees of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

## Definitions

**Reconciliation** – The action of making one view or belief compatible with another.

## Policy

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River recognises the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of Australia and the Wadandi and Pibulmen peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which the Shire of Augusta Margaret River is now situated. The Council acknowledges the loss and grief experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples caused by alienation from traditional lands and past and ongoing injustices including the forced removal of children.

The Shire recognises the traditions and customs of Aboriginal peoples and their special spiritual relationship with the land. The Shire acknowledges the right of all Australians including Aboriginal peoples to live according to their own beliefs, values and customs, and the Shire

RECONCILIATION POLICY

acknowledges the importance of these beliefs, customs and values in strengthening and enriching the history and ongoing culture of all Australians.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River recognises that it is required to consider the needs of the local Aboriginal peoples in addressing the needs of the whole local community. The Shire supports Reconciliation Australia's ambition to eliminate the glaring gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and other Australians. The Shire of Augusta Margaret River supports the vision expressed by the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation of "a united Australia which respects this land of ours, values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and provides justice and equity for us all".

Accordingly, the Shire will work with local Aboriginal peoples towards this goal and supports the need to improve non-Indigenous understanding of Aboriginal cultures and histories. The Shire will work to ensure the principles of equity and access for all members of the Aboriginal community to culturally appropriate services and programs.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River commits to –

- Developing and promoting, as appropriate, Aboriginal involvement in events and celebrations of significance which respects the dignity and protocols of the local Wadandi and Pibulmen Traditional Owners;
- Taking effective action on issues of social and economic concern for Aboriginal peoples when they lie in the sphere of interest and responsibility of the Shire;
- Participating in education processes which enhance the increased knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal cultures and heritage and the needs of Aboriginal communities;
- Direct involvement of Aboriginal peoples in the management of natural areas;
- Developing strategies that improve the level of access, inclusion and participation of Aboriginal Peoples in local government at all levels;
- Working with State and Federal Governments and Aboriginal Communities to attempt to resolve cultural and environmental issues and Native Title Claims through negotiation and mutual understanding;
- Acknowledging the Wadandi and Pibulmen peoples as the traditional custodians of the land within the Shire at relevant events and celebrations at the President's discretion; and
- Flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in accordance with State and National protocols.

## Relevant legislation

N/A

## Related documents

*Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country Policy*

*Access and Inclusion Policy*

Strengthening Community Capacity Policy

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