

Jenna Yen Mundamung – Walking Together Strategy



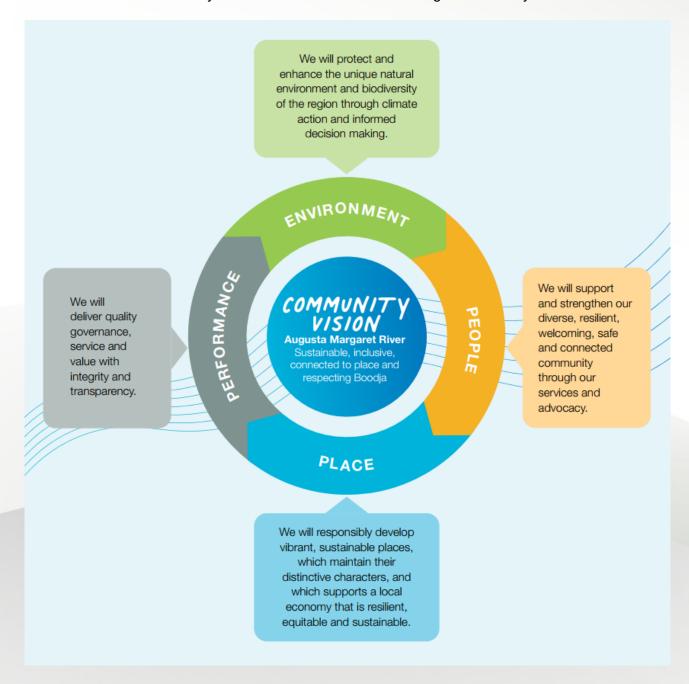


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Alignment with Strategic Community Plan

This document relates to Key Focus Areas in the Shire's Strategic Community Plan 2040.



Welcome to Country

"Kaya, Nala Maat Kaya Noonduk (Hello, Our Family Welcomes You) to Wadandi Boodja (Saltwater People's Country) – we all come together on Boodja (Country). Whilst on Wadandi Boodja we ask that you respect the land by walking softly and take the time to listen to Boodja as she Wongi (Talks).

We respect the presence of the Demmala Goomala (Ancestors) whose Djanga (Spirits) reside on Boodja and whose Djenna (feet) walk the land and whose Djanga Korda (heart spirit) flows through all creation. Wooditjup (Margaret River) is the heart of Wadandi Boodja (country), a meeting place between land and sea, connecting us all with Wadandi Boodja.

The Wadandi Boodja (Motherland) reaches from Bunbury, along the coast of Geographe Bay, extending to Yallingup (Place of Holes) to Taalinup, Augusta (Place of Reeds) inland to Nannup (The Stopping Place), taking in the region of Undalup (Busselton). The Wadan Boodja (Sea Country) is of great spiritual significance to the coastal Wadandi people.

Boodja – Land, Country, Mother Earth – is our most important resource. No matter what culture or religion – all of us rely on Nala Boodja, Our Country.

It is up to all of us to listen to the land, understand the connection to Country that we all have and realise how urgent it is to work together to make better decisions on how we can create that balance, ensuring sustainability for the generations to come, in order to protect and preserve the beauty of Boodja.

Whilst living, travelling, visiting and holidaying on Wadandi Boodja (Saltwater People's Country) we ask that you respect the area and walk softly on the country, taking the time to listen to Boodja (Country) as she Wongi (Talks) of the Season, and leave nothing but footprints".

Wadandi Traditional Cultural Custodian Wayne "Wonitji" Webb.

Introduction

The Shire is committed to Jenna Yen Mundamung Walking Together with the local Wadandi and Pibelmen people and the wider Aboriginal community towards a greater place of respect and equality within the Augusta Margaret River region and committed to Aboriginal Australians sharing fairly and equitably in the region's cultural, social, environmental and economic future.

Ngarlak Kaatij Wadandi Yunganjarli Wadandi Boodja.

We, the Shire of Augusta – Taalinup Margaret River – Wooditjup Bilya acknowledge the Wadandi People (the traditional custodians) of Wadandi country.

We acknowledge the Wadandi and Pibelmen are custodians since the land was soft (creation times) and continue to perform age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.

The region is home to many places of cultural significance throughout our amazing natural environment, whilst many of these places are registered or known as such many places are also unable to be shared by our Aboriginal community and we endeavour to protect these places equally.

It is important that not only is the cultural history protected, important stories are told and that protection of culturally significant areas is prioritised.

The stories of the region need to be told truthfully and openly respecting our shared history with the Aboriginal community.

The Shire has developed a Welcome to Country Policy and Procedure in 2018, updated in 2023, available at Appendix 1. This enables Shire staff to understand when and how to initiate a Welcome to and/or Acknowledgement of Country process.

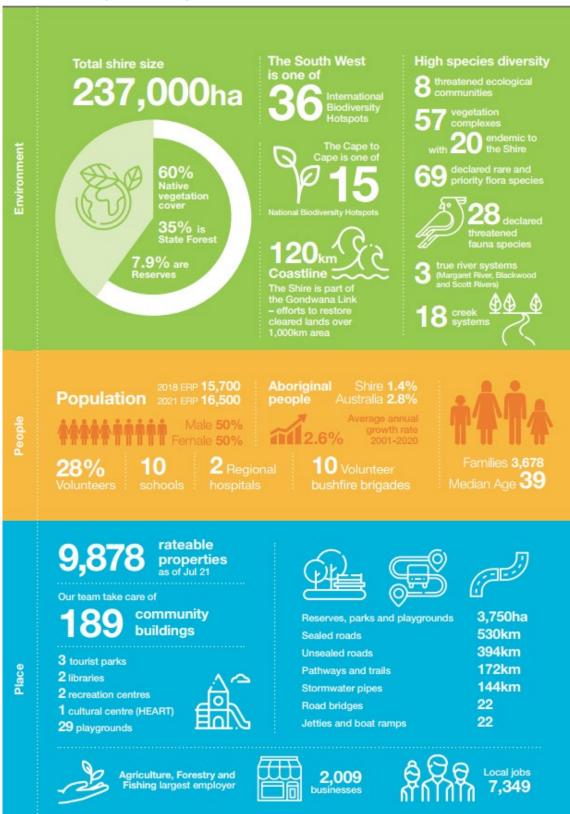
Consultation was undertaken with local Wadandi and Pibelmen Traditional Custodians via Undalup Association Inc to assist the Shire to develop engagement procedures for consultation with the local Aboriginal community around the following areas:

- Land and heritage
- Respect and acknowledgement of Wadandi and Pibelmen history and culture
- Site registration and protection
- Future development proposals on or near significant sites
- Capacity building with the local Aboriginal community
- Relationship development between the Shire and the Aboriginal community

The consultation has suggested that:

- The Shire focuses initially on building trust and local relationships.
- The Shire looks to focus on protection of culturally significant areas, particularly those that have historically been disturbed with little or no consultation.
- The Shire develops formal two-way dialogue with traditional custodians and elders and consult early in project or program development.
- The Shire establishes a separate formal process and relationship with Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation and SWALSC as required.
- The Shire develops internal processes for staff to engage with the Aboriginal community across the varying projects and programs the Shire undertakes.
- The Shire has a major role in building the capacity of local Aboriginal people to be engaged in training and workplace opportunities.

Our Community Demographic



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and Shire of Augusta Margaret River Environmental Elements of Sustainability Strategy 2018.

Opportunities and Challenges

- Building trust and honest, respectful dialogue between traditional custodians and the Shire is a priority.
- The Shire has a small identified Aboriginal population (only 1.4%) with very few traditional custodians, elders and knowledge holders still living on Wadandi Pibelmen Boodja but those that are here are passionate, highly knowledgeable, and proactive in protecting and promoting their culture and heritage.
- There is an increasing expectation from our community and visitors in regard to the level of consultation and protection of Aboriginal traditional sites and sharing and respect of local Wadandi history and culture.
- Local Aboriginal organisations require support to build capacity to undertake projects and programs.
- Traditional custodians, Karri Karrak and SWALSC members may not always hold the same opinions, and this can make consultation challenging.
- The Shire has significant sites of cultural and heritage value.
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation is a priority for the local Wadandi community.
- Biodiversity within the Shire is declining and requires protection, traditional custodians have significant knowledge and input to ensure biodiversity and heritage are maintained.
- Changes to the Aboriginal Heritage Act and the South West Native Title Settlement Agreement are undergoing major changes.

Jenna Yen Mundamung - Walking Together Strategy

The purpose of this strategy is to build stronger and mutually respectful relationships with our local Aboriginal community and Wadandi and Pibelmen traditional custodians and provide opportunities for them to contribute to the Shire's decision making processes. To make lasting and meaningful progress we need to adopt common goals and walk together to achieve them.

Our Aboriginal community need to be acknowledged for their contribution to our community and recognition for their ongoing knowledge, nurturing and protection of country and culture.

We need to develop a process for consultation and approvals that is mutually beneficial and follows protocols of when and who to consult with. This extends from major projects such as Healthy Country Planning and dual naming work to engagement on minor projects to ensure that we are working harmonioulsy together to protect the Boodja that we share. We also acknowledge that we need to spend time stopping, listening and yarning. Through this process we will not only develop stronger relationships but a shared understanding of cultural obligations and how we can support the Wadandi people to ensure a healthy Boodja.

Jenna Yen Mundamung will help Shire staff to understand what may be required when consulting with traditional custodians and the wider Aboriginal community on the myriad of projects and programs we undertake. All consultation may be vastly different and our Aboriginal community, like any other in Australia, have a history of loss of culural connection, socio-economic issues and their own cultural considerations that impact how and when they can speak or provide input.

This plan provides a way forward for us as a Shire to help ensure open and honest consultation takes place across the region.

Who Can Speak For

As a local government we share responsibility for Boodja but also all local people.

A useful framework for local government is to recognise three forms of connection that Aboriginal people may have. (Some people have two or three of these connections – eg, a traditional owner or custodian who also lives locally.

- Traditional Owner or Custodian connection (35,000 60,000 years of ancestry). A T/O may not live within the Shire but may still have long standing cultural connection and knowledge.
- 2) *Historic* connection (in the last 180 years). This may include people who have had up to 8 generations of connection, because their recent ancestors may have been brought here, or chosen to work her. These people may have important stories, and 'heart' connection to this place. They cannot give welcomes to country, cannot speak for Boodja, cannot do cultural clearances, etc. But they may, for example be wonderful teachers about the Aboriginal experience of this place, and for the experience of Aboriginal Western Australians since invasion.
- 3) Resident connection (they live here now). They should be consulted on any work the Shire intends to do about community and race relations, education, Aboriginal employment, Aboriginal business development, crime prevention strategies, sports activities, etc. They are residents, and often ratepayers, but their experience is profoundly influenced by their Aboriginality, and so the Shire should pay very particular attention to their views on wellbeing.

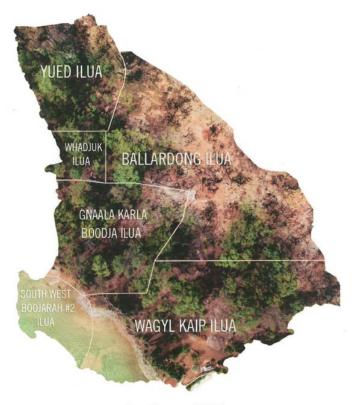
"Who can speak for"	Traditional	Historic	Resident
Decision making about Wadandi/Pibelmen country	Х		
Decision making about Wadandi/Pibelmen Language/names etc.	X		
'Traditional Custodian/Owner' protocols	Х		
Traditional Wadandi/Pibelmen culture/authority	Х		
General education about Aboriginal issues/reconciliation, etc.	Х	Х	Х
Aboriginal Culture – (beyond Wadandi/Pibelmen)	Х	Х	Х
Present Day issues/solutions	Х	Х	Х
Impacts of dispossession (and how we can heal from it.)			Х
Lived Experience			Х
Ancestor's experience of Wadandi/Pibelmen region (since 1829)			
Present Day issues – (living within the Shire)	Х	Х	Х
Solutions to present day issues (living within the Shire)	Χ	Х	Х

The Shire's Communty Planning & Development (CPD) team hold an up to date resource of contacts for Wadandi Traditional Owners/Custodians and Aboriginal communty groups and contacts that staff can access to consult in regard to their projects. The CPD Team is also a good resource to discuss your consultation plan prior to getting underway as Traditional Owners/Custodians, historical and resident Aboriginal community members are often interconnected.

Another main query that often arises is when/how to use Aboriginal or Indigenous when referring to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, whether in written form or in general communitations. Whilst there is no governing rule on this below is a general understanding of how to refer to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in communication;

 Indigenous – Is generally used to identify two distinct cultural groups being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples

- Aboriginal Is generally used to speicifcally identify Aboriginal people or persons of Aboriginal descent who are made up of over 250 differing lauguage groups
- Torres Strait Islander Refers specifcally to the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait Islands located between northern Australia and New Guinea
- Noongar Are the people of the Aboriginal nation from the south west of Western Australia
 within the regions of the map below roughly from Jurien Bay through to Esperance. Noongar
 may have a number fo different spellings
- Wadandi Refers specifically to the Aboriginal language group within the South West Boojarah region of the map below. Wadandi may also be spelt Wardandi.
- Pibelmen refers specifically to the Aboriginal language group bordering Wadandi Boodjah to the south east (not stated on map below).



(Image: Map courtesy of SWALSC)

Various Shire business units deal with specific areas of work that invovle high levels of Aboriginal consultation and invovlement, Appendix 2 outlines some of the main business units areas of responsibility that may be of use in project development.

Project Engagement Guideline

The below chart provides some examples of the types of projects Shire staff may have to coordinate and what level of consultation may be required. Remember this is a guide only and each project has unique circumstances that need to be taken into consideration; if you are unsure about the level of consultation required discuss your project with Community Development staff.

Example Project	Minimum level of consultation
Land or heritage matter (may or may not contain	Traditional owner/custodian – in accordance
significant sites)	with the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation
	Cultural Advice Policy.
Internal Policy or Plan e.g. Local Planning	Traditional owner/custodian due to the possible
Scheme or Asset Management Plan	land and heritage implications – in accordance
	with the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation
	Cultural Advice Policy.
Internal Policy or Plan e.g. Economic Strategy,	Traditional owner/custodian, historical or
Public Art Policy or Equal Opportunity Plan.	resident may be engaged – in accordance with
	the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation Cultural
	Advice Policy.
Local community issue such as employment &	Resident.
training, grant development or general project	
consultation.	

The Karri Karrak Cultural Advice Policy can be accessed via the relevant page on the SWALSC website: www.noongar.org.au/s/CulturalAdvicePolicy-KarriKarrak.pdf

Engagement Framework

The Shire of Augusta Margaret Rivers Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Policy outlines five key principles centred on the IAP2 framework. This policy and subsequent plan should be read and understood prior to undertaking consultation with any members of the community.

Five Key Principles

We carefully plan engagement design and who to involve

Before we begin engaging, we identify the local places and stakeholders who are directly involved, or likely to be affected by the project. On major projects that set a direction or define a position for the Shire, we encourage broad community participation to ensure that a diverse range of views and ideas are expressed and considered and to best include those likely to be most impacted by the decision. The Shire's YourSay engagement framework has four stages to ensure we deliver a consistent approach to engagement activities. This includes a process of planning (developing an engagement plan), doing (preparing and engaging), reporting (analysing information and providing updates on the engagement) and evaluating (both the process and outcomes).

We are committed to working with indigenous stakeholders

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River acknowledges and is committed to working with the Wadandi and Pibelmen people as the traditional custodians of land in the Shire. Building and maintaining strong, respectful partnerships with Aboriginal traditional custodians and the organisations that represent them is a key component of engagement activities undertaken by the Shire.

We prioritise accessible, diverse and inclusive engagement

Quality community engagement is well planned and executed, inclusive and accessible to all members of the community. We recognise people engage with the Shire in different ways depending

on a number of factors, such as age, background, place and ability. We aim to be responsive to this broad spectrum of needs, by ensuring our processes, venues and information are accessible. This means delivering engagement across online, face to face and written channels, and in the appropriate places, to achieve appropriate community participation. We strive to deliver information that is clear and in easy to understand formats, or that it is available in alternative formats on request. Our engagement events and venues are designed to be accessible whenever practical and achievable.

We are responsive to community needs for engagement and are supportive of projects that are citizen-led. We are aware of our approach with community groups that we are asset based and strength focussed in our work.

We consult early and clearly communicate the community's role throughout engagement

We aim to be transparent and make our decision-making process clear. We do this by explaining upfront the process to be undertaken, identifying where there is opportunity for the community and stakeholders to have input, and where the decision-points are. We provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information, written in plain English, to stakeholders throughout the engagement process. Information about our engagement is available on YourSay www.yoursay.amrshire.wa.gov.au and through the Shire's communication channels.

From the outset, we articulate the purpose of our engagement and what will happen as a result of the information gathered. We explain what level of influence the community, stakeholders and Council have on the decision to be made, and any associated limitations or constraints. We consider the requirements for each project and its level of potential impact on the community to determine the required level and timing of engagement. We acknowledge contributions made during the engagement process and let participants know how their feedback was used in our decision-making. Where possible, we build on the outcomes of previous engagement. If the engagement crosses over with a previous engagement process, we explain the outcomes, identify how they relate to the current process and why a new process is required.

We deliver engagement methods that are relevant to context and place

The level of engagement will vary depending on the nature and complexity of the project or decision and are guided overall by the Shire's community engagement principles as detailed in this policy. We carefully consider aspects of both qualitative input (such as trends and thoughts) and quantitative input (such as number of participants) when designing engagement methods and reporting back what we heard.

The level of community participation that is appropriate depends on the level and scale of impact. This is determined with consideration of:

- · The urgency of the issue and the time available for deliberation and decision-making
- The availability of resources (including staff, facilitation skills, venues, technology and financial resources).
- The need to involve local community groups, specific local places and stakeholders in matters that will affect them.
- The complexity of the issues, the history of a project or extent of stakeholders and avoiding consultation fatigue in the community.
- The degree that issues are of importance across the shire.
- The need to build trust and respect.
- The desire to be community-led and make space for communities to develop local initiatives and solutions.
- Legislative requirements.

Your Say engagement framework

The Shire has a four stage process to ensure we deliver a consistent approach to engagement activities. No matter how big or small, all projects should go through this process to ensure high quality and consistent community engagement.





Before you start engagement:

- O Do you have an engagement plan?
- Have you considered other projects that might impact?
- (Is your engagement accessible to all?
- Have you made clear the community's role in decision making?
- Is it relevant to place and location?
- On Traditional Owners and knowledge holders need to be engaged as part of your project?
- Have you talked to the Shire's Communications/Marketing team about your project?



1. Planning

Developing an engagement plan and identifying stakeholders





2. Doing

Preparing and engaging





3. Reporting

Analysis of information and updates on engagement





4. Evaluating

How did we do in the process and outcomes?



Natural | Connected | Prosperous

Engagement Action Plan

The following Engagement Action Plan provides an outline to assist the Shire in implementing the plan, it details high level focus areas, achievable actions and outcomes that link back to the findings from our community consultation process.

Foo	cus Area	Acti	on	Outcome	Date
1.	Foundation relationships and a two-way dialogue with the local Wadandi Traditional Custodians	1.1	New Council formally welcomed by Traditional custodians as part of Council election protocols. Traditional custodians are consulted at the beginning of project planning using Project Review template – Appendix 4.	Create stronger relationships between the Shire and local Wadandi custodians. Projects are scoped with cultural knowledge early in their development.	2023/24
		1.3	Shire Executive, Council and Traditional custodians take part in informal, On Country "yarns" at least twice per annum to further mutual understanding, respect and an ongoing dialogue.	Greater understanding of the constraints in project outcome development. Ensure cultural	
		1.4	Quarterly meetings with Traditional custodians are developed to review and provide feedback on all projects that may impact the Aboriginal community.	protocols are acknowledged and respected.	
		1.5	Cultural values and feedback are formally acknowledged in project or program scoping.		
2.	Capacity building and consistent engagement with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.	2.1	IAP2 consultation processes are followed in project development to include correct Aboriginal consultation procedures. Aboriginal organisations are supported to engage with Shire grants and Shire works	Develop opportunities for the local Aboriginal community to engage in community, educational, economic and creative outcomes.	2023/24
	oonmunity.	2.3	proposals. Aboriginal youth capacity building programs are supported by the Shire.	Ensure culturally appropriate opportunities are developed in community events and programs.	

3.	Establish formal relationships with Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation South West Boojarah Working party and SWALSC.	3.1	Attend SWALSC meetings as required. Engage SWALSC members when appropriate to provide advice on projects and programs. Engage with Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation and Directors as per Karri Karrak guidelines.	Ensure all Shire projects that require formal approval are presented with local Wadandi traditional custodians input. Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation provide input/endorsement as required to Shire projects and programs. Karri Karrak and/or SWALSC recommendations gained for any native title or heritage matters.	2023/24
4.	Develop internal Aboriginal consultation processes.	4.1	Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country Policy and Procedure in place that can be shared/utilised by other local organisations.	Greater level of understanding of Aboriginal culture and history.	2023/24
		4.2	Cultural awareness training that is suitably developed and implemented for all Shire staff including Executive and Council.	Increase understanding of Aboriginal culture for the future of our local community.	
		4.3	Internal coordination role in place for project consultation and relationship development.	Earlier engagement of local Wadandi community on Shire projects and	
		4.4	Ensure on site visitation with Wadandi traditional custodians as required to determine project requirements.	programs. Staffing is in place to deliver the ongoing consultation and	
		4.5	Utilise cultural knowledge and Wadandi traditional custodians feedback with sign off and acceptance of outcomes to ensure project outcomes are clear.	relationship development. Procedures in place to ensure staff can access resources to enable good	
		4.6	Align with standard rates of payments https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/projects-and-initiatives/south-west-native-title-settlement/noongar-standard-heritage-agreement/survey-costs-(1) for	consultation practices with the local Aboriginal community. Ensure projects proceed with the correct consultation	

				T	,
			Aboriginal consultants as a	and approvals in	
			minimum requirement.	place.	
		4.7	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Cultural knowledge is	
			Welcome to Country Policy and	formalised in the	
			Procedure is developed and	project scoping stage.	
			reviewed regularly.		
				Council and Executive	
				are provided	
				formalised cultural	
				feedback in project	
				scoping for informed	
				decision making.	
				Aboriginal consultants	
				are paid in line with	
				standard rates of	
				payment in return for	
				cultural knowledge	
				and/or advice.	
				Strategy is in place to	
				ensure consultation is	
				developed in a	
				mutually beneficial	
				way.	
5.	Ensure the	5.1	Engage Aboriginal stories and	Increase community	2023/24
	cultural heritage		visual arts within the Shires	awareness of the local	
	of traditional custodians is		public art collection, libraries,	Wadandi history and celebrate their culture.	
	appropriately		historical societies and any other places where they may be	Celebrate trieli culture.	
	collected and		shared.	Dual naming of Shire	
	shared.		Shared.	infrastructure is	
	oriarou.	5.2	Cultural naming is undertaken	undertaken in	
		0.2	throughout the region.	partnership with	
			5 -9	traditional custodians.	
		5.3	Tell the Aboriginal heritage of		
			the region via Interpretive	Build the capacity of	
			signage.	the Aboriginal	
				community to	
		5.4	•	showcase and	
			NAIDOC, Reconciliation Week	participate in cultural	
			and local Wadandi driven	storytelling.	
			festivals and events.		

How this plan will be resourced?

Relationship Management, consultation development and delivery – Via ACC and in line with the Shire's Community Engagement Framework.

Events and Programs – As part of various events and programs across the Shire such as NAIDOC week, Bunuru Festival, youth week etc.

Project Delivery – Specific consultation and approvals requirements are the responsibility of, and costed as part of, any project requirements.

Staff Professional Development – Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training as part of the Shire's staff induction program.

Art and Cultural Program – Art and Culture projects take into account, and/or tell the story of our shared history truthfully and respectfully.

How this plan will be monitored?

Jenna Yen Mundamung is a starting point for the Shire to articulate how it will engage with and deliver outcomes for our local Aboriginal community across economic, environment and community outcomes.

The plan is owned by the Arts Culture and Community team who monitor and report on the outcomes each year as part of our corporate reporting.

All projects and programs that are required to engage with the Aboriginal community will be required to ensure they budget accordingly within their project planning.

The plan should be a working document that is reviewed and refined at the end of the timeframe period with the traditional custodians and local Aboriginal community.

Version Control table

Related Documents	NA	
Responsible Directorate	Corporate and Community Services	
Prepared by	Jason Cleary	
Approved by	Stephanie Addison-Brown – Endorsed by Council OM2023/67	
Last Reviewed	May 2023	
Date of this Review		
Next Revision Date	May 2025	

Appendix 1

Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country Policy and Procedure

Appendix 2

Reconciliation Policy

Appendix 3

Dual Naming and language guidelines

Appendix 4

Project review template

Appendix 6

Schedule of rates for Aboriginal consultants



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If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service:

- TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for 08 9780 5255
- Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 08 9780 5255
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS www.relayservice.com.au then ask for 08 9780 5255