


COUNCIL POLICY

Reconciliation	Adopted By Council:	07/10/03	
	Date/s Revised:	18/10/11; 27/07/16 <u>03/24</u>	
	Next Review Date:	<u>0809/2025</u>	
	*(may be subject to legislative changes)		
	Document No:	CP015	
	Directorate:	<u>Organisational Performance & Community CEO Office</u>	
	Responsible Officer:	<u>Community Development Coordinator/CEO</u>	

CONTEXT

The Borough of Queenscliffe supports the idea of reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

Bella Wiyn is the Wadawurrung name for the lands where the Borough of Queenscliffe is located. The Borough of Queenscliffe acknowledges the Traditional Owners of these lands, the Wadawurrung People of the Kulin Nation, pays respect to their Elders past and present, and commits to supporting future leaders. We acknowledge and respect their continuing connections to their lands, waters, skies and culture, and we celebrate the ongoing contribution First Nations peoples make to the life and spirit of our community.

The Borough of Queenscliffe is committed to building strong relationships with all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are committed to listening, learning, and understanding the experiences of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living on Wadawurrung country.

In 2023 the Borough of Queenscliffe developed a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan. The development of the Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan demonstrates Council's commitment to the journey of Reconciliation in all aspects of Council service delivery.

Council believes that an important step towards reconciliation is to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of this area.

POLICY

Council is committed to:

- listening and learning from the Wadawurrung, traditional owners of the land known as the Borough of Queenscliffe;
- listening and learning from all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- implementing the actions set out in the Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan;
- developing a Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan as the next step of our reconciliation journey.

To support these policy objectives Council will:

- ~~establish~~continue to participate in a Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation;

- ensure the Reconciliation Action Plan is incorporated into the Council's Annual Corporate Plan;
- continue to fly the Aboriginal flag in front of the Council Offices (Learmonth St);
- continue to acknowledge the Wadawurrung people as the traditional owners of the lands, waters and skies known as the Borough of Queenscliffe at all official events and meetings.
- Conduct a Welcome to Country at Citizenship Ceremonies and other key events where possible (if not possible, an Acknowledgement of Country will be conducted).

1. ~~Public Occasions~~

~~On official occasions and at formal events held by Council within the Borough of Queenscliffe a statement will be made acknowledging that the Wadawurrung people have lived in harmony with the land and waterways of this area for many centuries.~~

~~A representative from the Wadawurrung people may be invited to make this statement or provide 'A Welcome to Country' or the Mayor and/or Councillors or their representative will acknowledge indigenous Australians by reading the following statement:-~~

~~***"Our meeting/conference/workshop is being held on the traditional lands [or country] of the Wadawurrung people and I wish to acknowledge them as Traditional Owners. I would also like to pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today."***~~

~~Councillors may wish to write their own Recognition Statement in the spirit of reconciliation.~~

2. ~~Flying The Aboriginal Flag~~

~~Council will fly the aboriginal flag at Council Offices during business hours, when the number of flag poles permit, however it will not be flown in place of the Australian Flag or Borough of Queenscliffe flag.~~

~~Council also believes it is important to acknowledge our indigenous Australians at special ceremonies. As such, Council will fly the aboriginal flag during the Australia Day celebrations and conduct invite XXXX 'A Welcome to Country' in conjunction with the registered aboriginal party.~~

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This policy will be reviewed on a continuous basis, but as a minimum every three years from the date of adoption.

OTHER REFERENCES

[Borough of Queenscliffe Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan 2024–2025](#)

[Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006](#)

<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/protocols-for-recognising-traditional-owners>

'Australian Flags', 3rd Edition, Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet, Canberra

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