

DECLARATION OF RECOGNITION AND COMMITMENT ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Preamble

WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF MELBOURNE recognise the unique place of Aboriginal people in our shared place and the enduring value of their culture to the City of Melbourne, and that as traditional owners their sovereignty has never been ceded.

The City of Melbourne recognises, protects and respects Aboriginal heritage and cultures and understands the impact of non-Aboriginal settlement of this country.

The City of Melbourne acknowledges and respects the customs and traditions of Aboriginal peoples and their special relationship with the land, waterways and sea.

The City of Melbourne acknowledges the right of Aboriginal peoples to live according to their own values and customs.

Recognition

1. The City of Melbourne recognises that Aboriginal peoples were the first inhabitants of this land and have striven to retain their culture and identity through the period of European settlement for more than two centuries.
2. The City of Melbourne recognises the valuable contribution to Victoria made by Aboriginal peoples and will work towards a future of mutual respect and harmony.
3. The City of Melbourne recognises the value of the diversity and strength of Aboriginal cultures to the heritage of all Australians.
4. The City of Melbourne recognises that family life is the core of Aboriginal community life and that these family relationships, links and customs involve particular sets of social and cultural obligations.
5. The City of Melbourne recognises and supports the ideal of reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples to redress their serious social and economic disadvantage.

Commitment

1. The City of Melbourne is proud to make a commitment to fully support reconciliation and embrace reconciliation within our organisation and to encourage reconciliation across the city and through our connections nationally and internationally.
2. The City of Melbourne is committed to truth-telling about Victoria's history and the impact of colonisation, which will help us to understand, address and build a stronger Victoria, by bringing us one step closer to genuine reconciliation.
3. The City of Melbourne is committed to meaningful engagement with Aboriginal peoples and will foster and build respect for Aboriginal history, culture and knowledge.
4. The City of Melbourne is committed to ensuring that the Aboriginal cultural heritage of Melbourne is appropriately recognised, conserved and celebrated by all. By sharing stories about the history of our place, including the heritage and culture woven into that history.
5. The City of Melbourne is committed to create a city that takes pride in the contribution Aboriginal people have made, and continue to make.
6. The City of Melbourne is committed to Aboriginal peoples in Council Plans, Policies, Procedures and Services.

STATUS OF THE DECLARATION OF RECOGNITION AND COMMITMENT

The City of Melbourne does not intend any of the provisions of Declaration of Recognition and Commitment to be legally enforceable, or limit the Council's exercise of its own functions. However, that does not lessen the commitment of the City of Melbourne to fully implementing the Declaration of Recognition and Commitment in a transparent, consultative, accountable and respectful manner.

EXECUTED AS A DECLARATION OF RECOGNITION AND COMMITMENT on 29th September 2021



Lord Mayor
Sally Capp



Chief Executive Officer
Justin Hanney

