

12 September 2006

INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND HERITAGE FRAMEWORK

Division Assets & Services

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Purpose

1. To provide an update on the development of the *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework*.
2. To seek endorsement of the draft *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework 2006-2009* report for its release for a period of public consultation.

Recommendation from Management

3. That the Community Services Committee endorse the release of the draft *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework 2006-2009* (Attachment 1 to Management Report) for public consultation from September to December 2006.

Key Issues

4. The purpose of the proposed *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* will be to provide a whole of Council approach to the protection, support, management, celebration and communication of Indigenous culture and heritage. The *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* aims to recognise all aspects of culture and heritage – tangible and intangible, past, present and future.
5. The separate *Indigenous Social and Economic Development Framework* will be the overarching framework for the work of the Indigenous Unit. A draft of the document was endorsed for a period of public consultation at the Community Services Committee of August 2006.
6. The proposed *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* is a strategic plan designed to address outcomes as identified in the draft *Indigenous Social and Economic Development Framework*. Its initial development was first reported to the former Environment, Sustainability and Indigenous Affairs Committee of Council in October 2004 as one tool to ensure City of Melbourne compliance with the core procedural provisions of the cultural heritage statutes of both the Commonwealth and state governments. Since that time the intent of the document has been expanded to refer to statutory requirements as well as the tangible and intangible components of Indigenous culture and heritage of the past, present and future.
7. The proposed *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* will also link to all other relevant Council strategies in order to ensure coordinated cross-Council responses to the needs and aspirations of the Indigenous community, within the identified roles of local government.

Time Frame

8. The draft *Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Framework* will be available for public consultation for the period from September to December 2006. A final costed report will be presented for consideration and adoption in February 2007 to the Community Services Committee.

Relation to Council Policy

9. The City of Melbourne's Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians identifies that:

"The Council recognises the valuable contribution to Victoria made by Koorie people and will work towards a future of mutual respect and harmony."

10. Council acknowledges Traditional Owners with the following statement on our website:

"We respectfully acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional lands of the Kulin Nation. This special place is now known by its European name of Melbourne. Today, Melbourne is one of the great multicultural cities of the world, a significant meeting place. For the Boonerwung, Woiworung, Taungurong, Djajawurrung and the Wathaurong which make up the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place and location for events of social, educational, sporting and cultural significance."

11. Actions on Reconciliation and Council's relationship with Traditional Owners also align with the strategic objectives of the Council Plan for outcomes relating to our inclusive and engaging city.

Consultation

12. The public consultation process will be extensive and time consuming due to the number of stakeholders and the variety of consultation methods to be used. The second and final stage of the *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* will be a consultation strategy that will include:

- 12.1. circulation of the draft report as endorsed by Council, throughout Victorian Indigenous communities and to key Indigenous community members;
- 12.2. workshops with specific Indigenous groups;
- 12.3. meetings with an internal staff and Councillor reference group;
- 12.4. open public meetings; and
- 12.5. meetings with particular individuals and groups including community and government representatives.

Due to the similar timing of consultations on the second and final stages of Council's *Indigenous Social and Economic Development Framework* it will be appropriate to plan both sets of consultations so that meetings and other forums with stakeholders are held in a co-ordinated manner.

Government Relations

13. A reference group comprising a Councillor, City of Melbourne officers from across Council and government representation from Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and Department of Victorian Communities has been established and will continue to provide direction and input through to the completion of the final *Framework*.
14. Consultation during the second and final stages will occur with appropriate State government agencies in particular Aboriginal Affairs, Victoria, Department of Victorian Communities; Department of Justice; Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Department of Human Services.

Finance

15. There are no direct financial implications for Council arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

Legal

16. This report is requesting that Council endorse the draft *Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Framework 2006-2009* for release and a period of public consultation. No direct legal issues arise.

Sustainability

17. The *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* will be an important long term strategy for Council contributing to social and community outcomes for Indigenous people over the next four years. This initiative will support the social aspects of an Inclusive and Engaging City.
18. The outcome of Council's commitment to reconciliation, a key principle underpinning the *Framework*, has implications for social equity with the potential to positively influence an Innovative and Vital Business City.

Comments

19. The *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* will provide the opportunity to bring together all Council related Indigenous cultural and heritage initiatives, programs and activities in a comprehensive strategic direction. Councillors, the Administration and other key stakeholders will work together as part of a whole of Council approach.

Background

20. In early 2006 Context Pty Ltd was appointed as consultant to develop the first stage of the *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework*. A draft outline was provided and based on feedback received and further consultations undertaken with the reference group a final draft document was provided in July 2006.
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Attachment:

1. Draft Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Framework Report

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**City of Melbourne
Draft Indigenous Culture
and
Heritage Framework
2006-2009**

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BACKGROUND

Commitment

The City of Melbourne's flagship document in relation to Indigenous people is its *Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians* which reflects Council's aspirations in regard to the Koori community. It is a strong statement, acknowledging and recognising that:

The Council of the City of Melbourne acknowledges that Indigenous Australians were the first people of this land and have strived to retain their culture and identity through the period of non-Indigenous settlement, for more than two centuries.

- The Council of the City of Melbourne acknowledges and respects the customs and traditions of Indigenous Australians and their special relationship with the land.
- The Council of the City of Melbourne acknowledges the right of Indigenous Australians to live according to their own values and customs, subject to Australian law.
- The Council recognises the valuable contribution to Victoria made by Koori people and will work towards a future of mutual respect and harmony.
- The Council recognises the value of the diversity and strength of Indigenous cultures to the heritage of all Australians.
- The Council of the City of Melbourne recognises that family life is the core of Aboriginal community life and that these family relationships, linkages and obligations involve particular sets of social and cultural obligations.

Under the terms of the *Statement*, Melbourne City Council commits to the concepts of reconciliation, elimination of racism and the opportunity for equal rights, protection of sacred and special places, education of the broader community and advocacy on behalf of Indigenous people. As well, there are specific actions that Council has committed to undertake in consultation with the local Koori community including: the promotion of Koori heritage, the identification and protection of sites of significance, consideration of place naming opportunities, signage and ceremonies of welcome. The statement also recognises the contribution of Indigenous culture to the heritage of all Australians.

Council's roles

Melbourne City Council recognises that it has two distinct roles:

- As the local government authority for the defined City of Melbourne area; and
- As the capital city of Victoria, and nationally as part of a network of capital city councils.

Each role is important, and offers Melbourne City Council a wide range of opportunities to demonstrate its commitment to Indigenous Australians.

Like many cities, Melbourne City Council has international links through its own city-to-city relationships as well as those that are created through its capital city status. The majority of

Melbourne's public cultural institutions and heritage organisations are located within the City of Melbourne (eg. Museum of Victoria, Ian Potter/National Gallery, Royal Botanic Gardens, AAV, Heritage Victoria, Koori Heritage Trust, National Trust, RHSV) and by the links between important cultural institutions based in the City with their international counterparts. Many of Victoria's universities are also represented within the City.

Guiding principles

Guiding principles for the *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* take their direction from the *Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians by the City of Melbourne*:

- Indigenous people are the Traditional Owners of the land that is now known as the City of Melbourne. Indigenous people are the rightful owners of Indigenous heritage within the City of Melbourne;
- Indigenous people will be consulted in relation to Indigenous culture and heritage;
- The Indigenous communities of the City of Melbourne are diverse and have different needs and interests. These are recognised and respected;
- Management of heritage and the ability to practice culture is central to the wellbeing of Indigenous people ;
- The City of Melbourne has special responsibilities to the Traditional Owners of the City and recognises the primacy of Traditional Owners in regard to the management of cultural heritage; and
- As a State Capital, the City of Melbourne has a responsibility for promoting and providing a focus for the Indigenous cultures of south-east Victoria.

A CULTURE AND HERITAGE FRAMEWORK

Purpose

The purpose of the *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* is to provide a whole of Council approach to addressing Indigenous issues in those areas where Melbourne City Council has an opportunity to provide services, plan or otherwise take action within its defined roles and responsibilities.

Scope and content

The Draft *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* recognises all aspects of culture and heritage – tangible and intangible, past, present and future.

The *Framework* provides a whole of Council approach to Indigenous culture and heritage – its support, protection and management, celebration, communication – in those areas where the City of Melbourne is able to take direct action or is willing to be an advocate.

The *Framework* will influence how the City carries out its responsibilities under the *Local Government Act* and *City of Melbourne Act*. It should be expected to have a wide-reaching influence, not just confined to the areas of Council's work that are seen as 'heritage' or 'culture'. The *Framework* looks at issues, sets out principles and proposes strategies for action by Council in the period 2006-2009. As part of consultation on the draft *Framework*, an action plan will be developed.

This *Framework* is strongly linked to the *Indigenous Social and Economic Development Framework*, which is the leading document, and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Training Plan*.

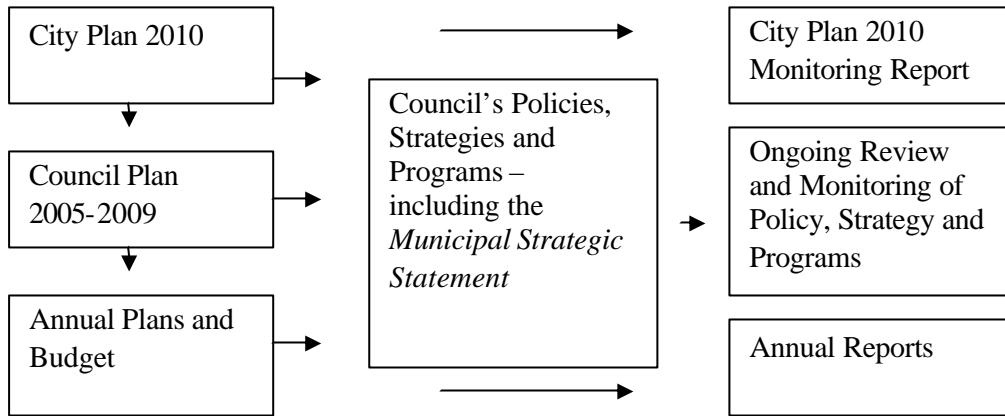
During 2007, Melbourne City Council will become the Council for the Docklands area, providing many services to this changing section of the city (although planning controls remain with the State Government). This *Framework* reflects that transition.

Where does the Framework fit?

Internally

The City of Melbourne is guided in fulfilling its roles and responsibilities by adopted corporate plans, strategies, policies and guidelines. As well, the internal culture of the organisation is an important influence on its ability to achieve its goals.

The primary documents that express the intent of the City of Melbourne are the *City Plan 2010* and the *Council Plan 2005-2009*. Both of these documents must be understood as delivering inherent support for our indigenous community, particularly at the tribal or family level.



The **Council Plan 2005-2009** sets out a four-year strategy that aligns with the four-year term of the Lord Mayor and Councillors. The Budget and Annual plan comprise the financials for the first year of the Council Plan, and thereby fund a series of Actions and Initiatives in each year's budget and the Key Strategic Activities (KSAs) to be delivered within that year. The 6 Strategic Objectives are:

1: A connected & accessible city – *'Connection' can mean physical connections like transport, it can mean intellectual connections like communication networks and it can mean personal connections through business and community alliances. A connected city offers opportunities for the enhancement of existing services as well as new opportunities for growth.*

'Accessibility' is about giving all residents, businesses, visitors and workers access to the city and to the available services. An accessible city gives everyone the ability to enjoy Melbourne.

2: An innovative & vital business city – *An 'Innovative City' means promoting Melbourne as a smart, creative and progressive city. Innovation is critical to the continued development and prosperity of the City.*

A 'Vital Business City' ensures business development, job growth and enhancement of gateway infrastructure.

3: An inclusive & engaging city – *An 'Inclusive City' welcomes and enables all people to participate fully in city life. Population, housing, services, social inclusion and liveability are important elements of this objective.*

An 'Engaging City' is an attractive and stimulating place in which to live, work and visit with a high level of cultural vibrancy and creativity. It supports the arts, recreation, cultural heritage, events, festivals, services, sport and street activities for the greater benefit of the community.

4: An environmentally responsible city – *An 'Environmentally Responsible' City seeks to actively increase natural assets through the decisions it makes, the development it chooses to pursue, and the benefits and impacts these have on the natural world.*

5: Well managed & leading corporation – *A well-managed and leading corporation delivers effective and accountable governance and is widely recognised for its high-calibre staff, services, processes and its relationship with its key stakeholders.*

6: A financially responsible corporation – *A financially responsible corporation secures long-term sustainability through effective financial management in the short term.*

The City of Melbourne, the **2006-07 Budget** includes the following actions relevant to this *Framework* under Strategic Objective 3:

Activities and Initiatives	Key deliverables
Strategic Objective 3: An inclusive and Engaging City	
Report on implementation of <i>Indigenous Social and Economic Development Framework</i>	Key stakeholder consultation undertaken for the <i>Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework</i> . Framework and action plans endorsed by Council by December 2006
Develop, deliver the Cultural Development program for 06/07 with input from specified advisory panels.	Resource the Community Cultural Development Advisory Panel (CCDAP) and the Indigenous Arts Advisory Panel (IAAP) and facilitate their input into program development, the Capital City Culture Blueprint and the new Arts Strategy.
Facilitate Council’s ongoing agreement and arrangements with Traditional Owners and the Indigenous community on key issues	Protocols for Council’s agreement with Traditional Owners and Indigenous community representatives endorsed by all parties by December 2006

The Budget includes a Capital Works Program which provides funding for works on important public assets such as parks and Gardens, public sculpture, and for the maintenance of the City’s Art and Heritage Collection.

The Council delivers services under 27 major service categories. Each service contributes to the achievement of one of six Strategic Objectives. The delivery of many of Council’s services occurs within the framework of a Strategy or Plan. These documents typically include objectives, strategies, actions and timeframes for that particular service area.

For example the *Arts Strategy 2004 – 2007*, has seven key themes, the first being *Indigenous Art and Culture*. Under this theme, the Plan identifies new directions and changed priorities for 2004-07, as well as ongoing commitments and priorities. One new direction is to ‘ensure that Indigenous communities and their art are reflected in the fabric of the city’ and an ongoing commitment is ‘to ‘continue to acknowledge and respect the rights of Indigenous artists and communities in determining their own artistic practice and cultural priorities’.

A number of Council policies and strategies that guide the delivery of particular services will be relevant to the scope of the *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework*. However, virtually all of Council’s operations, in a small or a large way, offer the City an opportunity to act on the Statement of Commitment.

Like the *City Plan 2010* and *Council Plan 2005-2009*, the *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* will be a whole of Council document, designed to influence strategies and policies that shape service delivery, and to be reflected in the overall City Plan and Corporate Plan.

Externally

In many of its roles, the City of Melbourne produces policies, guidelines and procedures that others are required or encouraged to abide by. Examples include *City of Melbourne Planning*

Scheme which regulates land use and development and places certain requirements on changes to listed heritage places; the *Graffiti Management Plan* which describes how Council will help residents and building owners to rid their properties of graffiti as well as enforcement of laws; and the *Arts Grants Program 2007* which provides funding to support arts activities that enliven the city for the benefit of Melbourne's residents, workers and visitors.

INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND HERITAGE IN THE CITY OF MELBOURNE

Aboriginal history of the City of Melbourne

The City of Melbourne is of traditional significance to the Woi wurrung, Boon wrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Wathaurong and the Taungerong peoples. Together, these 5 groups comprise the Kulin Nation. The Traditional Owners of the City of Melbourne are today represented by the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council.

The Great Spirit Ancestor Bunjil created the country, trees and animals of what is now known as the City of Melbourne. Angry at the Kulin peoples' neglect of each other and their country, Bunjil caused the waters of Port Phillip Bay to rise. Fearing the loss of their country, the people appealed to Bunjil to stop the waters rising. Bunjil agreed on condition that the people stopped their bad behaviour and follow his laws. After Bunjil stopped the rising of the sea, the Kulin people chose the great meeting ground on land now occupied by Government House to come together to discuss the business of the Nation, to celebrate and to dance (story told by Boonerwung elder Caroline Briggs in an address for National Reconciliation Week www.yarrahealing.melb.catholic.edu.au).

The Boon wurrung story of Bunjil and the flood is the traditional owner's recounting of what scientists interpret as changes in the sea level from the end of the last ice age (approximately 14,000 years ago) to approximately 5,000 years ago. Warmer and wetter conditions over this 10,000 year period meant that Port Phillip Bay was substantially larger than it is now. St Kilda Road would have run along the shoreline and much of the inner city would have been under water. The present delta of the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers was formed at this time. As the climate entered a cooler, drier phase, the sea levels receded to their current levels (Presland 1985: 7).

The Yarra River ('Birrarrung' in the Woi wurrung language) has been a central feature of the Indigenous culture and history of Melbourne, both prior to and following the European occupation of the area. One story tells of Woi wurrung men, Mo-Yarra and Yan –Yan, who drained a vast inland lake that inundated their hunting grounds by cutting out the Yarra and Plenty Rivers with stone axes. When they finally reached the sea the waters rushed out, freeing the country of the Woi wurrung from water but inundating Port Phillip (Massola, 1968:58). Woi wurrung leader William Barak told a story about a little boy who angered an old man sleeping under the ground. The man carried the terrified boy off and the path he made became the Yarra river. Bunjil rescued the little boy by throwing sharp stones onto the ground in front of the old man causing him to fall and cut himself to pieces, allowing the boy to escape and run home. Just before the old man died Bunjil appeared before him and said 'let this be a lesson to all old men. They must be good to little children' (Massola 1968:55-56).

When European people first occupied Melbourne, they primarily settled on the north banks of the Yarra while the Aboriginal population generally chose to occupy the south side of the river. The south side provided both open grassy woodland and swamps and would have been rich in game and resources (Presland, 1985: 32). The first government policy initiatives in relation to the Aboriginal people of Port Phillip were centred along the south banks of the Yarra River and in the first years of the European settlement of Melbourne this area was associated with Aboriginal missions, stations and camps.

In 1837 the Reverend George Langhorne was appointed to establish an Aboriginal mission and village, the District of Port Phillip's first. A site of approximately 895 acres was selected on the south side of the Yarra River extending between two surveys that eventually became Punt Road and Williams Road (Barwick 1984:115). Langhorne managed the residents by 'rewarding' people with food, clothing and land if they were deemed to be co-operative and

hardworking. Conversely, these inducements were withdrawn for 'poor behaviour'. In 1838, the Native Police Corps headquarters were briefly established in what is now Jolimont. The head of the Corps, C.L.J De Villiers, and Langhorne were in constant conflict (Clark and Heydon 2004:15).

Beset by difficulties with staff losses, funding cuts and conflict with Aboriginal residents, Langhorne's mission closed a mere two years after opening in 1839 (Historical Records of Victoria Vol 2A. pp 205 – 214). The site itself continued to be of importance, with the mission buildings becoming the headquarters of the Aboriginal Protectorate. Much of the site is now within the Royal Botanic Gardens and a number of Aboriginal people were buried in the old banks of the Yarra in the late 1830s before the River was straightened in 1900 – 1 (Eidelson 1997: 12 – 13). After the Mission closed, the area remained a popular camp for Aboriginal people with several camps occupying the area from Princes' Bridge for approximately 1 mile southeast along the River.

The Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate commenced operation in 1839 in response to the violence that was accompanying the occupation of traditional lands. The Chief Protector of Aborigines was George Augustus Robinson and he was assisted by four Assistant Protectors. When the four Assistant Protectors arrived in Melbourne with their families, they were housed in tents beside the Aboriginal encampment. William Thomas was the assistant Protector for the Melbourne – Westernport region and spent the first couple of years assisting Robinson with management of the Yarra Aboriginal camps. The camps had become a point of congregation for a number of Aboriginal tribes who were suffering the many effects of dispossession. Many of the people were seriously ill and violence and alcoholism were rife. Thomas found that he received little assistance from the authorities to manage this situation. Attempts to break up the camps were a failure (*Historical Records of Victoria Vol 2B: 518*).

It is possible that the number of people encamped on the Yarra diminished throughout the 1840s as it became evident that Protectorate had little to offer them and few Woi wurrung speakers were to be found in the camps after 1847 (Clark and Heydon 2004: 43). The Aboriginal Protectorate was abolished in 1849. The aim of the Government was to keep Aboriginal people away from Melbourne by establishing reserves and ration depots away from the town. In the late 1850s, under the aegis of the Board of Protection for Aborigines, effort was made to locate Aboriginal people on reserves within their traditional country. It is probable that many Kulin people would have settled at Coranderrk Station in Healesville (Caldere and Goff 1991: 14).

Information on the late nineteenth and twentieth century Aboriginal history of Melbourne is difficult to obtain. It can be assumed that Aboriginal people have maintained old, and built new, connections with the City throughout this period. Melbourne may have served as a place to work or access services, meet or protest. Current organisations such as Koori Women Mean Business, the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages and the Koori Heritage Trust, all based in the City reflect this connection. An Indigenous presence in Melbourne is becoming more visible through places such as Birrarung Marr, the visibility of Indigenous images in public art and events such as the 2006 Camp Sovereignty protest at Kings Domain; however more work needs to be undertaken to understand the Indigenous history of Melbourne over the last 150 years.

What are Indigenous culture and heritage for the City of Melbourne?

What are Indigenous 'culture' and 'heritage'? A *Cultural Framework for the City of Melbourne* describes culture as the way we make sense of our lives, the collection of people and experiences that forms identity. Culture is "how we create our sense of selves" and how we have a shared meaning and understanding of what it means to be a Melbournian, Greek Australian or more particularly what it means to be an Indigenous Australian.

Heritage can be described as cultural history – the places, stories and things that express the past and help us to understand our place in the present and on the historical continuum that includes the future. Both culture and heritage can be embodied in physical things (for example in artworks and archaeological sites) or it can be more intangible (for example stories, memory and performance).

Everyone has an experience of culture and heritage, be it their own or others. How we experience culture and heritage will depend on our perspective and experience. Indigenous culture and heritage in the City of Melbourne will have different meaning for Indigenous people, City residents, people from migrant backgrounds, domestic and international visitors and even Council staff.

For Indigenous people

The City of Melbourne is of traditional significance to the Woi wurrung, Boon wrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Wathaurong and the Taungerong people s. Together, these groups comprise the Kulin Nation. It is the location of important culture and heritage places and well as a place to meet, work and be a part of Indigenous culture.

The Indigenous understanding of the Indigenous cultural and heritage importance of the City of Melbourne will be deeper and more nuanced than that held by non-Indigenous peoples. This is particularly true of the Traditional Owner Groups. Many (arguably most) of the Traditional Owners of Melbourne will not live within the City of Melbourne municipal area but still exercise their right to speak and care for this part of their traditional country.

The City of Melbourne may also be important to Indigenous people who do not have traditional links with the municipal area but who come to the City to work, study or access facilities. At times, the City may act as a meeting place for Indigenous people as they come to participate in cultural events or protest.

For Melbourne’s residents

Non-Indigenous residents of Melbourne may experience Indigenous culture and heritage through cultural events (performance, exhibitions etc), protest and political action (such as Kings Domain), sporting events and use of public spaces such as Birrarung Marr. Place-naming and public art also contribute to an ‘Indigenous presence’ on the landscape. Their experiences in the City may be of local Indigenous culture, or they may be of Indigenous cultures across Australia. A significant proportion of the Melbourne community are first or second generation migrants, often from a non – English speaking background, and their experiences and understanding of Indigenous culture and heritage may vary again. Promoting an understanding of Indigenous culture and heritage may assist in contributing to the aims of reconciliation in Victoria and building a strong and diverse community.

For visitors from across Australia and overseas

The City of Melbourne also attracts many visitors from across Australia and overseas. Such people are less likely to have had exposure to Australian Indigenous culture and heritage generally, or Victorian Indigenous culture and heritage specifically. Visitors may be seeking to learn about Indigenous culture and heritage but may have limited time and opportunity to do so. What opportunities exist to promote Indigenous culture and heritage to the visitor and tourist market?

For the Council and its staff

Finally, what does the City of Melbourne itself and its employees understand as Indigenous culture and heritage? To a large extent, these will be defined by operational constraints and the strategic goals of the City. The City also needs to balance its responsibilities to the Traditional Owners of the municipal area with its role as the State's Capital City whose engagement with Indigenous communities extends far beyond Melbourne.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

The City of Melbourne has taken substantial steps to incorporate Indigenous perspectives and actions. This section highlights key initiatives achieved or underway.

Statement of Commitment

The City of Melbourne's *Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians* acknowledges Indigenous people as the first people of this land and recognises their cultural rights and obligations.

This Statement of Commitment underpins a wide range of recent initiatives including:

- Signing of a second Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that sets out the partnership between City of Melbourne and Reconciliation Victoria. The MoU is for a four year term and it commits City of Melbourne and Reconciliation Victoria to working together on developing better designed and targeted solutions for Indigenous people and ensure increased understanding and proper recognition of the rights and heritage of Indigenous people;
- Development of a Funding and Service Agreement with Reconciliation Victoria for a part time administration position to 2009;
- Establishment of an Indigenous Unit comprising two identified Indigenous positions within the Community Services Group. The role of the Indigenous Unit is to develop initiatives that give effect to Council's commitment to the Indigenous community and to actively provide advice and assistance internally to all Divisions across Council on matters relating to Indigenous issues;
- Development of a Cross Cultural Awareness Training Program for Councillors and staff;
- Development of an *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Training Plan* that aims to increase the proportion of Indigenous employees and trainees at City of Melbourne;
- Establishment of protocols that acknowledge Traditional Owners, including acknowledgement wording, to be used to open statutory meetings and other appropriate occasions;
- Establishment of appropriate consultative mechanisms between Council and Indigenous people for new and ongoing work;

- Hosting of annual celebrations of NAIDOC Week, Annual Reconciliation and Sorry Day events;
- Establishment of an Indigenous Arts Advisory Panel (IAAP) and the Indigenous Arts and Culture grants program;
- Development of a Funding and Service Agreement with Youth Projects Inc. for an Indigenous Public Space Officer position; and
- Participation in various forums and working groups with direct or indirect benefits to Indigenous people;

As well, the *Statement* promises that the following actions relevant to the scope of this Framework will be undertaken in consultation with the local Koori community;

- Promote and present Koori cultural heritage, in a way that is sympathetic and responsive to the outcomes desired by the Koori community;
- Identify and protect sites of Koori cultural significance within Melbourne City through the Melbourne Planning Scheme;
- Consider Koori naming of appropriate places within Melbourne City;
- Provide Koori cultural heritage and business information through its information distribution channels;
- Highlight on the *Welcome to Melbourne* signage at the main entrances to the City, the traditional Koori identity of the land on which the City of Melbourne is located; and
- Seek advice and take effective action on issues of social and community concern, where they lie within the sphere of interest and responsibility of local government.

Across all of these actions, the City commits to 'ensure regular reporting, program evaluation and an annual update and reaffirmation of the commitment to these initiatives'.

City of Melbourne Council Plan 2005 - 2009

The *City of Melbourne's Council Plan 2005-09: A Plan for a Capital City* outlines a number of strategic directions that provide an opportunity to promote Indigenous culture and heritage. These include:

Strategic direction 1.5: Improve the City's Integrated and Connected Park System;

Strategic direction 3.1: Welcome and facilitate all sectors of the community to participate in City life;

Strategic direction 3.2: Encourage social equity, inclusion and wellbeing;

Strategic direction 3.4: Promote, celebrate and further develop the City of Melbourne as a culturally rich capital city which encompasses its key strengths in art and sport;

Strategic direction 3.2.02: Develop and implement an Indigenous Social and Economic Development Strategy;

Strategic direction 3.4.04: Work with the Indigenous community to develop and promote Victorian Indigenous arts and cultural activities;

Strategic direction 3.6.02: Develop and implement an agreement with traditional owners and other members of the Indigenous community;

Strategic direction 3.9: Attract, facilitate and maximise the benefit of major City events and festivals.

Indigenous Arts

The City of Melbourne's *Arts Strategy 2004-07* is designed to recognise and respect the importance of arts and culture in how people see themselves and the world around them. Through the arts, people can come to understand difference, value diversity and connect with their own heritage and the heritage of others. These are powerful ideas.

The *Arts Strategy*, and the programs run by the City define the arts very broadly, and in an way that includes all forms of cultural expressions. The strategy contains specific goals in relation to Indigenous people; these include strengthening arts programs and placements, building relationships across communities and institutions, and increasing the visibility of Indigenous communities and their art in the fabric of the city.

The City of Melbourne supports the development and presentation of arts and cultural activities by Indigenous artists and organisations through its arts grants and mentorship programs. It sees its program as being run by and for Indigenous people. The Indigenous Arts Advisory Panel, set up in 1999, is an important part of the City's commitment to self-determination. The role of the IAAP is to provide advice to the Cultural Development Advisory Board on the most appropriate focus for Council's Indigenous arts spending.

Melbourne is the only capital city with an arts grants program dedicated to Indigenous projects. Another important feature is the City's initiative in taking its Indigenous arts program out to regional Victoria, recognising that many Indigenous people with connections to Melbourne live and work elsewhere.

Increasingly Council is taking a strategic approach, focusing on larger issues and structural barriers. For example, the development of a code of practice on Indigenous art in galleries is a first nationally for any government.

Urban design and public spaces

The City of Melbourne plays a key role in shaping the overall urban design of the City. A new urban design strategy – *Public Melbourne* – will soon be launched. Generally the urban design section works on specific projects aiming to address a major issue, such as the revitalisation of Southbank.

The City of Melbourne manages many public spaces, including parks and gardens, waterways and the street network. The older public gardens were set aside during the survey of the city, and reflect the original landscape to some extent.

Birrarung Marr is the first new public park to be created within the CBD of the City of Melbourne since 1901 was opened in January 2002. The park covers 8.3 hectares and seeks to

be an urban space which embraces public activity as an intrinsic part of the park, a social space, accessible to all people, where a variety of activities can occur and a creative engagement with design traditions and Australian senses of place.

In August 2005, the State Government and the City of Melbourne launched the design for a new Indigenous public artwork – Birrarung Wilam - at Birrarung Marr. The Birrarung Wilam is an expression of reconciliation and an acknowledgement of Aboriginal history and culture in Victoria. The design interprets stories from local communities and provides a place where everyone can experience and learn more about Indigenous culture. Birrarung Wilam was created by a team of three Indigenous artists, Vicki Couzens, Lee Darroch and Treahna Hamm, working closely with City of Melbourne design staff.

Planning and Heritage

Local government has a responsibility under the *Planning and Environment Act* to identify and conserve heritage, including Aboriginal heritage. The City of Melbourne does not have a *Heritage Strategy* per se, but undertook preliminary investigations into this idea in 2004, with internal staff consultation demonstrating strong support for the concept. The desired scope was for a **cultural** heritage strategy that covered Indigenous and historic heritage, both tangible and intangible aspects (Context 2004).

Victoria's first place inscribed on the World Heritage List is the Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens. In addition to the built forms of the post-contact period there are believed to be places of importance to Indigenous people within the Gardens.

The Melbourne Planning Scheme provides protection for 5 Aboriginal places: four scarred trees and the 1985 Aboriginal burial site at Kings Domain. The City's total post-contact non-Indigenous heritage inventory encompasses thousands of places. There have not been any studies of Aboriginal heritage places undertaken within the City's boundaries, however several research reports on adjoining areas will have relevance for the City. As well, a number of places with known Aboriginal heritage values have been identified through other processes and studies including:

Williams Street Falls. Rock falls used to exist on the Yarra River at the bottom of what is now William Street, preventing salt water from mixing with the fresh water of the Yarra. The falls provided a place where people could cross the river by foot and were associated with regular gatherings of Aboriginal people (Eidelson 1997: 6).

Kings Domain Resting Place. After being repatriated from the Museum of Victoria, the remains of 38 Victorian Aboriginal people were buried in Kings Domain in 1985. A granite boulder and plaque marks the site (Eidelson 1997: 9). This is one of the five Aboriginal heritage places protected through the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

Government House / Tromgin. A battle between Aboriginal people was witnessed in 1839 near the present day site of Government House. This area has also been described as *Tromgin*, a favoured camping place for the Kulin Nations (Eidelson 1997: 10, Clark and Heydon 2004: 29).

Langhorne's Mission. An Aboriginal school and mission operated on the south bank of the Yarra River in what is now the Royal Botanic Gardens between 1837 – 1839 (Eidelson 1997: 12).

Yarra Park / MCG. The Yarra Park was the site of the Police Paddocks Reserve which housed the Native Police Corps in the late 1830s. Two scarred trees can also be found in the

park (Eidelson 1997: 14). These trees are two of the five Aboriginal heritage places protected through the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

Former West Melbourne Swamp and Moonee Ponds Creek. A resource rich area favoured by Aboriginal people and now within the Docklands Area (Presland 1995: 11- 12).

Queen Victoria Market, Council has entered into an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Agreement/Section 173 Agreement on 11 November 1986 with the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Incorporated and Robert Maclellan, Minister for Planning in relation to redevelopment that may have disturbed burials within the area of the former cemetery designated for Aboriginal burials. This site is also an important Aboriginal heritage place.

The *Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS)* sets out the vision, objectives and strategies for managing land use change and development in the City of Melbourne. It provides the basis for the application of local policies, zones, overlays and other provisions in the Melbourne Planning Scheme.

The City of Melbourne has developed an integrated planning framework to ensure that its actions, policies and strategies help achieve the vision for the City expressed in *City Plan 2010*.

In the MSS, cultural heritage is closely linked to urban form and character, recognising that the design of private developments and public spaces, parks and gardens, the provision of infrastructure and the maintenance of civil infrastructure assets have the potential to enhance or damage heritage values. The focus is also on identified places and their setting.

There is no reference in the MSS to Indigenous heritage, even though 5 places are protected under the *Melbourne Planning Scheme*.

Council has also responded to the draft *Aboriginal Heritage Bill 2006*. Council's response identifies issues of relevance to its regulatory planners and points to the *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* as a means by which to identify, acknowledge and celebrate important heritage places.

ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* is to provide a whole of Council approach so that Indigenous culture and heritage can find a true expression within the city. This will benefit Indigenous people by respecting and responding to their needs. It will benefit the wider community by enriching the fabric of the city and the cultural experiences available.

While the City has taken a bold step in its *Statement of Commitment*, there are many issues that need to be addressed through strategies and actions that will arise out of this Framework.

This section looks briefly at objectives relating to these issues. The internal focus represents objectives that affect the internal operations of Council. These include internal systems, information, knowledge and cultural awareness of Councillors and all employees. The external objectives represent the ways in which the City can act to meet the needs of Indigenous people and enhance the awareness of the wider community for example.

Internal focus - Improving current practice

Issue: Working through current constraints and opportunities

Many Council staff are interested in considering Indigenous culture and heritage within their scope of work but don't know 'where to start'.

Notions of Indigenous culture and heritage have not become embedded across Council practice and are often a secondary consideration in decision making.

There is a potential for tension between Council's role as a State leader representing numerous Indigenous voices and its responsibilities to the Indigenous owners of the municipal area.

Issue: Ensuring that Council is engaging with the "right" Indigenous people

There are a number of different Indigenous communities associated with the City of Melbourne. Council needs to meet legislative requirements under the *Act* and at the same time determine which communities have interests and under what circumstances the Council will be required to engage with them.

Multiple groups asserting traditional ownership to the Melbourne area are potentially problematic for Council.

Many Council staff want to consult with and involve Indigenous people but don't always know how.

Issue: Recognising Indigenous heritage and culture

There are large gaps in our knowledge of the Indigenous history of Melbourne and it is therefore likely that many Indigenous places have not been identified.

Council is at this point unaware of the precise implications of the new *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* until such time as the draft regulations are released for comment, due in 2007.

Indigenous perspectives on culture and heritage are not well understood.

Issue: Protecting Indigenous culture

Post-contact period changes, disturbance associated with development, and the lack of a Indigenous Heritage study for Melbourne mean that sites of Indigenous culture heritage which may remain are unknown in terms of type, location, condition and history.

External focus – Supporting and protecting Indigenous culture and heritage, and promoting awareness

Issue: Encouraging recognition and respect

Council has no formal protocols for ‘Welcome to Country’ ceremonies. Council staff are interested in including ‘Welcome to Country’ ceremonies but don’t always know how.

Aboriginal culture and heritage are not highly ‘visible’ in the City of Melbourne.

Indigenous people and organisations may need support to help them engage as partners with the City.

Issue: Making the invisible visible

Visitors to Melbourne and Council staff probably know that Melbourne has an Indigenous cultural heritage but don’t know what “it is” nor how to find out more about it.

Landscape features such as the Yarra River are rich in cultural and historical significance but their story has not been told.

There is little formal interpretation of Indigenous places in Melbourne (such as Langhorne’s Mission or the traditional camping grounds at Government House).

Council staff in areas such as Urban Design want to incorporate Indigenous culture and heritage but don’t know how.

Issue: Supporting Indigenous culture

The Indigenous cultures of south eastern Australia are not as well promoted as the cultures northern, central and Western Australia.

STRATEGIES

Theme 1: Recognition and Respect

Recognition and respect is fundamental to the City of Melbourne's relationship with Indigenous communities: *recognising* the rights of Indigenous peoples (particularly Traditional Owners), their cultural relationships to the land and *respecting* their contribution to the heritage and culture of the City.

The City has commented on and remains keen to participate in the development of the State government's *Indigenous Land Management Framework (ILMF)* and subsequent Aboriginal Land and Resource Development Strategy.

Recognition and respect also means building the capacity of Indigenous communities and organisations to enhance their role as equal partners with the City.

Strategies

Work closely with Indigenous people to enable them to express their continuing cultural relationship with the land that is now the City of Melbourne

Determine protocols for "Welcome to Country" at civic ceremonies

Regularly review key Council documents to ensure they recognise and respect Indigenous people and their contributions to the heritage and culture of the City, and accord with this Framework and the overarching *Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians* and *Memorandum of Understanding* with Reconciliation Victoria.

Work to support and build the capacity of Indigenous communities and organisations.

Participate in the *Indigenous Land Management Framework* project with the Victorian Government.

Outcomes

Processes for recognising Traditional Owners at appropriate occasions and events will build acceptance for and celebration of the fact that the City of Melbourne has Traditional Aboriginal Owners who continue to care for country.

Ongoing commitment to the terms of the *Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians* and working closely with Indigenous people will enhance and develop the City's relationship with Indigenous people. Indigenous communities and organisations will be more able to participate, based on a stronger internal capacity.

Theme 2: Working with Indigenous People

There are number of Indigenous people and communities within, and with an interest in, the City of Melbourne. The City will be required to work with different parts of these communities on different occasions. Melbourne's Indigenous population is culturally diverse.

Strategies

Identify the Indigenous communities within or with an interest in the City of Melbourne.

Determine Indigenous culture and heritage priorities with Indigenous people.

Develop effective working relationships with Traditional Owners and other Indigenous people, as well as protocols to guide Council staff on how and when to seek their participation.

Respect the aspirations of Native Title claimants within the City of Melbourne.

Outcomes

Determining cultural and heritage priorities with Indigenous people will ensure that their needs are heard and acted on.

Understanding with whom and on what occasions the City should consult with Indigenous people will provide clarity of process for all areas of Council and certainty of involvement for Indigenous people.

Theme 3: Conserving and Protecting Indigenous Heritage

Only a small number of places of Aboriginal heritage significance are known in Melbourne and Melbourne's Aboriginal history of the last 150 years remains largely undocumented. There are however opportunities and much is likely to be discovered through oral history and research.

Melbourne's Indigenous heritage places will not be limited to archaeological sites such as scarred trees but will include places from the early days of contact as well as sites of significance from the twentieth century.

Nor are Indigenous heritage values limited to specific places or sites where there is evidence of a past activity or event. Intangible heritage, now recognised by a new UNESCO Convention, includes oral traditions and expressions (including language), performing arts (such as traditional music, dance and theatre), social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship. Such intangible heritage is important to Aboriginal communities as part of their sense of identity and continuity.

The landscape itself can be considered an element of Indigenous heritage, linking the Docklands area to the City and to a much broader cultural and mythological landscape via the Yarra River. It is also possible that Indigenous heritage places may be found in the heart of the City, in some of Melbourne's earliest parks. This theme links with and will provide important information for *Theme 4: Telling the story*.

Undertaking research to identify Indigenous prehistory and history and potential heritage places will enable the City to fulfil its statutory obligations in relation to cultural heritage management, including those anticipated under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. The *Aboriginal Heritage Act* will not come into force until regulations to the *Act* have been finalised and the Federal government in an associated move repeals Schedule IIA of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 1984* (Commonwealth).

Significant changes under the new *Act* mean that certain types of activities will require a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to be undertaken prior to the activity taking place. The list of activities is currently being determined and will form part of the Regulations to the *Act*. The new *Act* will also see decision-making power about Aboriginal heritage moved to Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPS). The RAPS will replace the existing statutory bodies.

More than one RAP may exist for any given area and the City of Melbourne should anticipate the need to work with at least two RAPS once the new *Act* comes into force.

New tools will need to be developed by the City of Melbourne to help respond to the new statutory framework and to protect the places and values likely to be present within the City. The protocol signed between the City of Greater Geelong and the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Operative Ltd offers an example. Council staff will need practical guidelines to help them implement policies designed to protect heritage places and their cultural values.

Strategies

Undertake a comprehensive study to identify places of Indigenous heritage significance

Protect and enhance places of Indigenous significance using the Melbourne Planning Scheme and other tools available to Council

Work with Traditional Owners and other Indigenous people with responsibilities for cultural heritage to develop an Indigenous cultural heritage management and protection protocol for use in development planning and approvals processes within the City of Melbourne.

Recognise, respect and interpret Indigenous heritage values that are attributed to the broader landscape (rather than to a specific place or site).

Recognise Indigenous heritage in future revisions of the Melbourne *Municipal Strategic Statement*.

Be alert to the potential for negative impacts on Indigenous heritage features and/or values in the development of the City, and manage to avoid such impacts.

Outcomes

Undertaking new research - oral and documentary history, analysis of landscape, archaeology and consultation - will provide the City of Melbourne with a more complete understanding of its Aboriginal history and heritage.

Identifying Aboriginal heritage places and values will assist Council in fulfilling its obligations in relation to cultural heritage management, particularly where Council is the owner or manager of the place (eg. public parklands).

These actions will demonstrate the importance of the Melbourne area to Indigenous people, and it will add to everyone's knowledge and understanding. It will create opportunities for interpretation, celebration, education art and events.

Theme 4: Telling the Story

The Indigenous culture and heritage of the City of Melbourne need to be made more visible to all residents, workers and visitors to the City. This would include but not be limited to Indigenous place naming, landscape interpretation and urban design.

Urban design, including public art projects, can help bring Indigenous culture and heritage back into the physical landscape of the City. Interpretation can take many forms and an overall plan developed in consultation with Indigenous people would help explore opportunities. Both public and private developments could benefit, with the City well placed to work with private developers. Major urban revitalisation projects, such as on the city's boulevards and Southbank, may offer specific opportunities.

Place-naming can be a powerful way of raising awareness of Indigenous heritage and culture. A protocol of Indigenous place-naming, including the identification of Indigenous naming themes, a list of words and proposed street naming, has been developed by VicUrban for the Docklands. This work sits within a broader process of place-naming being implemented by VicUrban.

This theme is closely linked to *Theme 3: Conserving and protecting Indigenous Heritage*.

Strategies

Create greater visibility for Indigenous culture through place naming.

Develop an interpretation plan to guide how Indigenous heritage and culture, stories and place connections can be expressed throughout the City's landscape and urban design.

Mark the entry to the City in ways that acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and their culture and heritage.

Actively engage the City's community – residents, property owners, businesses, etc – in the City's commitment to Indigenous culture and heritage.

Deliver information on Indigenous culture and heritage through the Council's public information services: the website, visitor information centre, Ambassadors program, etc.

Outcomes

Raising public awareness of the Indigenous "story" will build knowledge and appreciation for this aspect of the City's culture and heritage.

Theme 5: Celebrating Indigenous Culture

As the capital of Victoria, the City of Melbourne has a unique opportunity to celebrate and raise awareness of local Indigenous culture and the Indigenous cultures of the south-east more broadly. The City's *Arts Strategy 2004 - 07* contains significant initiatives on Indigenous arts and culture.

The City is an important gathering place for Indigenous and other peoples, a place to share ideas, develop new expressions about culture, and to participate in cultural activities and events. As well as the Council, many other cultural and heritage organisations are based in the City and those from elsewhere use the City as a venue for activities that recognise and celebrate Indigenous culture.

Strategies

Raise awareness of the Indigenous culture and art of south eastern Australia through the City's arts initiatives: public art, memorials, festivals; Indigenous Arts grants presentations in outer Melbourne and Regional Victoria (etc)

Support the development of Indigenous art and artists by responding to key issues and structural barriers: for example, advocacy; mentorship's; responding to needs in Regional Victoria; building relationships with Indigenous communities and arts organisations.

Build the Indigenous public art and memorials program through out the central business district.

Create opportunities to foster appreciation of Indigenous heritage and culture through local community events and celebrations throughout the City.

Outcomes

Indigenous art and culture are valued, respected and visible throughout the City. Indigenous artists and art projects are well supported and their contribution to the City's cultural richness and cultural diversity is recognised as integral. Opportunities for cultural exchanges between Indigenous and other people are increased through the City's projects and partnerships with others.

Theme 6: Leading by example

As a State Capital, the City of Melbourne can play an important leadership role. In this capacity it should seek to promote best practice in its approach to Indigenous culture and heritage. This means that the City should strive to be the best it can be in its relationships with Indigenous people, in its respect for culture and heritage, and in its communications with the wider community about these important matters.

Internally, the City needs to make sure its stated commitment to Indigenous heritage and culture is a shared and warmly felt commitment across Councillors and all employees. The organisation should help individuals learn about Indigenous culture and how to work appropriately with Indigenous people. Council will develop proactive mechanisms in giving decision-making responsibilities to Indigenous advisory committees as part of recognising and respecting Indigenous peoples' desires to determine their own priorities around culture and heritage. This may mean establishing resourcing and information systems to support the City's commitment.

Externally, and as a State Capital, the City can play an important role as a model for other municipalities while recognising its unique status within Victoria. Through its own activities as a land and property manager, the City can demonstrate the best ways to protect Indigenous heritage and new ways of bring Indigenous culture into contemporary place-making.

Strategies

Develop and implement Indigenous cultural awareness training for all Council staff and Councillors on an ongoing basis

Create opportunities for Indigenous people to participate in Council decision-making through an advisory structure

Establish protocols and tools to help staff recognise opportunities to involve Indigenous people in Council plans and to establish good working relationships

Ensure that information and policies related to Indigenous Culture and Heritage are readily available to Council staff

Find the right balance between the City's two roles – working with Traditional Owners and other Indigenous people within the municipality and acting as an advocate and a model on the regional, State and national stage to Indigenous people.

Building partnerships with important cultural and heritage organisations to help deliver on the City's commitment to Indigenous people.

Outcomes

A corporate culture that respects and values Indigenous people, their culture and heritage, and a workforce and Council that supports active Indigenous involvement in the City and its governance.

NEXT STEPS

The next steps in the development and finalisation of the draft *Indigenous Culture and Heritage Framework* are to consult widely with Indigenous people, including Traditional Owner groups, and other interested people and organisations about the draft *Framework*. The draft has been developed based on internal consultation across numerous Council branches.

This will take place after the Community Services Committee has received and endorsed the draft and agreed to release it for consultation.

In consulting on the draft Framework, the City will seek to understand:

The needs and aspirations of Traditional Owners, particularly around Indigenous heritage values and places;

The aspirations of Indigenous people more widely, recognising the particular role of the City and its importance;

The views of the community of the City of Melbourne – residents, ratepayers, businesses, organisations – and their aspirations for Indigenous people, their culture and heritage; and

The potential partnerships with organisations with a shared commitment to Indigenous culture and heritage, including Melbourne's cultural institutions and heritage organisations.

One outcome of the consultation process will be the development of an Action Plan that describes how the strategies will be achieved through a series of staged actions over the four year period 2006-2009.

The consultation will occur in the second half of 2006. A final Framework will be prepared and presented to Council by February 2007.

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APPENDIX 1: STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians by the City of Melbourne Acknowledgment and Recognition

- The Council of the City of Melbourne acknowledges that indigenous Australians were the first people of this land and have strived to retain their culture and identity through the period of non-indigenous settlement, for more than two centuries.
- The Council of the City of Melbourne acknowledges and respects the customs and traditions of indigenous Australians and their special relationship with the land.
- The Council of the City of Melbourne acknowledges the right of indigenous Australians to live according to their own values and customs, subject to Australian law.
- The Council recognises the valuable contribution to Victoria made by Koorie people and will work towards a future of mutual respect and harmony.
- The Council recognises the value of the diversity and strength of indigenous cultures to the heritage of all Australians.
- The Council of the City of Melbourne recognises that family life is the core of Aboriginal community life and that these family relationships, linkages and obligations involve particular sets of social and cultural obligations.

Council Advocates in Conjunction with the Koorie Community

- The ideal of reconciliation with indigenous Australians in the context of redressing their serious social and economic disadvantage;
- Indigenous and non-indigenous people working together for a treaty or other instrument of reconciliation;
- A commitment to the elimination of racism or discrimination ensuring the right of all our community to enjoy equal rights and be treated with equal respect;
- Recognition and protection of and respect for Koorie sacred sites and special places;
- The education of the broader community about Aboriginal heritage and culture and the impact upon it of non-indigenous settlement of this country;
- Advocacy on behalf of indigenous members of our community to ensure the principles; and
- commitments of this statement are upheld.

Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians by the City of Melbourne In consultation with the local Koorie community, the Council will:

- Promote and present Koorie cultural heritage, in a way that is sympathetic and responsive to the outcomes desired by the Koorie Community;

- Identify and protect sites of Koorie cultural significance within Melbourne City through the Melbourne Planning Scheme;
- Encourage applications from Koorie businesses for assistance in the establishment or growth of enterprises within Melbourne City, acknowledging the guidelines of the Small Business Development Fund;
- Consider Koorie naming of appropriate places within Melbourne City;
- Provide Koorie Cultural heritage and business information through its information distribution channels;
- Adopt a Koorie ceremony of welcome as an integral part of the City's formal ceremonial welcome on appropriate civic occasions;
- Highlight on the "Welcome to Melbourne" signage at the main entrances to the City, the traditional Koorie identity of the land on which the City of Melbourne is located;
- Invite participation of and consultation with local Koorie representatives, in the formal processes of local governance, through such avenues as the Aboriginal Consultative Group;
- Educate its own employees about the City of Melbourne Reconciliation Program;
- Investigate the prospect of Aboriginal participation in the Graduate and School Leaver Schemes;
- Ensure regular reporting, program evaluation and an annual update and reaffirmation of the commitment to these initiatives; and
- Seek advice and take effective action on issues of social and community concern, where they lie within the sphere of interest and responsibility of local government.

NOTES FROM FIRST INTERNAL WORKSHOP

Culture

- Unmet demand
- Contemporary Practice/Innovation
- Beliefs
- Sharing
- Embracing
- Everywhere...But not Difficult to discover
- Diverse
- Important works of art
- Everyone's heritage
- Profile
- Everything
- Aboriginal community business
- Unlimited
- Values
- Indigenous languages – as cultural identifiers and loss
- Everywhere
- Hidden
- A variety of Victoria indigenous people/groups identify with Melbourne as a place

Heritage

- People and personalities
- Bringing history to life
- Traditional
- Contemporary
- Significant
- Spiritual
- Connection
- Ownership
- Land
- Sites
- Historical
- Sense of place
- Sense of culture
- Physical connection
- Spiritual connection
- Land ownership
- Protection
- Self management
- Promotion of indigenous Melbourne
- Past heritage
- Culture now
- Long time
- Line (past into future)
- Contact period
- Cultural destabilisation/ loss/relocation
- Underlying framework
- Misunderstood
- Place names
- Natural features and landscape
- Place names (intro)
-

- Needs the 'voice' of indigenous people to be meaningful
- Contact history – accurate and detailed
- Indigenous heritage walking trail
- Sites not yet identified, incl. cultural landscapes and natural features
- Importance of the Yarra and other river systems
- Whose heritage
- Lacking visibility and navigation
- Opportunities for joint work – Council and community
- Remnant archaeological feature (scar trees)
- Important sites in the city
- Recent (belated) recognition of important sites (Birrarrung Marr)
- Limited
- Interpretation around city areas

FINANCE ATTACHMENT

INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND HERITAGE FRAMEWORK

There are no direct financial implications for Council arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

Joe Groher
Manager Financial Services

LEGAL ATTACHMENT

INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND HERITAGE FRAMEWORK

This report is requesting that Council endorse the draft *Indigenous Cultural and Heritage Framework 2006-2009* for release and a period of public consultation. No direct legal issues arise.

Section 3C(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (“the Act”) provides that:

“The primary objective of a Council is to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions.”

Section 3D(2) of the Act sets out that the role of a Council includes:

“(a) acting as a representative government by taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision making;”

The subject matter of the report and the recommendation are within the functions and powers of the Council.

Kim Wood
Manager Legal Services