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Date of Council meeting: * Tuesday 28 September 2021

Agenda item title: * 6.1 Advance our commitment to Reconciliation – Declaration of Recognition and Commitment

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Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

Dear City of Melbourne

This is a written response in regards to Agenda Item 6.1 Advance our commitment to Reconciliation – Declaration of Recognition and Commitment.

City of Melbourne is maintaining the momentum of furthering the reconciliation process.

It is important to recognise that south of the Yarra is Boonwurrung country and north of the Yarra is Wurundjeri country.

In the preamble at meetings it is important that the City of Melbourne acknowledges the Kulin Nation.

Aiming for truth telling in regards to what has occurred in Victoria's history can be confronting, but it is essential for a proper reconciliation that this occurs. The impact of colonisation on the tribes of the Kulin Nation is immense. This impact is still being felt today. The tribes endure. They have strength and determination to move forward in a great and positive way to Treaty. Genuine steps are being taken towards Treaty.

Although much progress has been made, there is still a lot of work ahead. Recognition that First Nation tribes have been here for thousand and thousands of years is important.

The history of the stolen generation and the missions must be remembered and acknowledged.

Took the children away is a song that was a revelation for many people. Did that actually happen?

Language and culture of First Nation tribes should be respected.

It is vital that respect is paid to Elders of Tribes, past and present and to recognise and acknowledge emerging leaders.

Thanks to the Lord Mayor Sally Capp and the City of Melbourne for the commitment to the reconciliation process.

Best regards

Chris Thrum