

	<p><b>Council Policy</b></p> <p><b>A Commitment by Lake Macquarie City Council to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People of Lake Macquarie City</b></p>	
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# Policy

## 1. Policy Objectives

To endorse Council's continuing commitment to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Lake Macquarie City.

## 2. Policy Statement

### **A Commitment by Lake Macquarie City Council to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People of Lake Macquarie City.**

#### **Acknowledgments**

Lake Macquarie City Council acknowledges that Aboriginal people, in this area, the Awabakal, were the first people of this land, and are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of continuing dispossession.

Council recognises that European occupation brought massive changes to the land and its people.

As a vital step towards building a just and common future, Council recognises the sense of loss and the grief held by all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the alienation from their traditional land, the loss of their freedom, their lives, their languages, their health and the disruption of their cultural practices.

Council respects the rights of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to pursue their own values and culture.

#### **Commitments**

Lake Macquarie City Council recognises that within this City, many cultures reside. This includes the Awabakal people and many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the nation. Therefore, in consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Council commits to:-

- Denouncing racism directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and will take action to combat racism within its capacity.
- Recognising the vital importance and the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to strengthening and enriching our City and region.
- Respecting and conserving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practices, traditional sites, and significant places.
- Promoting activities, which increase cultural sensitivity and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Supporting an agreement between the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and other community members for the care of the local environment.
- Working towards the recovery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language, health, cultural practices and lost kinship.
- Looking towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture for practical knowledge, which could help to secure a sustainable future.

- Supporting reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and persons within the wider community.
- Promoting the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Promoting the advancement of economic development through supporting and advocating community business initiatives.

Lake Macquarie City Council, in conjunction with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, has developed an Aboriginal Community Plan to redress disadvantages for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this community. Council recognises the positive contribution made by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and look forward to a future of mutual respect and harmony.

Regardless of change in election to the Councillors of Lake Macquarie City, the Commitment stands and will be reviewed within 12 months of a newly elected Council.

## Controlled Document Information

### Authorisation Details

<b>Folder No:</b>	F2005/02384	<b>TRIM Record No:</b>	D08370824
<b>Audience:</b>	External - All Staff and residents of Lake Macquarie		
<b>Department:</b>	Community Planning		
<b>Officer:</b>	Aboriginal Community Development Officer - Maree Edwards		
<b>Review Timeframe:</b> Max < 4 years	4 Years	<b>Next Scheduled Review Date:</b>	26 June 2021
<b>Authorisation:</b>	Adopted by Council - 26 June 2017		
<b>REPOL Date of Endorsement:</b>	13 June 2017	<b>REPOL Report TRIM Record No:</b>	D08372818
<b>Authorisation - Council Adoption Date:</b>	26 June 2017		

### Related Document Information, Standards & References

<b>Related Legislation:</b>	(Legislation Name)	(Relationship/Context)
<b>Related Policies (Council &amp; Internal):</b>	(Policy Name)	(Relationship/Context)
<b>Related Procedures, Guidelines, Forms, WHS Modules/PCD's, Risk Assessments, Work Method Statements:</b>	(Document Name)	(Relationship/Context)
<b>Standards COP's &amp; Other References</b>	(Standard, COP or Other References)	(Relationship/Context)

### Definitions

Term / Abbreviation	Definition

### Consultation (update for each version created)

<b>Key Departments, Teams, Positions, Meetings:</b>	Local Aboriginal Land Council's, Communication Department and External Community Consultation
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### Version History

Version No.	Date Changed	Modified By	Details / Comments
2	12/12/05	R Oerlemans	Deleted reference to 'Worimi people'
3	30/04/13	Maree Edwards	Added new commitment - 'Promotes the advancement of economic development through supporting and advocating community business initiatives.'

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			<p>Added new paragraph - 'Lake Macquarie City Council recognises that within this City, many cultures reside. This includes the Awabakal people and many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the nation.'</p> <p>Altered second last paragraph – from 'will develop' to 'has developed an Aboriginal Community Plan 2012-2015...'</p> <p>Deleted word 'indigenous' and inserted 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' in place throughout the document.</p> <p>Removed reference to 'Aboriginal Consultative Committee' – replaced with 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community'.</p> <p>Removed 'at the commencement of the' – replaced with 'within 12 months'.</p> <p>Removed 'or mid-term when requested by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community'.</p> <p>Made grammatical changes within the commitment paragraphs.</p>
4	12/05/2017	S. McAlister	Removed reference to specific Aboriginal Community Plan 2012-2015, to reference that Council has developed and will update its Aboriginal Community Plan