



Indigenous Statement

Cultural Protocols

Cultural Protocols refer to the customs, lore and codes of behaviour of a particular group. Protocols are an important part of all cultures and exist to ensure people behave and interact in an appropriate manner.

Showing respect for the cultural protocols of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community demonstrates acceptance of the cultural traditions, history and diversity of that particular community and it also acknowledges the processes and procedure of non-Indigenous communities are equally valid and demands the same respect as one's own cultural protocols.

By incorporating Aboriginal cultural protocols into official events we are able to:

- recognise and pay respect to Aboriginal peoples, cultures and heritage
- communicate Aboriginal cultural practices to the wider community to promote respect and understanding
- demonstrate recognition of Aboriginal people's unique position which can assist in building relationships and partnerships

Traditional owners and custodians are the terms used to describe the original Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people of this land.

Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the descendants of the traditional owners/custodians and have an on-going spiritual and cultural connection to the land and waterways where their ancestors lived and practiced lore, law and ceremonies.

Example of Club Indigenous Statement

[Surf Club Name] acknowledges that we are gathering and working on Aboriginal land and recognises the strength, resilience and capacity of Aboriginal people on this land. We would like to acknowledge all of the traditional owners of the land and pay respect to Aboriginal Elders past and present.

Some organisations are now including their Indigenous statement on their webpage, usually at the bottom of the home page. Some food for thought.

There are two ways in which you can acknowledge the Aboriginal traditional custodians of the land.

Welcome to Country Ceremony

A “Welcome to Country” or “Traditional Welcome” ceremony is where an Aboriginal descendant or elected representative of the local Aboriginal group welcomes people in attendance to their land prior to a meeting, event or function.

Recent Welcome to Country ceremonies are a modern version of a traditional ceremony that enables the custodians of the land to give their consent for the activity to take place of their lands and is a mark of respect from the organisers to the local Aboriginal community.

Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country is where non-Indigenous people or an Aboriginal person who is not from the local area performs an Acknowledgement to Country to acknowledge and show respect to the traditional owners and custodians of the land and, like a Welcome to Country, is conducted prior to meetings, events and functions.

The following is considered an example of the appropriate wording for an Acknowledgement of Country, as endorsed by the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council:

*'I would like to acknowledge that we are here today on the land of the **[Name of Traditional Owners]** peoples who traditionally occupied this land. On behalf of **[Surf Club Name]**, I acknowledge Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people attending today and I pay my respects to Elders past and present'.*

Councils and Contacts

Randwick Council

The traditional custodians of the eastern Sydney coastal area are known as the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples of the Eora nation who traditionally occupied the Sydney coast.

Council's Community Project Officer

Email: Sharron.smith@randwick.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 1300 722 542

Sutherland Shire & Royal National Park

The Gweagal people, a Dharawal speaking clan are the traditional custodians of lands of the Royal National Park and the Sutherland Shire.

The first point of contact for council is La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council (details below) or

Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation

Email: manager@kurranulla.org.au or admin@kurranulla.org.au

Phone: 9528 0287 / 0435 347 566 or 0447 579 900

Waverley Council

Waverley Council acknowledges the Bidjigal and Gadigal people who traditionally occupied the Sydney coast.

Community Development Officer- Diversity

Email: adminmillhill@waverley.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 9083 8999

La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council

The La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council provides a number of services as listed below. To book these services, please complete the appropriate form and send it to admin@laperouse.org.au

Culture & Heritage Advice - As people with cultural connection to coastal Sydney, we are in a position to provide advice on all cultural and heritage-related matters in the region. For more information, email admin@laperouse.org.au

Site Surveys - the Land Council provides services to excavation, bush walking, wet sieving and other tasks. [Site Survey request form](#)

Welcome to Country – A Welcome to Country is where an Aboriginal custodian or elder from the local region welcomes people to their land. This may be done through speech, song, dance or ceremony. [Welcome to Country booking form](#)

For more information about the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council (LPLALC) – their history, mission, values etc. visit their website <https://www.laperouse.org.au/> or call their office on (02) 9311 4282.