

## Nyoongar Acknowledgement Policy

### Policy scope

Nyoongar acknowledgement at public meetings helps promote greater appreciation of Aboriginal culture in the wider community, show respect for Aboriginal people living in local government areas, and can lead to better community relationships to assist the reconciliation process.

This document provides information for appropriate acknowledgements to be used by the City of Fremantle.

### Policy statement

#### Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement

##### Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country involves a traditional owner (a Whadjuk person described as having descended from the ancestors named on the Whadjuk People Native Title claim) welcoming people to their land, usually at the opening of significant events.

1. A Whadjuk Elder from the Fremantle/Walyalup area will be invited whenever possible to deliver Welcome to Country ceremonies for City of Fremantle.
2. In the event a Whadjuk Elder is not available then an Acknowledgement statement should be made.

##### Acknowledgement Statement

An acknowledgement statement is a way the wider community can acknowledge the culture and ongoing relationship of traditional peoples to land and sea of an area, even when a Whadjuk Elder is not present. It is a symbolic gesture as part of the ongoing reconciliation process and can be used by City of Fremantle representatives at Council meetings, events or functions.

1. Whadjuk Acknowledgement statements may be incorporated into City of Fremantle's everyday activities, such as general meetings, formal gatherings, functions, small ceremonies, or other Council events. Acknowledgement statements may also be incorporated in the agenda and minutes of meetings.
2. An "Acknowledgement Statement" may occur when Traditional Owners are not available to provide an official "Welcome to Country".

3. The following Statement of Acknowledgement has been endorsed by the City of Fremantle Walyalup Reconciliation Action Plan Reference Group for use in the Fremantle/Walyalup Area.

“The City of Fremantle acknowledges the Whadjuk people as the traditional owners of the greater Fremantle/Walyalup area and we recognise that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important today.”

4. In other instances, employees may exercise discretion in using the provisions of this policy.

## Definitions and abbreviations

**Significant Event** – May Include festivals, parades, conferences or seminars, citizenship ceremonies and other events considered to be significant by the Chief Executive Officer.

<b>Responsibility and review information</b>	
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