



NOTICE OF ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Aboriginal Liaison Committee Meeting of Snowy Valleys Council will be held in the Tumut Room located on the 1st Floor of the Riverina Highlands Building, 76 Capper Street, Tumut on, **Wednesday, 19 September, 2018**, commencing at **10:00 AM**.

Distribution: 16	Present:	Apology:	Absent:
Clr G Pritchard (Delegate)			
Community Dev. Team Rep. (Delegate)			
Sue Bulger - Elder			
Margaret Berg – Elder			
Coral Bulger – AECG			
Winnie Bulger – Tumut High School			
Meegan Cameron			
Lenard Connolly – Community Health			
Pat Connolly – Elder			
Mary Greenhalgh – Brungle/Tumut LALC			
Shirley Marlowe – Community Transport			
Sonia Piper – Elder			
Stan Russell – Coo-ee Cottage			
Cathy Williams – Community Rep.			
Mary Williams – Community Rep.			
Public			

Business

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes
3. Business arising from Minutes
4. Committee Reports
5. Correspondence
6. General Business

M Hyde
General Manager



ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING – AGENDA

Wednesday, 19 September, 2018, commencing at 10:00 AM.

APOLOGIES

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING/S-

- . Aboriginal Liaison Committee Meeting – 18/07/2018 3

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REPORTABLE POLITICAL DONATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- . Aboriginal Liaison Committee - Matters for September 2018 11

GENERAL BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date is scheduled to be held 21 November 2018.

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MEETING COMMENCEMENT: 3.50pm

PRESENT:

Participants:	Present:	Apology:	Absent:
Clr G Pritchard (Delegate)	X		
Community Dev. Team Rep. (Delegate)	X		
Sue Bulger - Elder	X		
Margaret Berg – Elder			X
Coral Bulger – AECG		X	
Winnie Bulger – Tumut High School		X	
Meegan Cameron		X	
Lenard Connolly – Community Health			X
Pat Connolly – Elder			X
Mary Greenhalgh – Brungle/Tumut LALC	X		
Shirley Marlowe – Community Transport	X		
Sonia Piper – Elder			X
Stan Russell – Coo-ee Cottage			X
Cathy Williams – Community Rep.			X
Mary Williams – Community Rep.			X

Council staff in attendance were **Trudy Crawford** .

APOLOGIES:

AL05. RESOLVED that the apologies from Winnie Bulger, Coral Bulger and Meegan Cameron be received.

Sue Bulger / Shirley Marlowe

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

AL06. RESOLVED that the minutes of the **Aboriginal Liaison Committee** held on **09-May-2018** be accepted as read.

Mary Greenhalgh / Geoff Pritchard

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- Minutes are to be tabled as general discussion and no personal names to be mentioned next to items.
- Geoff Pritchard resigned as Deputy Chairperson of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee. Nominations from the floor were called for. Sue Bulger nominated Shirley Marlowe as the deputy chairperson for the next 12 months.

ALC07. RESOLVED that Shirley Marlowe be elected as the Deputy Chairperson of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee for the next 12 months.

Sue Bulger / Mary Greenhalgh

- Times of meetings were discussed and to be changed to 10am.

ALC08. RESOLVED that meetings of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee be held at 10am on the third Wednesday of the month.

Shirley Marlowe / Sue Bulger

DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REPORTABLE POLITICAL DONATIONS:

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Aboriginal Liaison Committee (.)

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Sue Bulger welcomed all present to the Aboriginal Liaison Committee.

Adopted Aboriginal Liaison Committee Terms of Reference

Some changes were made to the Aboriginal Liaison Committee (attached).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the amended Aboriginal Liaison Committee Terms of Reference with the following changes:

Point 8(a) – Change meeting time to 10am.

Shirley Marlowe / Sue Bulger

MoU between the Aboriginal Community and Snowy Valleys Council

The MoU will be discussed at meetings with the Aboriginal Community in the next two months and brought back to the Aboriginal Liaison Committee for discussion at the September meeting. The MoU has been provided to the Brungle Tumut Local Aboriginal Community for distribution and discussion at meetings.

NAIDOC Week 2018

A successful program of events was undertaken for NAIDOC. The Art Exhibition will remain at the Tumut Library until the end of July. The Flag raising in Tumut is growing in numbers each year and the Brungle Tumut Lands Council is the appropriate place to host the flag raising with the morning tea at the Library. The Flag raising in Tumberumba would be best as just an informal flag raising followed by a morning tea. The evening with Nova Peris was well attended.

Snowy Valleys Council Acknowledgement of Country

The wording of the Snowy Valleys Council Acknowledgement of Country will be discussed at meetings with the Aboriginal Community in the next two months and brought back to the Aboriginal Liaison Committee for discussion at the September meeting.

Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy

The Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy will be discussed at meetings with the Aboriginal Community in the next two months and brought back to the

Aboriginal Liaison Committee for discussion at the September meeting. The MoU has been provided to the Brungle Tumut Local Aboriginal Community for distribution and discussion at meetings.

Training Opportunities for Young Aboriginal People

Geoff Pritchard and Sue Bulger liaised with Robyn Harvey and Jerry Mooketsi regarding applying for Elsa Dixon funding for Local Government Cadetships.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th September at 10am.

CLOSED:

The meeting closed at 4.50pm.



**DRAFT Aboriginal Liaison
Committee**

Terms of Reference

ToR No: SVC-TofR-09-01

1. NAME

The name of the Committee is the Aboriginal Liaison Committee.

2. STATUS

Being an advisory committee, the Aboriginal Liaison Committee does not have executive power or authority to direct staff nor does it enjoy the delegation of any powers, functions or duties of Council.

3. DELEGATION

All decisions of the Committee will, therefore, constitute recommendations to Council and other major stakeholders where relevant.

42. PURPOSE

The purpose of the committee is to:

- Provide a forum for discussion between Council and the Aboriginal Community of the Snowy Valleys Council on key issues.

53. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Aboriginal Liaison Committee is a committee of Council responsive to community needs. The effectiveness of the committee depends on community support.

- To report on activities and functions in the community.
- To raise the profile of aboriginal issues within the Shire.
- To facilitate partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and community members ~~in the Council~~ to assist in the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan.

6. DECISION MAKING

It is intended that the Committee will make decisions based on consensus. If it is not possible to arrive at a consensus on a particular item the recommendation to Council should note the dissenting views.

7. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE

a) STRUCTURE / MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall be comprised of citizen/community representatives, the General Manager or nominated delegate and one Councillor. It is desirable that there is a representation from the entire Shire, a reasonable gender balance and age distribution on the Committee.

b) APPOINTMENT AND SELECTION OF MEMBERS

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The Snowy Valleys Council will call for applications from community members within the Council area for all community member positions.

The applications will be assessed on their merit and suitable persons will be appointed to the Aboriginal Liaison Committee by Snowy Valleys Council. Persons can be self-nominated, or can represent a group or organisation.

c) TERM

The term should be in line with the term of Council. Any vacancies which occur will be advertised and appointed from nominations received or in the case of an organisation that group can nominate a replacement representative.

Members of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee may cease to hold office:

- By death, mental incapacitation or by serving of a criminal sentence;
- If the member provides a written resignation;
- If a member is absent from three consecutive meetings (with or without apology), without having obtained a formal leave of absence.

d) CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson shall be elected by the committee by a simple majority vote taken from members present at the first meeting of each calendar year and shall serve a term of one year.

The Deputy Chairperson shall be elected by the committee by a simple majority vote taken from members present at the first meeting of each calendar year and shall serve a term of one year.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson shall chair that meeting.

e) SECRETARIAT

A staff member from Snowy Valleys Council Community Development Team shall perform the Secretariat duties for the Committee.

f) COUNCIL STAFF MEMBERS ON COMMITTEES

Snowy Valleys Council staff members who attend Committee meetings shall:

- Not be considered as part of the quorum;
- Have no voting rights
- Not be able to enact the role of Chairperson or Vice Chairperson at any meeting;
- Be considered as an ex-officio member of the committee at all times.

g) PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee must, having reviewed the agenda for a meeting, or when becoming aware of a potential conflict of interest or pecuniary interest in any matters being discussed by the Committee, immediately advise the Chairperson.

The Committee member must refrain from participating in the discussion and if deemed appropriate by the voting members present, leave the meeting whilst the matter is discussed and not participate in any decision making related to the issue. The interest will be recorded in the minutes.

h) QUORUM

A quorum of the Committee will be 4 of appointed voting members present.

If a quorum is not reached within 10 minutes of the appointed starting time, the meeting shall:

- a) be adjourned to a time determined by the Chairperson in consultation with the staff member performing Secretariat duties to ensure that the adjourned time does not clash with other scheduled meetings or;
- b) continue as an Inquorate discussion (refer 5i).

i) INQUORATE MEETINGS

In the event that a meeting does not have the required quorum, those members present can determine whether they would like to continue with the meeting as an Inquorate Discussion.

In this case, recommendations for decisions cannot be made, but can be carried forward to subsequent meetings where a quorum is present.

Minutes of an inquorate discussion must take the form of Inquorate Discussion Notes. The members present at an inquorate discussion cannot put or carry any motion or resolution.

j) DECISIONS AND VOTING

The Committee's business is conducted on a simple majority vote by those appointed members present.

Each appointed member of the Committee present at any meeting shall have one vote on any matter.

Major decisions and recommendations will be referred to Council for adoption prior to implementation by the Committee.

The Committee shall make recommendations to Council on matters that relate to the objectives of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee for the Snowy Valleys Shire. Only those Councillors appointed to the Aboriginal Liaison Committee have voting rights.

k) ATTENDANCE OF NON MEMBERS

The Committee may, at its discretion, allow non-members, observers and advisers to attend meetings of the committee to facilitate exchange of information and to provide specialist advice and counsel to the Committee.

l) WORKING GROUPS

The Committee is able to form a Working Group as required to address specific issues or undertake specific activities. The Working Group must report to each Committee meeting.

Non-members may be co-opted to a working group. A member of the Committee shall act in the capacity of Chairperson of the working group.

The Committee shall determine a statement of the purpose/objectives, responsibilities and tasks to be achieved by the Working Group at the time that it is formed.

8. COMMITTEE OPERATION AND MEETINGS

a) MEETINGS

Meetings will be held bi-monthly ~~at 3.30pm~~ on the third Wednesday of the month, at the Riverina Highlands Building, Tumut.

b) SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson, or at least two voting members of the Committee in consultation with the Secretariat to avoid potential clashes.

c) NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The Notice of Meeting will be provided to each Committee member in writing, setting out the date, time and place of the meeting; and be accompanied by a business paper which includes an agenda for the meeting, minutes of the previous meeting and any reports to the Committee.

The agenda for ordinary meetings of the committee will be provided to members of the Committee at least three working days prior to the meetings.

A minimum of twenty four hours notice shall be given for any Special meetings of the Committee.

A copy of the notice of meeting, agenda and accompanying reports shall be placed on public exhibition at the Council office, Council website and libraries.

d) MINUTES

Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of the Committee and any working group. Each Committee members will receive copies of the minutes with the notice of meeting for the next meeting.

Other arrangements to receive minutes from the meetings can be made by resolution of the voting members of the Committee.

The minutes shall be confirmed at the next committee meeting with or without amendments.

Copies of the minutes will be supplied to Council before its next meeting following that of the Committee if recommendations are included.

e) MEETING PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOL

The procedures and protocols to be observed at the Committee meetings are those of the Code of Meeting Practice was established in accordance with the provisions of Section 360(2) Local Government Act of 1993.

9. SUPPORT AND RESOURCING THE COMMITTEE

Council will provide administrative services and other resources, including a venue, preparation and distribution of agendas/minutes) to support the function of the Committee and any working groups.

10. MEDIA COMMENT AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The Committee has no delegated authority to make comments to the media on behalf of the Committee without the express permission of the General Manager.

The Committee does not have the authority to make comments on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council.

Members of the Committee should appreciate that the Committee may, from time to time, deal with sensitive matters of a confidential nature. The confidentiality of such information should be respected by all members.

11. DOCUMENTATION / COUNCIL AND EXTERNAL REFERENCES

Snowy Valleys Council Code of Meeting Practice was established in accordance with the provisions of Section 360(2) Local Government Act of 1993. The objective of the Code is to provide procedures and standards for the proper, conduct of Council business and decision making.

Snowy Valleys Council Code of Conduct sets the minimum requirements of conduct for council officials in carrying out their functions. The Model Code is prescribed by regulation and was developed to assist council officials understand the standards of conduct that are expected of them.

12. AMENDING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Recommendations for amendments to the Terms of Reference can be made at any time provided that suggested changes are noted on the Agenda, a quorum is present at the meeting and the majority of voting members present support the recommendation.

Amendments to the Terms of Reference must be approved by Snowy Valleys Council.

13. DISSOLUTION

Council may at any time dissolve the Committee.

14. LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

In accordance with Division 2 Section 731 of the Local Government Act 1993, A matter or thing done by the Minister, the Director-General, a council, a councillor, a member of a committee of the council or an employee of the council or any person acting under the direction of the Minister, the Director-General, the council or a committee of the council does not, if the matter or thing was done in good faith for the purpose of executing this or any other Act, and for and on behalf of the Minister, the Director-General, the council or a committee of the council, subject a councillor, a member, an employee or a person so acting personally to any action, liability, claim or demand.

15. SUPERSEDING POLICY NO AND TITLE

Aboriginal Liaison Committee Terms of Reference, ToR No: 01, Version: 1.4

16. TERMS OF REFERENCE PREPARED AND AMENDED BY:

Coordinator Community Development

17. HISTORY TABLE

Version No	Approval Date	Resolution Number	Date to be Reviewed
1.0	24 May 2018	M142/18	01/07/2020

REPORT NUMBER: ALC1
SUBJECT: Aboriginal Liaison Committee - Matters for
September 2018 (.)
REPORT AUTHOR: Trudy Crawford
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER: GEORGIA MACDOUGALL

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To present current Aboriginal Liaison Committee
matters for discussion

KEY ISSUES

- 1. MoU between the Aboriginal Community and Snowy Valleys Council**
- 2. Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy**
- 3. Snowy Valleys Council Acknowledgement of Country**

BACKGROUND

MoU between the Aboriginal Community and Snowy Valleys Council

At the Aboriginal Liaison Committee held 9th May the MoU between the Aboriginal Community and Snowy Valleys Council was reviewed and changes made. The revised MoU was distributed to the Community through the Brungle Tumut Local Aboriginal Lands Council for comment. The MoU is attached for further discussion.

Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy

At the Aboriginal Liaison Committee held 18th July the Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy was reviewed. The Policy was distributed to the Community through the Brungle Tumut Local Aboriginal Lands Council for comment. The Policy is attached for further discussion.

Snowy Valleys Council Acknowledgement of Country

At the Aboriginal Liaison Committee held 18th July the wording for the Snowy Valleys Council Acknowledgement of Country within the MoU between the Aboriginal Community and Snowy Valleys Council was reviewed. This wording is:

"I would like to acknowledge that we are in Wiradjuri, Wolgalu and Ngarigo Country and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this area, and to pay respect to leaders past and present"

The Acknowledgement wording was distributed to the Community through the Brungle Tumut Local Aboriginal Lands Council for comment and is to be discussed at this meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council provide the community the opportunity to review and comment on the draft MoU between the Aboriginal Community and Snowy Valleys Council, and draft Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy by placing the documents on public exhibition for the period of 28 days.

ATTACHMENTS

1. MoU between the Aboriginal Community and Snowy Valleys Council
2. Draft Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys
And
Snowy Valleys Council**

Introduction

Snowy Valleys Council acknowledges that Aboriginal Australians were the first people of this land and that Wiradjuri, Wolgalu and Ngarigo people have a special association with this region.

Snowy Valleys Council accepts and acknowledges:

- that in order to address the issues that challenge us today, we must first acknowledge the past, including the forced removal and separation of Aboriginal peoples from their traditional lands and their cultural connections through customs and practices and the removal of Aboriginal children from their families, the effects of which continue today.
- the potential lasting effects for current local Aboriginal descendants resulting from some Government policies and community practice, as well as the stolen generation
- the shared responsibility of all Australians to respect and encourage the development of an awareness of each other's heritage and culture.
- that the heritage, culture, sacred sites and special places of Wiradjuri, Wolgalu and Ngarigo enrich our region and LGA.

Snowy Valleys Council expresses its sincere sorrow and compassion for the pain, the grief and the suffering experienced by Aboriginal peoples as a result of past laws, government policies and actions.

Snowy Valleys Council and the Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys acknowledge that there is a mutual obligation to this Memorandum of Understanding and it requires both parties to work towards success of this Memorandum of Understanding as a representation of Aboriginal and local government unity.

Statement of Commitment

Snowy Valleys Council supports:

- The rights of all Indigenous peoples as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People 1993 of which Australia has supported in 1997; and
- The vision as expressed by the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation of a united Australia which respects this land of ours, values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and provides justice and equality of all.
- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No.169, Article 3(1) of which it states "Indigenous and tribal peoples shall enjoy the full measure of human rights and fundamental freedoms without hindrance or discrimination", of which the National Congress of First Peoples supports the ratification and implementation of ILO 169 by Australia in 2011, as an important step towards respecting the cultures and ways of life of Indigenous peoples, rights to land and natural resources, and rights to determine priorities for development.

- The Convention of Biological Diversity which Australia has implemented through environmental legislation, The EPBC Act and subsequent state and local legislation, regulations and policies; and in particular Article 8(j) of parties to respect, preserve and maintain traditional knowledge relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; and Article 10(c) protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices.

Snowy Valleys Council is committed to:

- Participating in processes which enhance the understanding and awareness of Aboriginal heritage and preserves and presents that heritage in a sensitive and dignified manner; and
- Adopting and promoting policies and programs which are non-discriminatory and which recognise the needs of our Aboriginal community; and
- Being representative of all members of our community in ensuring that the principles and commitments of this Memorandum of Understanding are upheld.

Snowy Valleys Council agrees to:

1. Hold a 'Welcome to Country' ceremony at appropriate civic occasions in line with the Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy. This ceremony is to be performed by one or more local elders of the Snowy Valleys Council. When a local Aboriginal elder is not in attendance Snowy Valleys Council agrees to 'Acknowledge that we are in Wiradjuri, Wolgalu and Ngarigo Country and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this area, and to pay respect to elders past and present" at each Snowy Valleys Council formal occasion.

The Local Aboriginal Community agrees to:

1. Conduct a 'Welcome to Country' ceremony at appropriate civic occasions subject to an agreed cultural protocol. This ceremony is to be performed by one or more local elders of the Snowy Valleys Council where in attendance.

Snowy Valleys Council agrees to:

2. As part of the process of unity, Snowy Valleys Council agrees to celebrate declared Aboriginal ceremonies and events, including Sorry Day, Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week.

The Local Aboriginal Community agrees to:

2. Provide input into the planning and organising of declared Aboriginal ceremonies and events.

Snowy Valleys Council agrees to:

3. As part of the process of unity, Snowy Valleys Council agrees to fly the Aboriginal flag at Council's main offices in Tumut and Tumbarumba on a work day basis.

The Local Aboriginal Community agrees to:

3. Conduct a flag raising ceremony as a part of NAIDOC Week.

Snowy Valleys Council agrees to:

4. Involve Aboriginal people in appropriate civic events which Snowy Valleys Council arranges and coordinates.

The Local Aboriginal Community agrees to:

4. Be involved in appropriate civic events which Snowy Valleys Council arranges and coordinates.

Snowy Valleys Council agrees to:

5. Assist, encourage and promote employment opportunities for Aboriginal people both in its own workforce and in the broader community.

The Local Aboriginal Community agrees to:

5. Aboriginal elders and community support and mentor Aboriginal employment and education.

Snowy Valleys Council agrees to:

6. Make appropriate consultation with the Elders Group, and the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council relating to projects/programs concerning the Aboriginal community of Snowy Valleys Council.

The Local Aboriginal Community agrees to:

6. The Aboriginal Elders group and the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council will work with Council on projects/programs concerning the Aboriginal community of Snowy Valleys Council.

Snowy Valleys Council agrees to:

7. Develop a greater community understanding of Aboriginal culture in the Snowy Valleys Council by fostering opportunities for Aboriginal cultural tourism.

The Local Aboriginal Community agrees to:

7. Continue to demonstrate their support of Snowy Valleys Council by promoting and communicating relevant Aboriginal cultural tourism opportunities and interests.

Snowy Valleys Council agrees to:

8. Develop in consultation with the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council criteria for when to refer development applications to the Land Council for comment.

The Local Aboriginal Community agrees to:

8. Work with Council to develop criteria for when development applications will be referred to the Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council for comment.

When appropriate comment on development applications within the required timeframe.

Snowy Valleys Council agrees to:

9. Undertake appropriate community planning to address social, economic or cultural disadvantage experienced by local Aboriginal people in the Snowy Valleys Council.

The Local Aboriginal Community agrees to:

9. Provide input into community planning to address social, economic or cultural disadvantage experienced by local Aboriginal people in the Snowy Valleys Council.

Snowy Valleys Council and the Local Aboriginal Community:

10. Acknowledges that to be fully effective the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needs to be the head policy and provide the way for subordinate policy as required between Local Government and the local Aboriginal Community.

Review of Memorandum of Understanding

Snowy Valleys Council and the Aboriginal community of Snowy Valleys agree to:

1. Renew this Memorandum of Understanding at least every four years and within the first twelve months of the newly elected Council.
2. Meet to identify and discuss matters which they feel should be considered in relation to this Memorandum of Understanding at a formal review.

History Table

Adoption Date	Date to be reviewed
24.07.2007	24.07.2011
24.03.2010	02.04.2014
31.07.2014	31.07.2018

Acknowledgement by Signatories

The signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding acknowledge that there are many descendants of the Wiradjuri, Wolgalu and Ngarigo and these are represented in this Memorandum of Understanding.

Councillor James Hayes
Mayor of Snowy Valleys Council _____

Dated this _____ day of _____ in the year _____.

Matthew Hyde
General Manager of Snowy Valleys Council _____

Dated this _____ day of _____ in the year _____.

Douglas Cameron
Elder of Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys _____

Dated this _____ day of _____ in the year _____.

Mary Greenhalgh
Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council
Elder of Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys _____

Dated this _____ day of _____ in the year _____.

Sonia Piper
Elder of Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys _____

Dated this _____ day of _____ in the year _____.



DRAFT Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy

Policy No: ComDev.07

Version No: 1.1

1. PURPOSE

To assist Council in observing the appropriate protocols in recognising the original Custodians of the Land at official events and ceremonies.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to events and meetings which constitute a public function of the Council.

3. DEFINITIONS

Traditional Custodians

'Traditional Custodians' is the term to describe the recognised Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who inhabited an area. Traditional custodians today are descendants of the original inhabitants and have ongoing spiritual and cultural ties to the land and waterways where their ancestors lived.

Welcome to Country

A 'Welcome to Country' is where an Aboriginal custodian welcomes people to their land at the beginning of a meeting, event or ceremony. An appropriate person such as a recognised Elder within the local area needs to conduct this ceremony. Welcome to Country enables Traditional Custodians to give their blessing for the event.

Acknowledgement of Country

An 'Acknowledgement of Country' is where other people acknowledge and show respect for the traditional custodians of the land on which an event is taking place. It is sign of respect.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

Tumut Shire Council acknowledges that Aboriginal Australians were the first people of this land and that Wiradjuri and Wolgalu people have a special association with this region.

Tumut Shire Council advocates the promotion of greater understanding of Aboriginal Culture in the wider community and endorses the use of appropriate Aboriginal protocols in formal meetings, public meetings, events and ceremonies.

Arranging a "Welcome to Country" Ceremony and "Acknowledging the Traditional Custodians" of the Land shows respect for Aboriginal people as the first people of this land.

The issues of valuing and respecting appropriate Aboriginal ceremony are pertinent to increasing the understanding and mutual respect for Cultural practices by both Aboriginal Australians and the wider community through observation of protocols and sharing in cultural practice.

	Title: Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices	ID No: ComDev.07 v1.1
	Document: Policy	Page: 1 of 4
	Council Resolution : 315	Date Adopted: 24/05/2011
	Last Amended : 26 February 2013 Res. No. 79	Review Date: July 2016

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the chair of the meeting or the event organiser to ensure that the appropriate Aboriginal acknowledgement is undertaken at that function.

6. PROCESS

The 'Memorandum of Understanding between the Aboriginal Community of Tumut Shire and Tumut Shire Council' outlines that Council agrees to hold a 'Welcome to Country' ceremony at appropriate civic occasions subject to an agreed cultural protocol. This ceremony is to be performed by one or more local Elders of the Tumut Shire. When a local Aboriginal elder is not in attendance Tumut Shire Council agrees to "Acknowledge that we are in Wiradjuri and Wolgalu Country and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this area, and to pay respect to Elders past and present" at each Tumut Shire formal occasion.

The type of ceremony performed at an event should be appropriate to the nature and size of the event.

Welcome to Country

Events which should include a Welcome to Country are:

- Commemorations or major Council events (the events include 'Australia Day', the 'Festival of the Falling Leaf', the 'Batlow Apple Blossom Festival', and other events as identified over time)
- Conferences held or sponsored by Tumut Shire Council

A 'Welcome to Country' is where the Traditional Custodians of the Land, in most cases a recognized elder within the local community, welcomes people to their land and gives blessing to an event. A 'Welcome to Country' should always occur in the opening ceremony of the event in question, preferably as the first item.

'Welcome to Country' is conducted by a representative/s of the local Custodians who welcome the delegates and all in attendance. There is no exact wording for 'Welcome to Country'. It may consist of a single speech or it can also include a performance of some description. Performances may include a Traditional Welcome Song, a Traditional Dance, a Didgeridoo performance or a combination of any of the above.

Acknowledgment of Country

Events which should include an acknowledgement of Country are:

- Citizenship ceremonies
- Formal Council meetings
- Major launches of Council's programs

An 'Acknowledgment of Country' is a way that all people can show respect for Aboriginal culture and heritage and the ongoing relationship the Traditional Custodians have with the Land. 'Acknowledgement of Country' is a respectful means of acknowledging that the event, meeting, function, etc is taking place on the Country of the Traditional Custodians. At the beginning of the meeting or function, the Chair or Speaker begins by acknowledging that the meeting is taking place in the Country of the Traditional Custodians.

As outlined in the 'Memorandum of Understanding between the Aboriginal Community of Tumut Shire and Tumut Shire Council' the wording for Acknowledgement of Country is:

 Tumut Shire COUNCIL	Title: Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices	ID No: ComDev.07 v1.1
	Document: Policy	Page: 2 of 4
	Council Resolution : 315	Date Adopted: 24/05/2011
	Last Amended : 26 February 2013 Res. No. 79	Review Date: July 2016

"I would like to acknowledge that we are in Wiradjuri and Wolgalu Country and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this area, and to pay respect to Elders past and present".

Aboriginal Flag

As part of the process of unity, Tumut Shire Council agrees to fly the Aboriginal flag at Council's main office and the Tumut Library on a work day basis with the Aboriginal Community agreeing to conduct a flag raising ceremony as a part of NAIDOC Week.

Significant Aboriginal Events

As part of the process of unity, Tumut Shire Council agrees to celebrate declared Aboriginal ceremonies and events, including Sorry Day, Reconciliation Day and NAIDOC Week. The Aboriginal Community will assist by providing input into the planning and organising of declared Aboriginal ceremonies and events.

Collaboration and Negotiation

Aboriginal representatives should be contacted either personally or through a formal letter inviting them to perform the 'Welcome to Country' ceremony. To assist in this process the Aboriginal Community will:

- develop a list of Elders available for conducting 'Welcome to Country' ceremonies and make available for Council and event organisers; and
- on receipt of an invitation to conduct a 'Welcome to Country' will respond and nominate one or more Elders to deliver the Welcome to Country and liaise with the events coordinator in relation to specifics of the event.

The primary contact for the Aboriginal Community in the Tumut Shire is the Brungle/Tumut Area Working Party.

Fee for Service

Community representatives should be appropriately remunerated for their time and commitment. Council should have provision for those performing a 'Welcome to Country' to be paid. Fees for performers should be negotiated prior to the event as not all Elders wish to be reimbursed for their services.

At the Tumut Shire Aboriginal Liaison Committee held March 2011 it was recommended:

"That Elders who deliver 'Welcome to Country' at Council civic ceremonies be provided with the option of payment up to the value of \$50 in appreciation for their time and service".

7. DOCUMENTATION / COUNCIL AND EXTERNAL REFERENCES

- Department of Aboriginal Affairs "Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy" 2005
- Department of Local Government "Aboriginal Protocols" 2010
- Tumut Shire Council "Memorandum of Understanding between the Aboriginal Community of Tumut Shire and the Tumut Shire Council" 2009

8. POLICY REVIEW PLAN

This Policy is to be reviewed every four (4) years. It should be reviewed in consultation with the Aboriginal Liaison Committee.

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9. SUPERSEDING POLICY NO AND TITLE

Nil.

10. VARIATION

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy in consultation with the Aboriginal Liaison Committee.

11. DIRECTOR AUTHORISATION TO IMPLEMENT POLICY

Director Title: Allan Tonkin - Director Corporate Services

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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