

## **Notice of Meeting**

### **ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE**

18 August 2021 at 10.00am  
Council Chambers Bridge Street, Tumbarumba

### **AGENDA**

#### **Acknowledgement to Country**

*We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay respects to Elders past and present.*

#### **Present**

#### **1. Apologies**

#### **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

*Pursuant to Section 4 of the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matters being considered by the Committee.*

#### **2. Minutes of Previous meeting**

*Minutes of meeting held 16 June 2021*

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee meeting held on the 16 June 2021 be received and noted.

#### **3. Business arising**

#### **4. Agenda Items**

4.1 Aboriginal Liaison Committee Matters - August 2021.....3

#### **5. General Business**

#### **6. Next meeting**

**THE MINUTES OF THE ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS 76 CAPPER STREET TUMUT, ON WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2021**

**COMMENCING AT** 10.00am

**PRESENT:** Cllr Geoff Pritchard (Councillor Delegate), Sue Bulger – Elder (Chairperson), Meegan Cameron, Mary Greenhalgh – Brungle/Tumut LALC, John Casey - Director of TKNIC, Lorna Casey - Director of TKNIC, Craig Wilesmith.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lisa McAuliffe – Community Development Officer Tracy Wiggins - Manager Community Services (Council Delegates)

**BY TELEPHONE:** Nil

**1. APOLOGIES**

Coral Bulger, Winnie Bulger, Sandra Casey, Rhonda Casey, Bernadette Radford, Stan Russell, Paul Holton and Albert Machala.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**AL01/21 RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2020 be received.

Craig Wilesmith/John Casey

**CARRIED**

**AL02/21 RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee Extraordinary Meeting held on 23 September 2020 be received.

Craig Wilesmith/John Casey

**CARRIED**

**3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM 23 SEPTEMBER MEETING 2020**

**Letter from Rotary Club Tumut Re Peace Poles at Pioneer Park**

Discussions were held regarding the Rotary Peace Pole at Pioneer Park Project and the committee agreed that Stephen and Winnie had been working with Rotary on this project.

After further discussions, the committee agreed that the concept of erecting peace poles is not culturally appropriate to local indigenous people. It was suggested that by using existing scare trees in Pioneer Park to identify local gathering place for indigenous people

would be more appropriate than erecting peace poles and that a letter be sent to the Tumut Rotary expressing this.

**AL03/21 RESOLVED:**

THAT THE COMMITTEE:

Send a letter to Rotary Club Tumut in response to the letter received regarding the Peace Poles in Pioneer Park project dated September 2020 expressing that the committee would like to use the existing scar trees in Pioneer Park that identify a place of gathering rather than erecting peace poles.

John Casey/Lorna Casey

**CARRIED**

**Memorandum of Understanding Between Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys and Snowy Valleys Council** (MOU)

MOU to be put on the agenda for the next committee meeting to review. Following Council election in 2021, the new Council will review and update the MOU.

**4. AGENDA ITEMS**

**4.1 ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE MATTERS - 16 JUNE 2021**

**AL04/21 RESOLVED:**

THAT THE COMMITTEE:

1. Receive the report on Aboriginal Liaison Committee matters.

Sue Bulger/Craig Wilesmith

**CARRIED**

**4.1 NADIOC WEEK**

Events Activation Officer was an apology. Committee discussed options and activities to celebrate NAIDOC week and agreed that Councils Events Activation Officer would contact Sue Bulger and John Casey regarding celebrations for 2021 NAIDOC week.

Activities discussed as follows:

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Flag Raising in Tumut at 9.00am and Tumbarumba at 10.00am morning tea provided.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July - Tree planting Bila Park Tumut at 11.00am and a BBQ at Coe-ee Cottage, 12.00pm for lunch

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July - Tumut TAFE activities

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July - Gundagai – family fun day

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July - Movie in Tumut and or Tumbarumba

#### **4.2 Draft SVC Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)**

The draft RAP was presented to the committee, for its consideration, and agreed to

- change dates attached to actions in the document to allow more suitable time frames for RAP actions to be completed.
- remove actions in the Draft RAP document highlighted in pink and leave the blue highlighted.
- committee members sending Community Development Officer photos from previous Indigenous events and activities or of local Indigenous art. These photos are to be included in the Draft RAP.

The committee also discussed the possibility of adding remuneration to Elders who deliver ‘Welcome to Country’ as an action to the RAP. Council delegates to discuss this with relevant staff and advise at the next Aboriginal Liaison Committee meeting.

#### **4.3 Aboriginal Liaison Committee Representatives on SVC RAP Working Group (RWG)**

Sue Bulger nominated Shirley Marlow (not present) and Meegan Cameron as representatives on the RWG from the Aboriginal Liaison committee.

#### **4.4 Aboriginal Liaison Committee Terms of Reference (TofR's)**

The current Terms of Reference were reviewed and after discussion, the committee agreed to the following changes if possible:

- Quarterly meetings in the Tumbarumba Council Chambers or RHB Tumut, 10.00am – 12.00pm
- Community Transport added to: Item 9 SUPPORT AND RESOURCING THE COMMITTEE

Item 9 in the Aboriginal Liaison Committee TofR's currently reads as follows;

- **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.

The committee would like community transport added to Item 9 to read as follows;

- **9. SUPPORT AND RESOURCING THE COMMITTEE**  
Council will provide community transport, 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.

The committee also discussed at length changing from a single chairperson to a co – chairperson structure to allow a change in chair to reflect fair representation at meetings when held in either Tumbarumba or Tumut. Should this occur the sentence needs to be removed that in the absence of the chairperson the deputy chair shall chair the meeting.

#### **4.5 Feedback from representatives who attended the Hearing with the Select Committee on Regional Australia – Tumut on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.**

Sue Bulger and John Casey attended as representatives of the Aboriginal Liaison Committee and provided valuable feedback regarding issues for Indigenous people in regional areas such as jobs and housing.

Councils Community Development Officer to find out what process is followed regarding the feedback given and report back to the next committee meeting.

### **5 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Clr. Pritchard attended Clontarf Academy at Tumut High School and was very impressed with the confidence of the young aboriginal students.

John Casey shared some wonderful news with the committee, TOOMAROOMBAAH – NGARIGO COUNTRY will be displayed on Johansen Tumbarumba ROSE PINOT NOIR label.

The committee spoke briefly regarding implementing Aboriginal Culture activities within Snowy Valleys Children's Services for NAIDOC week. Councils Manager Community Services will liaise with children's services staff regarding activities to be held.

### **6 NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 10.00am, Tumbarumba Council Chambers

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 11.18am.

#### 4. AGENDA ITEMS

##### 4.1 ABORIGINAL LIAISON COMMITTEE MATTERS - AUGUST 2021

**REPORT AUTHOR:** COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
**RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE

##### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Aboriginal Liaison Committee's purpose is to provide a forum for discussion between Council and the Aboriginal Community on key issues.

In July 2007 Council and the Aboriginal Community developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU provides the agreed wording for the Council Acknowledgment of Country and led to the development of the Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy (adopted in 2011).

The MOU between the Aboriginal Community and Snowy Valleys Council was adopted on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The Snowy Valleys Council Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy was adopted on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

The Aboriginal Liaison Committee meetings are held every two months.

##### RECOMMENDATION:

##### THAT THE COMMITTEE:

1. Receive the report on Aboriginal Liaison Committee Matter – 18 August 2021.
2. Discuss matters in this report and take action.

##### REPORT:

1. Apologies

Declaration of Interest

2. Minutes of Previous meeting  
*Minutes of meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021*

3. Business arising

4. General Business

- 4.1 Review - Memorandum of Understanding Between Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys and Snowy Valleys Council (**attached**)

- 4.2 Review - Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy (**attached**)

- 4.4 Kosciusko National Park Aboriginal Archaeology Collaborative Project - La Trobe University (**attached**)

- 4.5 Ngarigo Nation Indigenous Corporation request membership to Aboriginal Liaison Committee

5. Other business

6. Next meeting

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Memorandum of Understanding Between Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys and Snowy Valleys Council [↓](#)
- 2 Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy [↓](#)
- 3 Kosciusko National Park Aboriginal Archaeology Collaborative Project [↓](#)

**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 past 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 where 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.

**M499**  
Memorandum of Understanding

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Adopted: 11.12.2018  
Reviewed:

Document Set ID: 2024475  
Version: 1 Version Date: 21/03/2019



**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 conduct an 'Acknowledgement of Country' at each Snowy Valleys Council formal occasion with the words

*"I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land  
and pay respects to Elders past and present."*

**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 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 Customer Service Centre's 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.

M4999

Memorandum of Understanding

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Adopted: 11.12.2018

Reviewed:

**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 Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Lands Council and Ngarigo Toomaroombah Kunama Namadgi Indigenous Corp. relating to projects/programs concerning the Aboriginal community of Snowy Valleys Council.

**The Local Aboriginal Community agrees to:**

6. The Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Lands Council and Ngarigo Toomaroombah Kunama Namadgi Indigenous Corp. 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 Lands 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 Lands Council or Ngarigo Toomaroombah Kunama Namadgi Indigenous Corp. 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.

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Adopted: 11.12.2018

Reviewed:

**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
11.12.2018	30.9.2020

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Adopted: 11.12.2018

Reviewed:

**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 20<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 2019.

Matthew Hyde  
General Manager of Snowy Valleys Council

Dated this 20 day of February in the year 2019.

Douglas Cameron  
Elder of Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys

Dated this 20 day of February in the year 2019.

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

Dated this 20 day of 2 in the year 2019.

Sonia Piper  
Elder of Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys

Dated this 20 day of February in the year 2019.

Rhonda Casey  
Ngarigo Toomaroombah Kunama Namadgi Indigenous Corporation  
Elder of Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 2019.

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Adopted: 11.12.2018

Reviewed:





<b>Title</b>	Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy
<b>Category</b>	Council Policy
<b>Number &amp; Version</b>	SVC-ComDev-PO-033-01
<b>Owner</b>	Community Development
<b>Status</b>	REVIEW
<b>Endorsed by</b>	General Manager (via recommendation from ELT)
<b>Approved by</b>	Adopted by Council 11/12/2018
<b>Effective date</b>	11 December 2018
<b>Due date for review</b>	September 2020
<b>Keywords</b>	Welcome to Country, Acknowledgment of Country, Traditional Custodians, Wiradjuri, Wolgalu, Ngarigo

#### **Disclaimer**

*Please note that this policy may not be current as Snowy Valleys Council (Council) regularly reviews and updates its policies and procedures. The latest controlled version can be found in Council's Records Management System or contact Council's Coordinator Governance and Risk on [policy@snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au](mailto:policy@snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au) for a hard copy of the latest version. **A hard copy of this electronic document is uncontrolled.***

*Where there is a delegation identified in this policy, the reader will need to confirm if an alternative delegation exists in the Delegations Register. To the extent that there is any conflict perceived between the delegation/s identified in this policy and of those contained in the Delegations Register, then the delegation/s in the Delegations Register takes precedence. The General Manager will, if necessary, be the sole arbiter in resolving any issues of conflict.*

## 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Snowy Valleys Council (Council) acknowledges the Wiradjuri, Wolgalu and Ngarigo people who are the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders both past and present.

The Council has a long history and association with the local Aboriginal communities within the Local Government Area (LGA).

Council values the diversity of our local community and supports reconciliation by working consistently in partnership with its local Aboriginal community, always ensuring that the process is based on respect, trust and a spirit of openness.

## 2 PURPOSE

The aim of this document is to provide a comprehensive resource for all Council personnel to use when liaising, consulting and engaging with the Aboriginal community. This document also provides cultural and historical context to assist Council personnel when working with the local community.

Observing cultural protocols of a community demonstrates respect for the cultural traditions, history, diversity and the continued connection to Country of that community. It illustrates a willingness to acknowledge that the processes and procedures of one cultural community are equally valid and worthy of the same respect as one's own cultural protocols. Cross cultural engagement requires patience, understanding and a commitment from all parties.

## 3 'MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY OF SNOWY VALLEYS AND SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL

The *Memorandum of Understanding between Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys and Snowy Valleys Council (MOU)* is an agreement between the two parties that states Snowy Valleys Council and the Local Aboriginal Community acknowledges that to be fully effective the *MOU* needs to be the head agreement and provide the way for subordinate documentation as required between Local Government and the local Aboriginal Community.

## 4 CULTURAL INFORMATION

### 4.1 BRUNGLE / TUMUT LOCAL ABORIGINAL LANDS COUNCIL

*Brungle mission* was established outside *Brungle Township* in 1888 by the New South Wales Aborigines Protection Board, following pressure from settlers to 'contain' and restrict the movement of Wiradjuri and other Aboriginal peoples in the region. The Brungle –Tumut LALC is committed to the vibrant development, well-being and sustainability of our Aboriginal people and culture. As the traditional custodians of the land we are also dedicated to the conservation and repatriation of our local heritage. The Brungle-Tumut LALC will achieve this through pro-active and ongoing programs particularly in partnership with other community organisations. The areas of community cohesion, Aboriginal enterprise, training and education, housing cultural heritage and land management are part of our vision.

### 4.2 TOOMAROOMBAH KUNAMA NAMADGI INDIGENOUS CORPORATION

Toomaroombah Kunama Namadgi Indigenous Corporation ICN 8520 was first established in 2015. The Corporation represent the local Ngarigo people of the Tumbarumba District.

### 4.3 THE STOLEN GENERATIONS

The Stolen Generations are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals who were removed from their families through official government policy from 1909 to 1969. In 1883 the NSW Government established the Aboriginal Protection Board taking control over nearly all aspects of Aboriginal people's lives, including the power to remove Aboriginal children without parental consent or a court order.

#### **4.4 ELDERS**

Traditionally, Elders are members of the community who have been through various levels of initiations and hold the knowledge of their people's history, kinship systems, and cultural lore (equating to European Law) that govern their community.

They are the custodians of their people's traditional knowledge and customs and hold the responsibility to provide guidance on important matters as well as making decisions on the ceremonial and cultural obligations of their people.

### **5 CULTURAL PRACTICES**

#### **5.1 USING THE TERMS 'ABORIGINAL' AND 'INDIGENOUS'**

Locally, Aboriginal is the preferred term when referring to Australia's First People and should always be adjoined to people, community etc. It is also respectful to use a capital letter when using both Aboriginal and Indigenous in the written form. Refer to 'Aboriginal people' and 'Aboriginal community' not 'Aborigines'.

#### **5.2 USING THE TERM 'TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS'**

Traditional custodians is the preferred 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.

#### **5.3 GENDER PROTOCOLS (MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS)**

It is important to be aware that there are many matters where the Aboriginal community view specific knowledge as sacred to either men or women. For example, some sacred sites can only be visited by men or women. Traditional stories may also be gender specific and will only be passed down to those in the appropriate gender.

#### **5.4 SACRED SITES**

Sacred sites are places of cultural significance to Aboriginal people. They may be hills, rocks, trees, tracks and springs that are not always spectacular or interesting to the non-Aboriginal eye. They may be places that are significant because they mark a particular act of a creation or being. They also include burial grounds, places where particular ceremonies have been held and songlines.

#### **5.5 NAMING THE DECEASED**

Following the death of an Aboriginal person, it is offensive to show photographic images of the deceased or refer to them by name in publications during the mourning period, unless agreed to by the relevant family. The mourning period is not a set timeframe and may change depending on each family unit.

#### **5.6 WELCOME TO COUNTRY**

A 'Welcome to Country' is where the traditional custodians of the land, in most cases a recognised 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. 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.

A Welcome to Country should be performed at all significant/ major Council events throughout the calendar year, this includes openings, launches or where it is appropriate to welcome people into the local community.

### 5.6.1 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 contacts for the Aboriginal Community in the SVC LGA are the:

- Brungle/Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (Tumut Region)
- Toomaroombah Kunama Namadgi Indigenous Corporation (Tumbarumba Region)

### 5.7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

An 'Acknowledgement of Country' is where other people (in the absence of an Elder) acknowledge and show respect for the traditional custodians of the land on which an event is taking place. 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.

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.

Events which should include an acknowledgement of Country are citizenship ceremonies, formal Council meetings, major launches of Council's programs etc

As outlined in the *MOU* the wording for Acknowledgement of Country is:

*"I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay respects to Elders past and present".*

### 5.8 SMOKING CEREMONY

Smoking ceremonies are undertaken to cleanse the space in which the ceremony is taking place. The Smoking Ceremony is a ritual of purification and unity and is always undertaken by an Aboriginal person with specialised cultural knowledge.

This is a very sacred ceremony to be performed only at events deemed appropriate on advice of local Elders with cultural expertise.

## 6 FEES 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 Snowy Valleys Aboriginal Liaison Committee held NOVEMBER 2018 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 \$100 in appreciation for their time and service".*

## 7 ABORIGINAL FLAGS

Flags represent a country's historical past and signify the important symbols of the countries values, people and culture. The Australian Aboriginal flag was proclaimed as an official flag of Australia under section 5 of the Flags Act 1953 on 14 July 1995.



An Aboriginal flag is flown each day alongside the National Australian flag at Council's Customer Service Centres with the Aboriginal Community agreeing to conduct a flag raising ceremony as a part of NAIDOC Week. When Council is notified a local Elder has passed, as a mark of respect, all flags are to be flown at half-mast.

## 8 SIGNIFICANT ABORIGINAL EVENTS

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

## 9 RESPONSIBILITIES /ACCOUNTABILITIES

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.

**Coordinator of Community and Cultural Development** – To ensure this policy is available as required and the policy and the *MOU* are kept current.

## 10 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

There is currently no legislation. According to the NSW Government Aboriginal Affairs, Protocols should be compiled in consultation with the Aboriginal Community.

## 11 RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

Snowy Valleys Council "Memorandum of Understanding between the Aboriginal Community of Snowy Valleys and the Snowy Valleys Council" M499.

## 12 RELATED FORMS

Nil

## 13 SUPERSEDING POLICY / PROCEDURE NUMBER AND TITLE

ComDev.07 Aboriginal Cultural Protocols and Practices Policy (former Tumut Council policy)

## 14 REVISION HISTORY

Date	Version Number	Activity log	Resolution Number	Resolution date
05.01.2018	0	New		
21/11/2018	1	Approved by Aboriginal Liaison Committee		21/11/2018
11/12/2018	1	Adopted by Council	M351/18	11/12/2018

## 15 CONTACT OFFICER

**Position:** Coordinator of Community and Cultural Development

**Section:** Community & Cultural Development



School of Arts and Social Sciences  
Department of Archaeology and History

12/07/2021

Snowy Valleys Council,  
76 Capper St  
Tumut, NSW 2720

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to advise you of a new collaborative archaeological research project between the Northern Kosciuszko Aboriginal Reference Group, the Australian Alpine National Parks Association and La Trobe University. The project is being administered by Dr Georgia Roberts, Department of Archaeology and History, La Trobe University. The part of the project to which this notification relates is currently restricted to Yarrangobilly and the Coolamon Plains (Figure 1).

The project addresses the critical knowledge gap of the deep time cultural connections to our mainland cold climate landscapes and the environmental and cultural changes which have occurred over this period. In this, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the last broad-scale research project across the South Eastern Highlands, the need to write this chapter in our national story is more pressing than ever before. Our swiftly changing global climate means that not only are these cold climate landscapes being significantly reduced, but that they are also under increasing threat from natural disasters, as demonstrated by the recent 2019-2020 bushfires. The substantial shortfall of cultural heritage research across the Australian Alps leaves it particularly vulnerable to these ongoing threats, as without robust baseline data on the distribution and significance of sites, appropriate management strategies cannot be developed. This is highly relevant for the limestone karst sites found across the Alps (Figure 2), a landform that has very high potential to retain records dating back many thousands of years. This collaborative project designed and run by Traditional Custodians, archaeologists and Parks staff across NSW, the ACT and Victoria, will add critical baseline information to regional management plans, ensuring that our Indigenous alpine cultural heritage is conserved well into the future.

There are seven areas of limestone karst within Kosciuszko National Park ranging from the sub-alpine to montane forest conditions. Two, those at Yarrangobilly and Coolamon Plains, are of national – perhaps international – significance; the highest levels of significance result from cultural values relating to use by Aboriginal people and to modern scientific research on karst processes. It is these two regions that we will be focussing on first as part of the broader project.

The project is proposed to be undertaken in several stages.

- **Stage 1:** Recognising and recording cultural knowledge of this region, leading to the identification of areas/sites that we would like to focus on.
- **Stage 2:** A field survey to record and document sites. This can include sites that we are interested in investigating further as well as those that should be preserved through management plans without impact.
- **Stage 3:** Excavations of specific sites. It is proposed that these will be done within a small footprint and using high-resolution techniques.
- **Stage 4:** Reporting. While the results from our investigations will be presented back to the community throughout the project, Stage 4 will focus on the production and delivery of both technical and plain English reports, as well as other media that the community would like (e.g., posters, pamphlets, a Heritage Weekend).

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SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Department of Archaeology and History

While the project is being undertaken as a collaboration between Traditional Custodians, researchers and Parks staff, in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*, the purpose of this formal consultation process will be to assist in the preparation of:

- an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment;
- appropriate management recommendations for any Aboriginal objects that might be identified during the process;
- an AHIP application to undertake archaeological test excavations and to assist the Director General of the Office of Environment and Heritage in his or her consideration and determination of the application; and
- a subsequent AHIP, should it be required, to manage any Aboriginal objects identified during the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and to assist the Director General of Heritage NSW in his or her consideration and determination of the application.

We would like to invite Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) in the Subject Area to register an interest in a process of community consultation with Dr Georgia Roberts regarding the proposed research project. Please be advised that, as per the NSW Heritage *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*, the names of Aboriginal persons and groups who register an interest will be forwarded to the Office of Environment and Heritage unless we are advised not to release particular details.

Please contact Dr Georgia Roberts either in writing or via email by 5 pm on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, 2021 using the contact details below:

Dr Georgia Roberts  
Room 166  
Martin Building  
La Trobe University  
Bundoora, VIC 3086  
[Georgia.Roberts@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:Georgia.Roberts@latrobe.edu.au)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Roberts'.

Dr Georgia Roberts



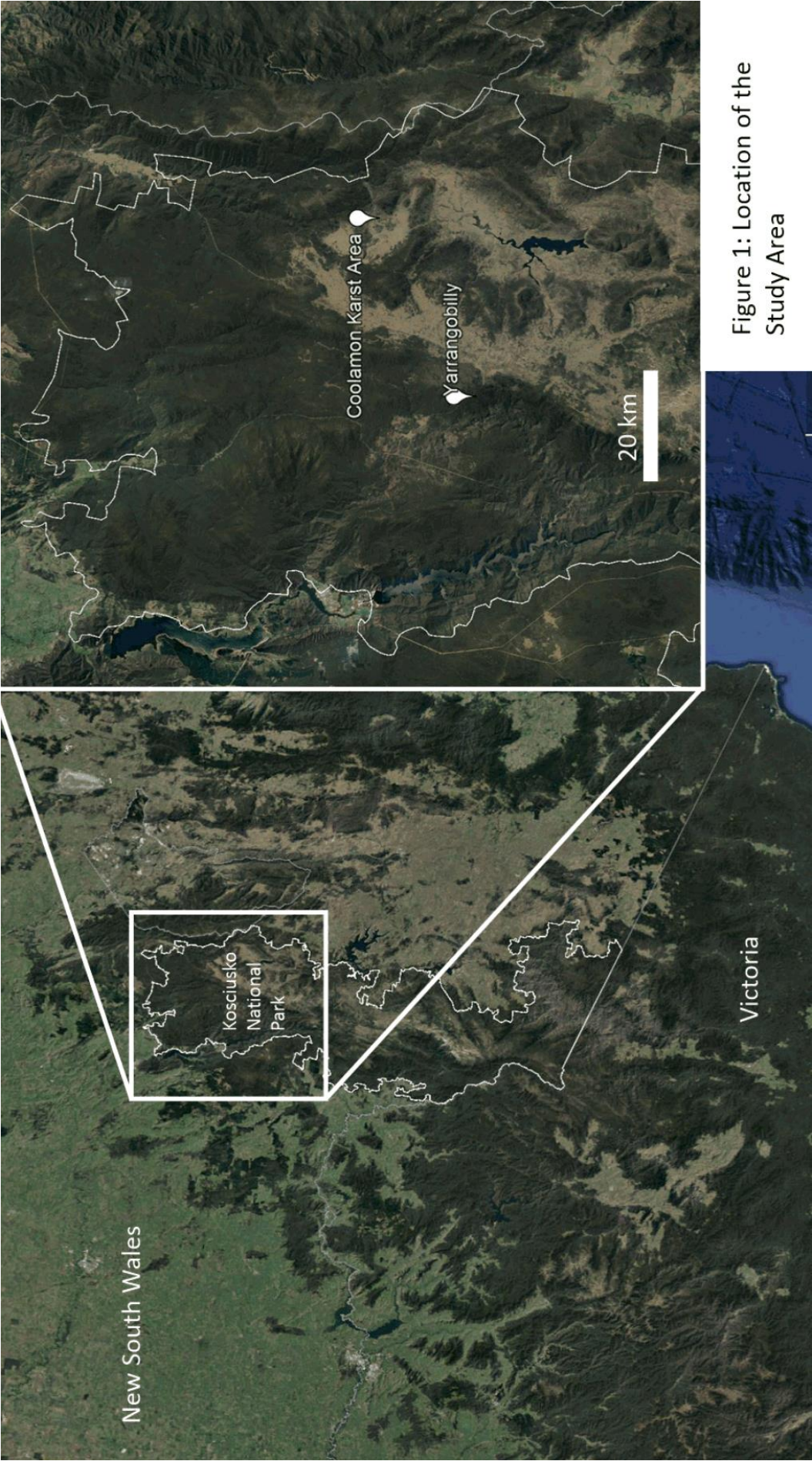


Figure 1: Location of the Study Area





Figure 2: Location of limestone karst landscapes across NSW and Victoria