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| <b>POLICY:</b>        | <b>Policy for the Blue Mountains City Council Aboriginal Cultural Protocols 2010</b> |
| <b>STATUS:</b>        | <b>ADOPTED</b>   |
| <b>ADOPTED:</b>       | <b>10 August 2010</b>  |
| <b>LAST REVISION:</b> | <b>2010</b>  |
| <b>TRIM REF.:</b>     | <b>F02139</b>  |
| <b>ISSUED BY:</b>     | <b>Community and Corporate</b>   |
| <b>INQUIRIES:</b>     | <b>Aboriginal Community Development Officer</b>                                      |

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide Council Staff, elected Councillors and representatives of Blue Mountains City Council with guidelines and procedures relating to Aboriginal Cultural Protocols.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Provide protocols for the engagement, consultation and acknowledgement of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community;
- Create improved awareness within the Council about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities living in the Blue Mountains Local Government Area;
- Ensure a clearer understanding and respect for traditional Aboriginal protocols observed in the Blue Mountains region;
- Create greater acceptance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture locally through awareness of and alternatives to, stereotypes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- Ensure meaningful, respectful and culturally appropriate Aboriginal community consultation engagement practices;
- Recognise locally appropriate Aboriginal cultural ceremonies that will be implemented by the Council at Civic Events, Council meetings and other Council activities;
- Create awareness about important dates and celebrations observed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, some of which are supported by the Council; and
- Establish a BMCC register of Aboriginal stakeholder organisations and the core business of those organisations.

## BACKGROUND / DEFINITIONS

Cultural protocols refer to principles and practices that guide the behaviour of a cultural group. For Aboriginal people these protocols include historic and current customs, practices, traditional lore and codes that are part of Aboriginal cultural observances. Protocols are present in all cultures and are an important part of ensuring people interact and conduct their behaviour in an appropriate manner.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Blue Mountains City Council appreciates and respects Aboriginal Cultural Protocols of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and groups in the Blue Mountains Local Government Area. Blue Mountains City Council will undertake engagement and consultation

with and involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and community in a manner that is consistent with the Aboriginal Cultural Protocols.

## PROCEDURES

Council Staff, elected Councillors and representatives of BMCC need to be familiar with the BMCC Aboriginal Cultural Protocols particularly if working on a matter that involves Aboriginal people or that may impact actually or potentially on Aboriginal culture and heritage.

The Council's Aboriginal Community Development Officer should be notified of:

- Engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals or groups in Council events and activities;
- Consultations where the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community should be or will be included; and
- Projects or partnerships that will directly or indirectly include the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community or impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage.

When arranging a 'Welcome to Country' for the opening of a Council civic or significant other event it is strongly advised to observe the Welcome to Country section of the Aboriginal Cultural Protocols. It is required that BMCC staff consults the Aboriginal Cultural Protocols appendix 'Blue Mountains City Council's Demonstration of respect' to be familiar with the process of arranging a 'Welcome to Country'

An 'Acknowledgements of Country' should be incorporated into Council meetings of any kind and if applicable, following an Aboriginal Elders welcome, as a point of respect from the Council officer convening the meeting. The advisable wording for an Acknowledgement of Country can be found under Acknowledgement of Country in the Aboriginal Cultural Protocols.

The Aboriginal Cultural Protocols will be updated as required and outside the policy review process to ensure accuracy, currency and relevance of information, in keeping with the intent of the Policy for the Blue Mountains City Council Aboriginal Cultural Protocols.

## RELEVANT LEGISLATION & DOCUMENTS

BMCC Aboriginal Cultural Protocols 2010 (10/147878)  
BMCC Community Consultation Policy 2009 (09/170872)  
NSW Local Government Act 2003  
NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983  
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974  
Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993