



# Statement of Commitment Policy



## Policy Objectives

To endorse Council's continuing commitment to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the City of Lake Macquarie.

## Policy Statement

A Commitment by Lake Macquarie City Council to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People of the City of Lake Macquarie.

## Acknowledgements

The Council of the City of Lake Macquarie acknowledges that Aboriginal people, in this area, the Awabakal, were the first people of this land, and are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of continuing dispossession.

Lake Macquarie City Council recognises that European occupation brought massive changes to the land and its people.

As a vital step towards building a just and common future, Lake Macquarie City Council recognises the sense of loss and the grief held by all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the alienation from their traditional land, the loss of their freedom, their lives, their languages, their health and the disruption of their cultural practices.

Council respects the rights of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to pursue their own values and culture.

## Commitments

Lake Macquarie City Council recognises that within this City, many cultures reside. This includes the Awabakal people and many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the nation. Therefore, in consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Lake Macquarie City Council commits to:

- Denouncing racism directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and will take action to combat racism within its capacity.
- Recognising the vital importance and the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to strengthening and enriching our city and region.
- Respecting and conserving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practices, traditional sites, and significant places.
- Promoting activities, which increase cultural sensitivity and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Supporting an agreement between the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and other community members for the care of the local environment.

- Working towards the recovery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language, health, cultural practices and lost kinship.
- Looking towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture for practical knowledge, which could help to secure a sustainable future.
- Supporting reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and persons within the wider community.
- Promoting the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Promoting the advancement of economic development through supporting and advocating community business initiatives.

Lake Macquarie City Council, in conjunction with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, has developed an Aboriginal Community Plan 2012-2015 to redress disadvantages for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this community. Council recognises the positive contribution made by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and look forward to a future of mutual respect and harmony.

Regardless of change in election to the Councillors of Lake Macquarie City, the Commitment stands and will be reviewed within 12 months of a newly elected Council.

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Councillor Jodie Harrison Mayor

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Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council

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Bahatabah Local Aboriginal Land Council

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Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council

Regardless of change in election to the Councillors of Lake Macquarie City Council and the Aboriginal Consultative Committee, the Commitment stands and will be reviewed at the commencement of the new term of Council or mid-term when requested by the Aboriginal Consultative Committee.