

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY POLICY

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RESPONSIBLE OFFICER		General Manager	

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Policy Objective

The purpose of this policy is to set out guiding principles for Riverina Water County Council, its management and staff in observing the appropriate protocols for the acknowledgement of Wiradjuri people at the commencement of Council meetings and Council Official functions.

1.2 Scope of Policy

This policy shall apply the Chairperson, Acting Chairperson, Councillors and General Manager when conducting Council meetings or official functions of Council.

1.3 Definition

An "Acknowledgement of Country" is a means by which all people can show respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander culture and heritage and the ongoing relationship the Traditional Custodians have with their land.

1.4 Legislative Context

Not applicable

1.5 Related Documents

Code of meeting Practice

PART 2: Policy Content

2.1 Policy Provision-Acknowledgement of Country

By incorporating "Acknowledgement of Country" at the opening of Council Meetings and appropriate official functions of Council we are able to:

- Recognise and pay respect to Aboriginal peoples, cultures and heritage.
- Communicate Aboriginal cultural practices to the broader community to promote respect and understanding.
- Demonstrate that Aboriginal cultures are living through maintenance and practice of ceremonies and protocols.
- Acknowledge Aboriginal people's unique position which can assist in building relationships and partnerships.

An "Acknowledgement of Country" should be made prior to each meeting of the Council and on special occasions (e.g. openings) at the discretion of the Chairperson.

On such occasions, a Chairperson or Council representative may begin by acknowledging that the meeting is taking place in the Country of the Traditional Custodians.

Typical "Acknowledgement of Country" statements may include any of the following:

"I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to their people both past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal Australians who are present". OR

"I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people". OR

"I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on Wiradjuri land and recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of Aboriginal people in this land.