

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME SUPPORTED: 1 - A diverse and growing population.**

**1. OBJECTIVE**

- 1.1. To ensure that the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup acknowledge and show respect for the Noongar people, who are the traditional owners of the land, upon which the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup is situated.

**2. SCOPE**

- 2.1. This policy applies to elected members and all staff organising events, ceremonies, commemorations, public functions and meetings as well as documentation on behalf of the Shire where Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country should be included.

**3. DEFINITIONS**

- 3.1. **Traditional Owners** are Aboriginal representatives of the traditional language group that inhabited the area prior to European settlement and are recognised as traditional owners by local Aboriginal communities.
- 3.2. **Welcome to Country** is where the traditional custodians formally welcome people to their land. This ceremony is undertaken by Elders acknowledged as such by their family and community.
- 3.3. **South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC)** is the native title representative body of the Noongar people, the traditional owners of the South West of Western Australia extending from Leeman in the north-west to Cape Arid in the south-east.

**4. POLICY STATEMENT**

- 4.1. The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) produce a Noongar Protocols documents which will be used to guide staff and elected members when organising Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country.

**Welcome to Country**

- 4.2. The Welcome to Country will be held at the beginning of the following events:
  - a. The opening of a new significant building involving State or Federal Government representatives; and
  - b. Major civic ceremonies or functions.

**Acknowledgement of Country**

- 4.3. An Acknowledgement of Country will be delivered at these events:
  - a. Significant events where members of the public, representatives of governments and/or the media are present; and
  - b. Council Meetings; and

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- c. Forums, briefing sessions, community workshops where the public are present; and
- d. Conferences or seminars; and
- e. NAIDOC celebrations; and
- f. Citizenship Ceremonies.

4.4. An Acknowledgement of Country will be included in these documents:

- a. Strategic plans, strategies and studies; and
- b. Council and committee agendas and minutes; and
- c. Plaques erected on Shire-owned facilities; and
- d. Shire website.

## 5. DELEGATION AND AUTHORISATION

5.1. NIL

## 6. LEGISLATION

6.1. NIL

## 7. POLICY VERSION

<b>Related Policies:</b>	Nil		
<b>Related Procedure:</b>	Nil		
<b>Responsible Department:</b>	Executive Services		
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Corporate Planning & Governance Officer		
<b>Review Frequency:</b>	Triennial	<b>Next Due:</b>	2024
<b>Version Date:</b>	21/12/21	<b>Synergy #:</b>	NPP7997
<b>Policy Version Details</b>			
<b>Initial Adoption Date:</b>	27/05/2015	<b>Decision Reference:</b>	N/A
<b>Version Decision Date:</b>	21/12/21	<b>Decision Reference:</b>	213/21
<b>Version Synopsis:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed policy number 1.15 and added new policy ID; and</li> <li>• Added objective and scope; and</li> <li>• Removed procedural information</li> <li>• Added information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reference to Noogar people</li> <li>- Acknowledgement of Country updated to include event and document types</li> <li>- Referenced the SWALSC and their protocols</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		