

# Boola Maara Aboriginal Consultative Committee Meeting

7 April 2025

## Agenda

Notice is hereby given of a Boola Maara Aboriginal Consultative Committee Meeting to be held in the Council Chambers, City of Kwinana Administration Centre commencing at 10.00am.

**Wayne Jack**

Chief Executive Officer

Members of the public who attend Council meetings should not act immediately on anything they hear at the meetings, without first seeking clarification of Council's position. Persons are advised to wait for written advice from the Council prior to taking action on any matter that they may have before Council.

Agendas and Minutes are available on the City's website <http://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au>

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**1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

Presiding Member to declare the meeting open and welcome all in attendance.

**2. WELCOME TO COUNTRY**

**Presiding Member to present the Welcome to Country:**

*“Ngullak nyinniny kooralong koora ngullak noitj nidja nyoongar boodjar. Nyoongar moort djoorapiny nyinniny nidja ngulla quopadok nyoongar boodjar kooralong.*

From the beginning of time to the end, this is Nyoongar Country. Nyoongar people have been graceful keepers of our nation for many, many years.

*Djinanginy katatjin djoorapiny nidja weern nyoongar boodjar ngalla mia mia boorda.*

Look, listen, understand and embrace all the elements of Nyoongar Country that is forever our home.

*Kaya wandju ngaany koort djoorpiny nidja Nyoongar boodjar daadjaling waankganinyj Nyoongar Boodjar.*

Hello and welcome my heart is happy as we are gathered on country and meeting here on Nyoongar Country.

**3. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES, LEAVE(S) OF ABSENCE (PREVIOUSLY APPROVED)**

**Apologies:**

Deputy Mayor Barry Winmar

**Leave(s) of Absence (previously approved):**

Nil

**4. PUBLIC FORUM**

Any member of the public may, with the consent of the person presiding, address the Committee with a question or statement.



## 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### 5.1 MINUTES OF THE BOOLA MAARA ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2025

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Minutes of the Boola Maara Aboriginal Consultative Committee Meeting held on 10 March 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

## 6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (FINANCIAL, PROXIMITY, IMPARTIALITY – BOTH REAL AND PERCEIVED) BY MEMBERS AND CITY OFFICERS

Section 5.65(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* states:

A member who has an interest in any matter to be discussed at a council or committee meeting that will be attended by the member must disclose the nature of the interest -

- a) in a written notice given to the CEO before the meeting; or
- b) at the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.

Section 5.66 of the *Local Government Act 1995* states:

If a member has disclosed an interest in a written notice given to the CEO before a meeting then;

- a) before the meeting the CEO is to cause the notice to be given to the person who is to preside at the meeting; and
- b) at the meeting the person presiding is to bring the notice and its contents to the attention of the persons present immediately before the matters to which the disclosure relates are discussed.



**7. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE**

**7.1 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL PROTOCOLS GUIDELINES FOR THE CITY OF KWINANA**

**Presenter:** Fiona Grieves – Director City Life.

**SUMMARY**

At the Boola Maara Aboriginal Consultative Committee meeting on 1 July 2024, the draft Aboriginal Cultural Protocols Guidelines for the City of Kwinana were presented to members for feedback. We have now incorporated the feedback received and are seeking to finalise and publish the document for staff use.

The final version of the Aboriginal Cultural Protocols Guidelines for the City of Kwinana is attached (Attachment A) for final approval. Please note, this document can be updated as needed.

Additionally, could members provide a list of Elders/Community members in the Kwinana area who have the authority to give a Welcome to Country, this information will help the City of Kwinana respond to both internal and external inquiries regarding Welcome to Country. Members may submit their feedback outside of the meeting if they wish to consult with the wider community to compile a comprehensive list.


**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Boola Maara Aboriginal Consultative Committee:**

- 1. Approves the Aboriginal Cultural Protocols Guidelines for the City of Kwinana, as outlined in Attachment A; and**
- 2. Provides a list of Elders and community members authorised to provide Welcome to Country in the Kwinana area.**

**Boola Maara Aboriginal Consultative Committee Comments:**



A vibrant Aboriginal artwork featuring a central lizard with a yellow and grey geometric pattern, a large fish with a grey and yellow pattern, and various other elements like a blue lizard, a green lizard, and a sun-like symbol. The background is a mix of green, blue, and yellow geometric patterns.

# Aboriginal Cultural Protocols Guidelines for the City of Kwinana



## Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to increase the awareness of culturally appropriate practices, so representatives of the City of Kwinana (City) can confidently conduct an Acknowledgement of Country or facilitate a Welcome to Country.

Conducting this type of ceremony is important because it recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of this land and promotes awareness of their history and culture.

## What is a Welcome to Country?

A Welcome to Country is a traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ceremony or custom that has been incorporated into contemporary Australian culture. It is a way for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to welcome visitors to their traditional lands. This ceremony is only performed by an Aboriginal Elder or representative of the local community. During a Welcome to Country, the Elder and/or Community Leader delivers a speech, often accompanied by traditional music, dance, or smoking ceremonies.

In modern contexts, Welcome to Country ceremonies are commonly performed at significant events, such as conferences, festivals, official government functions, and public gatherings. The ceremony helps to raise understanding and mutual respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. It is a way to acknowledge the rich cultural history of the land and peoples and promotes a sense of unity and inclusivity among all attendees.

Aboriginal Elders are chosen and accepted by their own communities as the respected custodians of Aboriginal knowledge, lore and cultural practices. They are highly respected Aboriginal men and women who have cultural authority within their families and communities.

## When to conduct a Welcome to Country?

The City official events, where members of the public, key stakeholders, Members of Parliament, representatives of the City or the media are present, should include a Welcome, such as:



- Citizenship Ceremonies
- Large Civic Events
- Large Community Events
- Conferences

Contact the Aboriginal Partnership Advisor to seek the information of the Elders/Community members that are authorised to conduct a Welcome to Country for the local Kwinana area.

### Important factors to consider/action:

- Ensure a staff member is designated to take care of the Elder.
- Provide the Elder/Recognised Leader with the order of proceedings in advance for example, who will introduce them and the purpose of the event. Recommend this to be provided 5-7 days prior to the event.
- Make sure the person who will be introducing the Elder has their correct title, name and background information.
- Practice pronouncing names prior to introduction.
- Anyone working with an Elder should recognise the importance of showing respect.
- Include the Elder/Recognised Leader in the event – ask them if they would like to stay or would they prefer to leave shortly after the Welcome-
- Elders/Recognised Leaders need to be financially compensated for providing their time, knowledge and skills to deliver Welcome to Country Ceremonies. Please refer to the sections on Payment on page 5.
- Don't be afraid to ask/clarify a question if you're unsure.

## What is an Acknowledgement of Country?

An Acknowledgment of Country is a statement acknowledging and showing respect for the Aboriginal history, culture, and ongoing connection of traditional custodians with the land. When people acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, they are demonstrating their respect for the continuing traditions and spiritual connection Aboriginal communities have with the land and its natural treasures.

Incorporating an Acknowledgement to meetings, gatherings, and events shows respect by upholding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural protocols. An Acknowledgement of Country can be given by any person, usually it is done by non-Aboriginal people or an Aboriginal person who is not from that area or doesn't have the cultural authority to conduct a Welcome to Country. There is no right or wrong





way to say an Acknowledgement, so long as it is given authentically, and the person delivering the acknowledgement understands the intention and meaning behind it.

For other events, where a Welcome to Country may not be applicable, an Acknowledgement of Country should be made. Such events might include:

- Council meetings;
- internal meetings;
- meetings that staff are chairing off site;
- small or specialised public information sessions; and
- smaller events and workshops.

In circumstances where it is not possible for the traditional owners to provide a Welcome, it is important that a senior officer acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land in the appropriate way.

An example of an Acknowledgement of Country statements can include:

***“I/We wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land we are meeting on today the Nyoongar people, we acknowledge their continuing culture, connection to the land and local water ways and pay respect to Elders past and present “***

**Note:** This example is the preferred example of an Acknowledgement to Country, but there is actually no set wording for an Acknowledgement to Country. It is important that the choice of words be meaningful to the person making the Acknowledgement and that it is always done respectfully.

## Response to a Welcome to Country?

It is necessary for the speaker, who follows immediately after the Welcome, to respond by acknowledging the person who delivered the Welcome. If a non-Aboriginal person or an Aboriginal person who is not from the area is speaking after the Welcome is conducted, they should acknowledge the traditional owners and deliver an Acknowledgement of Country also.

An Acknowledgment and a Welcome serve two different purposes and should not be replaced because a Welcome to Country has been provided.

An Acknowledgment of Country should always be done after a Welcome to Country.



## Smoking Ceremonies

A Smoking is an important part of any ceremony and can also be performed as its own ceremony. Usually at the beginning of a ceremony it accompanies a Welcome and assists in cleansing the area and the people of bad spirits and to promote the protection and well-being of visitors.

*The smoking ceremony is a powerful practice that embodies spiritual cleansing, cultural heritage, healing, social cohesion, environmental respect, and cultural resilience. It is a powerful expression of Aboriginal identity, deeply rooted in tradition, and vital for the continuity and well-being of Aboriginal communities.*

## Other Traditional Ceremonies

There are a number of other Traditional Ceremonies and practices that can be used, these will vary depending on where you are located and may include:

- Traditional dancing and music (men's and women's)
- Didgeridoo playing (men only)
- Aboriginal art lesson
- Storytelling (Dreamtime stories) or yarning
- Cultural tours
- [Bush tucker](#)
- [Bush medicine](#)
- Painting/sand designs of the [\(Wagyl\)](#) (men only)

## Art

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork can come in a number of different mediums. For example, music, writing, visual arts, media arts, performing arts. It's very important to always consult with local Aboriginal community prior to commissioning or liaising with an artist about their artwork or cultural heritage.

If you would like to consider other traditional ceremonies/ practices as part of your event, please contact the Aboriginal Partnership Advisor.



## Payments/Exchange

In providing cultural services such as 'Welcome to Country,' artistic performances and ceremonies, it is important to acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are using their own time and intellectual property as cultural consultants. For this reason, it is appropriate to liaise with the Aboriginal Partnership Advisor to ensure that people are paid for their services. Cultural consultation payments are to be paid after the delivery of services as per the agreed quotation.

Please note officers will need to include these fees within each individual project budget.

## Further information

The City of Kwinana works closely with our local Aboriginal Community to identify who should be consulted when organising a Welcome to Country. Please contact the Aboriginal Partnership Advisor if you would like further information.

## 7.2 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – DES BLURTON

**Presenter:** Denver D’Cruz – Manager Community Engagement.

### SUMMARY

After receiving feedback from local Aboriginal community members and meeting with Kwinana Police, City officers became aware of pressing and significant challenges facing the region: family and domestic violence, and mental health issues. The local Officer in Charge (OIC) highlighted that it is not uncommon for Kwinana Police to respond to five or more domestic violence incidents in a single day. The OIC also stated the significant shortage of specialist mental health services in the region. These concerns were raised at the District Leadership Group (DLG), where Anthony Collier from the Department of Health offered a valuable resource to the Kwinana community—Des Blurton, an experienced mental health professional, who could be made available to work in Kwinana, one day per week here.

**About Des:** Des Blurton is a respected Aboriginal elder based in Rockingham, well-known in the Kwinana community. With many years of experience in mental health, Des brings valuable expertise and a deep connection to local Aboriginal people. Since this offer was made, City officers have met with Des and confirmed that he is able and ready to begin immediately.

With support from Boola Maara, Des would work proactively in the preventative space, providing early intervention to support the mental health of Aboriginal community members. His role will focus on triaging individuals at the first signs of mental health concerns and connecting them with appropriate clinical pathways. Des’s approach is flexible and will be tailored to meet the community’s needs.

While we anticipate that Des will be based at the Darius Wells Library and Resource Centre, this space will serve as his base for outreach work. It will provide an immediately available, private space for engaging with community members, while also enabling Des to visit local Aboriginal organisations regularly as needed.

While this is possibly a short to medium-term support solution, the City is aware of ongoing pressures faced by our local Aboriginal community and with the support of the Department of Health, it will provide an opportunity for immediate response.

The City is committed to supporting a meaningful solution, and is aware that Moorditj Koort Aboriginal Corporation recently held a Suicide Prevention Plan workshop to gather community and service input to a new Perth Southern Suicide Prevention Plan. With this in mind, Des coming into Kwinana will be discussed with Moorditj Koort as a temporary option, while longer term options are considered.

The City has already engaged with WA Police and other local organisations, all of whom have expressed strong support for this initiative. Now, we bring this proposal to the Boola Maara Consultative Committee for discussion and feedback.



**Key Areas of Focus:**

- Preventative mental health measures
- Supporting the community in navigating the complex health system
- One-on-one consultations and support
- Social and emotional wellbeing assistance
- Triage and yarning circles

This service will come at no cost to the City, yet it will provide significant benefits by helping WA Police and the Aboriginal community identify issues early, ensuring that local people receive the support they need as soon as practically possible.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Boola Maara Aboriginal Consultative Committee endorse and provide comment where necessary on the proposal of Des Burton, from Department of Health being based in Kwinana one day a week.**

**Boola Maara Aboriginal Consultative Committee Comments:**

**7.3 EARLY YEARS STRATEGY UPDATE**

**Presenter:** Sharon Oldfield – Early Years Officer.

**SUMMARY**

The City of Kwinana, along with Jennifer Chaplyn from Same Page Consulting, are developing a community informed Early Years Strategy that will better enable us to focus on improving the health, development and wellbeing of Kwinana’s young children and their families.

At the Boola Maara Aboriginal Consultative Committee meeting on 4 November 2024 the Early Years Officer shared early childhood data collected through the Australian Early Development Census and antenatal data collected through the Department of Health and the Kwinana Child and Adolescent Health Centre.

To help address the increasing numbers of vulnerable young children living in Kwinana, the Boola Maara recommended that the Aboriginal Health Team and Babbingur Mia be asked to join the Early Years Steering Group. It was also recommended that the City of Kwinana utilise this opportunity to advocate for more frequent paediatrician visits through the Aboriginal Health Centre

In this presentation, I will introduce Jennifer Chaplyn from Same Page Consulting, who is working with the City to develop the Early Years Strategy. We will provide an update to the Boola Maara regarding the Aboriginal services that have joined the Steering Group and the work that has been done so far.

To create an Early Years Strategy for our community it is important that we understand the experiences, successes, needs and wants of young children and their families living in Kwinana. We will be meeting with families at the Medina Aboriginal Arts Centre, Ngalla Yorga Waangkan and Moorditj Kulungar in the coming weeks.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Boola Maara Aboriginal Consultative Committee note and provide comment on the following:**

- 1. Is there anything you feel we have missed in our early stages of consultation?**
- 2. Is there anything else you suggest we should do or know that will help us understand young children and their families living in Kwinana?**



**Boola Maara Aboriginal Consultative Committee Comments:**

**8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**9. LATE AND URGENT BUSINESS**

**10. CLOSE OF MEETING**

