

7.1 LMM 31/10/2023 - RECOMMIT TO THE 1998 STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT BETWEEN CITY OF NEWCASTLE AND GURAKI ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOTION:

That City of Newcastle:

1. Acknowledges that we operate on the grounds of the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples and that we recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationships with the land, and that they are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of dispossession.
2. Reiterates our commitment to address disadvantages and attain justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this community, particularly following the recent Voice to Parliament referendum.
3. Notes that the City of Newcastle was proud to be the first local government area in the region to publicly support the 'Yes' campaign for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander constitutional recognition, showing our support through public events including Pat Farmer AM's 'Run for the Voice' campaign visit to Federal Park in Wallsend, supporting the Newcastle 'Walk for the Voice' and the public information forum at Gregson Park, Hamilton.
4. Notes 53% of Newcastle residents vote 'Yes' to constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a Voice to Parliament, with Newcastle receiving the highest 'Yes' vote outside of a capital city, and commends the work of local First Nations leaders, our Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Claydon MP, and Hunter Workers for their advocacy and campaign leadership.
5. Thanks members of the Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee for their work and commitment to providing strategic advice and guidance regarding our engagement with the local Aboriginal community and particularly in the drafting of council plans and strategies, including but not limited to:
 - a. Reconciliation Action Plan,
 - b. Aboriginal Employment Strategy, and
 - c. Aboriginal Heritage Management Strategy.
6. Acknowledges and recommits to the 1998 Statement of Commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People of the City of Newcastle.
7. Forwards this motion to Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee noting our thanks and the above re-commitment and requesting that a list of actions be developed at their next committee meeting to inform CN of how we may continue to fulfill our obligations and commitment to reconciliation.

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 1: A Commitment by Newcastle City Council to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of the City of Newcastle, 14 April 1998.

A Commitment by Newcastle City Council To Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of the City of Newcastle

The Council of the City of Newcastle acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in this council area Awabakal and Worimi, were the first peoples of this land, and are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of continuing dispossession.

Newcastle Council recognises that the British invasion initiated massive changes to the land and its peoples.

As a vital step towards building a just, common future, Newcastle Council recognises the loss and the grief held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Council acknowledges that this loss and grief has been caused by alienation from their traditional lands, the loss of their lives and their freedom, and the forced removal of their children.

Newcastle Council supports the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to live according to their own values and cultures.

Newcastle Council recognises the vital importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' contribution to strengthening and enriching our city and region.

Newcastle Council, in consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is committed to:

respecting and conserving their cultural practices, traditional sites and significant places,

promoting activities which increase cultural sensitivity and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,

developing an agreement between local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other community members for the care of the local environment,

working towards the recovery of their languages, health, cultural practices and lost kinship.

Newcastle Council will look towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for practical knowledge which could help to secure a sustainable future for our community.

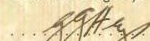
Newcastle Council, in negotiation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, will further reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other community members by working together for a treaty and/or other agreements of reconciliation.

Newcastle City Council, in negotiation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, will develop an action plan to redress disadvantages and attain justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this community.




Signed for and on behalf of
Newcastle City Council by:

The Right Worshipful
The Lord Mayor of Newcastle
Councillor Greg Heys


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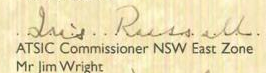
Mr Robert Gibbens
General Manager, Newcastle City Council

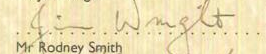

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Signed for and on behalf of the
Aboriginal Community of the
Newcastle Local Government Area by:

Mrs Iris Russell


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ATSIC Commissioner NSW East Zone
Mr Jim Wright


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Mr Rodney Smith


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14 April 1998