

Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country

Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Council Policy EXE/CP-4



Strategic Outcome Supported: 1 – A diverse and growing population.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

1. To ensure that the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup acknowledge and show respect for the Wardandi, and Ganeang/Kaneang people, who are the Traditional Owners of the land upon which the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup is situated.

SCOPE

2. 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/or Acknowledgement of Country should be included.

DEFINITIONS

3. **Acknowledgement of Country** is a respectful statement made to recognise the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which an event, meeting, or gathering is taking place.
4. **Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation** is the Noongar Regional Corporation for the Gnaala Karla Booja region .
5. **Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation** is the Noongar Regional Corporation for the South West Boojarah region.
6. **Traditional Owners** are Aboriginal People with a traditional and cultural connection to the area prior to European settlement.
7. **Welcome to Country** is a ritual or formal ceremony performed by the Traditional Owners to welcome people to their land. This ceremony is undertaken by Elders acknowledged as such by their community.

POLICY STATEMENTS

8. The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup's boundary intersects with two Noongar regions: Gnaala Karla Booja and South West Boojarah. The relevant Regional Corporation shall be contacted when organising a Welcome to Country.

Welcome to Country

9. The Welcome to Country will be incorporated at the beginning of the following events:
 - a. The opening of a new significant building involving State or Federal Government representatives; and

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- b. Major civic ceremonies or functions.

Acknowledgement of Country

10. 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
 - c. Forums, briefing sessions, community workshops where the public are present; and
 - d. Conferences or seminars; and
 - e. NAIDOC celebrations; and
 - f. Citizenship Ceremonies.
11. 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.

DELEGATION AND AUTHORISATION

12. Nil.

LEGISLATION

13. Nil.

APPENDIX

14. Nil.

GOVERNANCE

Related Policy(s):

- Nil.

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Related Procedure(s):

- Nil.

Revision Requirements and Version Control:

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Responsible Department(s): | Executive Services | | |
| Review to be conducted by: | Executive Manager Corporate Services | | |
| Revision Frequency: | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual (1yr) | <input type="checkbox"/> Biennial (2yr) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Triennial (3yr) |
| Current Version Date: | 17/12/2025 | Next Due: | 12/2028 |

Policy Version Details and Information:

| #: | Synopsis: | Date: | Ref.: | Synergy: |
|--|---|------------|-----------|----------|
| 1 | Initial adoption of Policy. | 27/05/2015 | - | - |
| Removed policy number 1.15 and added new policy ID; and | | | | |
| Added objective and scope; and | | | | |
| Removed procedural information. | | | | |
| 2 | Added information on: Reference to Noongar people. | 21/12/2021 | 213/21 | NPP7997 |
| Acknowledgement of Country updated to include event and document types. | | | | |
| Referenced the SWALSC and their protocols. | | | | |
| Transferred to new Policy template. | | | | |
| 3 | Council deferred adoption pending further review. | 15/03/2024 | 190/10-24 | NPP11850 |
| Updated the information regarding SWALSC's role and included the reference to the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation. | | | | |
| 4 | | 17/12/2025 | 255/12-25 | NPP17076 |