



2002



ABORIGINAL STRATEGY

BACKGROUND

- In 1992, Commonwealth, State and Local Governments signed the National Commitment to Improve Outcomes in the Delivery of Programs and Services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples.
- That Agreement acknowledged the planning and co-ordinating roles of Councils, together with their responsibilities to ensure an appropriate range of services is provided to meet the needs of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders.
- In February 1997, Hobart City Council endorsed the National Assembly of Local Government's recommendation supporting racial tolerance.
- In May 2000, Hobart City Council endorsed the Australian Local Government Association's Statement of Commitment.
- In April 2001, Council resolved to undertake a process of consultation with the Aboriginal community and organisations to develop a draft strategy in relation to Aboriginal issues for Council's consideration.
- In October 2001, an Aboriginal Liaison Officer was employed to consult with the Aboriginal community. During the consultation process, Aboriginal elders, a wide range of members of the Aboriginal community, Aboriginal organisations and government service providers were consulted to formulate a draft Aboriginal strategy.
- At its meeting on 25 February 2002, Council endorsed the Aboriginal Strategy. The Aboriginal Strategy will guide Council's activities in working with the Aboriginal community and addressing Aboriginal issues into the future.

Australian Local Government Association
STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
Endorsed by Hobart City Council in May 2000

The Hobart City Council recognises

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of Australia

The loss and grief held by Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders caused by alienation from traditional lands, loss of lives and freedom, and the forced removal of children.

The customs and traditions of Indigenous Australians and their spiritual relationship with the land.

The right of Indigenous Australians to live according to their own beliefs, values and customs, and the vital importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's contribution to strengthening and enriching the heritage of all Australians.

The need for a partnership approach with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as part of addressing the needs of whole communities throughout Australia.

The Hobart City Council supports:

The vision as expressed by the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation of a "united Australia which respects this land of ours, values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and provides justice and equity for us all".

Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians working together for a national agreement or other instrument of reconciliation.

The need to improve non-Indigenous understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues and find new ways to work together in Partnership to ensure the principles of equity and access for all members of the Indigenous community to culturally appropriate services and programs.

The Hobart City Council commits to:

Developing and promoting, as appropriate, Indigenous involvement in events and celebrations of significance which respect the dignity and protocols of the local Indigenous community.

Taking effective action on issues of social and economic concern as identified in the National Commitment to Improved Outcomes in the Delivery of Programs and Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders where they lie within the sphere of interest and responsibility of local government.

Participating in education processes, which enhance the increased knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage and the needs of Indigenous communities.

Developing strategies that improve the level of participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in local government at all levels.

HOBART CITY COUNCIL ABORIGINAL STRATEGY

1. IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF ABORIGINAL PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Hobart City Council Strategic Plan Results to be Achieved

Key Area 1 - Capital City Governance

- Greater community involvement in city planning and activities.

Key Area 4 - Community and Cultural Development

- A harmonious community in which all people are valued and can be active participants in community life.
- A city in which people are actively involved in shaping the community to meet its own needs.

Tasmania Together Goal 12 - Provide all Tasmanians with the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect them.

STRATEGY	ACTION
<p>In partnership with the Aboriginal Community explore ways to encourage the Aboriginal community to participate in local government initiatives and activities.</p> <p>Encourage participation with local government by members of the Aboriginal community.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people's traditional custodianship of land at Council's major events and ceremonies by welcome to country by an Aboriginal person, and acknowledge traditional custodianship of land by the Lord Mayor at Council's formal events. 2. In partnership with the Aboriginal community facilitate six monthly Aboriginal community meetings to enable Council and the Aboriginal community to review the strategy. <p>AND</p> <p>Establish an ongoing reference group representing Hobart City Council Aldermen, relevant staff and interested Aboriginal community members.</p>

HOBART CITY COUNCIL ABORIGINAL STRATEGY

2. IMPROVING THE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Hobart City Council Strategic Plan Results to be Achieved

Key Area 4 - Community and Cultural Development

- A city that values its creativity and cultural life and celebrates its cultural diversity

Key Area 7 - Protection of Cultural Heritage

- A well developed awareness and understanding of Hobart's unique and diverse cultural heritage

Tasmania Together Goal 10 - Acknowledge and respect the contribution that the Aboriginal community and its culture have made and continue to make to Tasmania and its identity.

STRATEGY	ACTION
<p>In partnership with the Aboriginal community, increase the community's understanding of Indigenous issues.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support or provide premises eg Carnegie Gallery, for Aboriginal cultural exhibitions and activities in the Hobart City Council municipal area. 2. Include articles in the Capital City News, which feature Council stories about activities and initiatives flowing out of the Aboriginal Strategy and its implementation. 3. Incorporate activities to promote awareness of National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) and National Reconciliation weeks in Council's Community and Cultural Development and other programs.

STRATEGY	ACTION
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. In conjunction with the Aboriginal community, install interpretative plaques/ sculptures /panels / works, designed by Aboriginal artists, at sites which have been identified as significant by the Aboriginal community within the Hobart City Council area, such art works to depict the continuing cultural identity of the Aboriginal community. <li>5. Promote awareness of the Aboriginal community by inviting the Indigenous community's participation and provision of activities in community cultural events. <li>6. Support the holding of community education seminars within Hobart, focusing on issues pertinent to the Aboriginal community, through provision of venues and promotion. <li>7. Promote awareness through activities such as Aboriginal naming / co-naming and renaming of particular sites, parks, streets etc, and the placing of explanatory notices on signs that are based on Aboriginal words. <li>8. Undertake ongoing cultural awareness training opportunities for Aldermen and Council staff.

HOBART CITY COUNCIL ABORIGINAL STRATEGY

3. IMPROVING THE LEVEL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

Hobart City Council Strategic Plan Results to be Achieved

Key Area 4 - Community and Cultural Development

- A city in which all people have equal access to facilities, services and activities.

Tasmania Together Goal 9 - Foster an inclusive society that acknowledges and respects our multicultural heritage, values diversity and treats everyone with compassion and respect.

STRATEGY	ACTION
<p>Improve access and equity to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait community who are seeking Hobart City Council services.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold regular meetings at which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Aboriginal community can raise concerns and provide Council with information on Aboriginal community needs and activities; and • information on Council’s activities and those of the wider community can be provided to the Aboriginal community. 2. Fly the Aboriginal Flag on days/weeks, which are of special significance to Aboriginal people. 3. Actively promote Council’s services to the Aboriginal community. 4. Promote the use of Council’s Community and Cultural Grants Programs and access to Council facilities by Aboriginal organisations. 5. Include Aboriginal organisations on the Community/Cultural Grants mailing list.

STRATEGY	ACTION
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. Include Aboriginal artwork symbols in Council information brochures, engaging an Aboriginal artist to undertake the artwork.<li>7. Include Aboriginal community and cultural information on Council's websites.<li>8. Provide appropriate services and access for Aboriginal youth through Council's Youth Service Program.

HOBART CITY COUNCIL ABORIGINAL STRATEGY

4. ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

Hobart City Council Strategic Plan Results to be Achieved

Key Area 4 - Community and Cultural Development

- A harmonious community in which all people are valued and can be active participants in community life.
- A city in which people are actively involved in shaping the community to meet its own needs.

Key Area 9 - Economic Development and Tourism

- Greater employment and training opportunities.

Tasmania Together Goal 16 - Increase job and meaningful work opportunities in Tasmania.

STRATEGY	ACTION
<p>In partnership with the Aboriginal community, explore ways to provide increased employment and economic development opportunities for Aboriginal people in Hobart.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employ an Aboriginal Liaison Officer to assist Council to maintain and develop links with the Aboriginal community, to implement actions arising out of the Aboriginal Strategy and to provide advice across the organisation on Aboriginal issues. 2. Explore and develop opportunities for Aboriginal employment within Council, including, for example, employment of an Aboriginal youth worker, identified Aboriginal traineeships and cadetships, and the development of an Indigenous Employment Strategy.

STRATEGY	ACTION
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Investigate the possibility of providing a scholarship/bursary specifically identified for the education of Aboriginal people.<li>4. Provide employment opportunities for the Aboriginal community by inviting them to provide activities at festivals and cultural events.<li>5. In consultation with the Aboriginal community identify and develop strategies for industry development opportunities in the Hobart area for Aboriginal people.

HOBART CITY COUNCIL ABORIGINAL STRATEGY

5. MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF SITES OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Hobart City Council Strategic Plan Results to be Achieved

Key Area 5 - Land Use Planning and Development

- Protection and enhancement of environmental, social and cultural values.
- Building development sympathetic to existing heritage.

Key Area 7 - Protection of Cultural Heritage

- Long term conservation of heritage sites including buildings, streetscapes and cultural landscapes.

Tasmania Together Goal 21 - Value, protect and conserve our natural and cultural heritage.

STRATEGY	ACTION
<p>In consultation with the Aboriginal community, identify and protect sites in Hobart, which are of significance to the Aboriginal community.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal Heritage Unit and relevant Aboriginal organisations and interested Aboriginal community members, identify and develop an inventory of sites in the Hobart municipal area that are significant to the Aboriginal community. 2. Where appropriate, mark such sites in a manner that reflects their cultural importance to the Aboriginal community.

STRATEGY	ACTION
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Develop processes to be incorporated into the development approval process to ensure the protection of significant sites.<li>4. In consultation with the Aboriginal community, Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal Heritage Unit, develop an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Policy.

Aboriginality Definition

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) definition, of Aboriginality is the definition used for Aboriginality purposes by the Hobart City Council.

An Aboriginal individual is a person who:

- (a) is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent: and
- (b) identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and
- (c) is accepted as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander by the community with which the person associates.

(Council will be guided by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs on matters to do with defining Aboriginality)

The Mouheneenner People

Before European occupation, Aboriginal Tasmania consisted of 9 tribes, each tribe comprising from five to fifteen bands. The tribes fell into three groups. The eastern and northern groups consisted of the Oyster Bay, North East, and North tribes. The midland group, consisted of the Big River, North Midlands and Ben Lomond tribes and the third group, consisted of the North West, South West and South East tribes.

The South East people consisted of four bands and had territory that covered about 3,100 square kilometres. Their land included 555 kilometres of coast line from the west bank of the Derwent River from New Norfolk to Storm Bay, all the D'Entrecasteaux Channel as far as South East Cape and Bruny Island and extended inland north to the Huon Valley and New Norfolk.

The four bands of the South East people were the Mouheneenner from (Hobart), the Nuenonne from Bruny Island, the Mellukerdee from the Huon, and the Lyluequonny from Recherche Bay. These four bands operated in large groups along the coast, rich in shellfish, and in a limited hinterland with ready access to birds, kangaroos, and wallabies. Seasonal movement for the South East people took place up and down the coast. In November they congregated at North Bruny Island for muttonbirds, and in the summer at Recherche Bay for seals.

As the most maritime of the Tasmanian Aboriginals they were able to use their bark catamarans to shelter in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel in all seasons. They made frequent short voyages between Bruny Island and the Tasmanian mainland, including journeys up the Derwent River and across the southern straits of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel to Recherche Bay and South East Cape. They also made journeys to Tasman Peninsula, sometimes directly across Storm Bay Passage by catamaran. Seasonal excursions were also made to Maatsuyker and De Witt Islands to hunt seals and similar trips were undertaken to Eddystone Rock.

The City of Hobart is situated in the territory of the **Mouheneenner** people and the area is known as **Nibberloonnee or Linghe**. The Mouheneenner had a summer camp at Little Sandy Bay called Krewer. **Kunanyi** (Mount Wellington) was a major spiritual place. From this site many of the Aboriginal people from the South East watched the first ships arrive and the construction of Hobart Town.¹

¹ Extracts from Aboriginal Tasmanian, Second Edition. Author: Lyndal Ryan