



POLICY NO. 5.4.51

POLICY STATEMENT

WELCOME TO COUNTRY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PURPOSE

To outline how and when the City will formally acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the land within the district of the City of Gosnells.

POLICY

The City of Gosnells supports the practice of both *Welcome to Country* and *Acknowledgement of Country* as a means to show respect to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the City is situated, the Whadjuk Noongar people. These practices will be integrated into Council-related civic and community events in accordance with this policy.

The form and type of recognition will be tailored to the nature and size of the event.

1. Welcome to Country

- 1.1 A *Welcome to Country* can only be performed by Elders recognised as traditional custodians of the land and should be the first item in the order of proceedings.
- 1.2 A *Welcome to Country* is appropriate for, but not limited to, the following events:
 - (a) NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week events hosted by the City
 - (b) Citizenship Ceremonies
 - (c) Civic and community events at the discretion of the Mayor.

2. Cultural Protocols

The City will refer to the Noongar Protocols for *Welcome to Country*, developed by the Southwest Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), for guidance on contacting Elders, payment of fees for service, and observing other necessary cultural customs during events.

3. Acknowledgement of Country

- 3.1 An *Acknowledgement of Country* can be performed by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and is a respectful public recognition of the traditional custodians of the land.
- 3.2 One *Acknowledgement of Country* may be delivered by the Mayor or another designated official at the following events:
 - (a) Council Meetings
 - (b) Citizenship Ceremonies
 - (c) Formal Council Functions
 - (d) Civic and community events at the discretion of the Mayor



- (e) Official openings of new significant buildings or other infrastructure.

4. Written Acknowledgement of Country

A written *Acknowledgement of Country* will be included on the City's website and in key statutory publications, such as the Strategic Community Plan and Annual Report, to ensure that the traditional custodians are consistently recognised.

GOVERNANCE REFERENCES

Statutory Compliance	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>
Industry Compliance	
Organisational Compliance	Aboriginal Engagement Framework – <i>Shared Journey</i>
Process Links	

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer Title		Contact:	
Community Engagement		Director Community Engagement		9397 3000	
Risk Rating	Low	Review Cycle	3-yearly	Next Due:	2028
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis			
1.	OCM 8/7/2025 Res. 2025/174	New Policy adopted.			
2.					
3.					