



CITY OF GOSNELLS

City of Gosnells  
**Aboriginal  
Engagement  
Framework –  
Shared Journey**

# Acknowledgement

The City of Gosnells proudly acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. The Whadjuk Noongar people are the original inhabitants and Traditional Custodians of the land and waters where the City of Gosnells is today. We pay respect to their culture, history and to their Elders past and present.

**The City of Gosnells  
wambadin kadi tj kalyakoorl  
kaaradjiny Australia wer baalap  
yoodan-ak boodjar, wardan wer  
boola moort, wirn-ak dandjoo koorliny.  
Yeyi ali City of Gosnells Whadjuk Noongar  
keny moort wer kalyakoorl  
kaaradjiny boodjar-ak wer kepa.  
Ngalak koota-djinang baalap  
kadadjiny wer Birdiya koora  
wer yeyi yang.**

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## Mayor's Message

The Aboriginal Engagement Framework, "Shared Journey," emphasises the importance of unity, collaboration, and respect. By fostering genuine relationships, creating opportunities for shared learning, and working together on common goals, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people can overcome past divisions and build a more inclusive, resilient future. This strategy will serve as a guide for ongoing efforts toward mutual understanding, shared growth, and collective well-being for all members of the community.

*Terresa Lynes*

Terresa Lynes  
Mayor





## Introduction

The City of Gosnells Aboriginal Engagement Framework outlines the City's commitment to strengthening relationships with the Aboriginal community through meaningful connections and partnerships. The Framework focuses on creating an inclusive, respectful approach to engaging Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, fostering mutual understanding, collaboration, and shared responsibility. This framework emphasises the areas that local government can influence, ensuring that actions are practical and impactful.

## Vision

A united, respectful, and collaborative community where Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people walk together, share knowledge, and build lasting relationships that respect culture, history, and a shared future.



## Past and Ongoing Partnerships

Regular and ongoing engagement with the Langford Aboriginal Association, a not-for-profit organisation governed by a Management Committee of Aboriginal people, with the role of providing services and programs to increase the health, well-being, cultural and social connections for Aboriginal people living and working in the Perth metropolitan area. This engagement has included seeking advice and input on cultural and design aspects of a number of the City's projects.

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The City provides regular and ongoing mandatory Cross Cultural Awareness Training for all staff delivered by Kambarang Services, an Aboriginal managed organisation.

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The City developed and delivered a program called Learning Noongar through Storytime in partnership with an Aboriginal presenter. The program was offered through the City's libraries and used stories, songs, activities and play to encourage families to learn about Noongar language and culture.

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The City has installed a Welcome to Country area at Mary Carroll Park which is a regional park and a wetland and Bush Forever site. The site is popular with the community and the Welcome to Country area showcases the rich culture and history of the area encouraging greater learning about local Aboriginal Culture. The Welcome to Country area provides an opportunity for local Aboriginal people to share their stories and rich cultural pride. The advice and designs for the area were provided by the Langford Aboriginal Association.

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The City has developed a new space to promote connection with local Noongar culture and heritage with an upgrade of a park in Langford. Koorlangka Waabiny Park is an important example of the City's close partnership with the Langford Aboriginal Association who were involved in all aspects of the Park's design including the park's name, landscaping, artwork, storytelling, design features and signage.

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The City has been working with the Langford Aboriginal Association on Aboriginal names for a number of the local wetlands. Two sites have been considered to date and have been renamed Nakaal Boodja (Peaceful Place) Wetland and Maladjiny-ap (Place of Growing) Wetland. The building that houses the Langford Aboriginal Association is owned by the City and has been renamed the Moort-ap (Family) Centre.

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**The City partners with the Langford Aboriginal Association to deliver the NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony including cultural performances and Aboriginal Art Exhibition in a celebration of the cultural heritage and history of Aboriginal People. The event attracts significant numbers including representatives from key government and non-government agencies and community members. There are also a number of events held during NAIDOC Week to celebrate the history and culture of Aboriginal People which have included:**

Special Noongar storytelling sessions and cultural art sessions at City of Gosnells libraries.

Guided tours by Aboriginal Elders to showcase Aboriginal history and culture at various locations.

Langford Aboriginal Association's annual Community Event

Event with respected Bibbulmun Noongar Elder and Freeman of the City Dr Robert Isaacs AM discussing his memoir, *Two Cultures, One Story*.

A Yarn with Ernie Dingo at the City's Performing Arts and Cultural Centre.

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The City regularly partners with Aboriginal organisations to facilitate programs at The Shack Youth centre including Stephen Michael Foundation and Langford Aboriginal Association, running sports, arts, cooking and other cultural programs.

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The City has partnered with Aboriginal Organisations including Binar and Langford Aboriginal Association to bring Aboriginal Culture to its Park Play programs for children with activities such as boomerang painting, storytelling under the trees and dancing sessions.

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The City commissioned local Aboriginal artist Gertrina Hayden to develop a design that is being used for scarves and ties worn by the City's Mayor and Councillors, and for distribution as gifts.

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# Principles of Engagement

The strategy is grounded in the following principles:

## Respect and Recognition

Acknowledge the richness of Aboriginal cultures, languages, and histories, recognising the importance of cultural diversity in creating a cohesive society.

## Cultural Safety

Ensure that interactions are culturally safe for Aboriginal people, respecting their rights, traditions, and beliefs.

## Two-Way Learning

Promote opportunities for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to learn from each other, share stories, and develop a deeper understanding of each other's perspectives.

## Collaboration and Partnership

Engage in co-design and co-delivery of initiatives, ensuring Aboriginal leadership, participation, and influence in decision-making processes

# Action Plan

| Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                     | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <p><b>Strengthen Relationships:</b></p> <p>Build strong and genuine relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people that are based on respect, understanding, and shared goals.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Exchanges: Facilitate cultural exchanges between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities to share insights and experiences including cultural workshops and joint community events.</li> <li>• Engagement: Meet regularly with Aboriginal organisations to co-develop guiding principles for ongoing engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders and organisations.</li> <li>• Partnerships: Formalise a partnership with the Langford Aboriginal Association and explore the development of a Memorandum of Understanding to guide collaboration on shared initiatives.</li> <li>• Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country Policy: Develop and implement a policy to guide the consistent practice of Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country at the City.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>Promote Cultural Awareness:</b></p> <p>Increase awareness of Aboriginal culture, history, and contemporary issues through community events and education.</p>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storytelling and Sharing: Create regular platforms for Aboriginal people to share their stories, knowledge, and cultural practices.</li> <li>• Ongoing Collaboration: Continue working with Langford Aboriginal Association and other Aboriginal organisations to implement cultural and educational projects that celebrate Aboriginal culture.</li> <li>• Cultural Significance: Increase efforts to identify, acknowledge, and promote sites of cultural significance through interpretive signage, co-naming of places, and culturally appropriate programming.</li> <li>• Oral History Collection: Expand the City's Oral History Collection to include more stories of significant local Aboriginal people, ensuring their voices and stories are captured for future generations.</li> <li>• Art and Culture Programs: Commission public art projects that represent Aboriginal culture and history, involving local Aboriginal artists and storytellers.</li> </ul> |

# Action Plan

| Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                              | Actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <p><b>Encourage Joint Action:</b></p> <p>Support collaborative initiatives that bring both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities together to address common challenges and celebrate successes.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community-led Projects: Provide grant funding opportunities to local Aboriginal organisations for community-driven projects that address cultural and social issues and promote understanding and collaboration.</li><li>• Co-Design Programs: Develop and implement co-designed programs with Aboriginal organisations, ensuring their perspectives and priorities are integrated into the planning, delivery, and evaluation phases.</li><li>• Cultural Events and Celebrations: Plan and deliver NAIDOC Week events in collaboration with Langford Aboriginal Association and other Aboriginal organisations.</li></ul> |





Original artwork created by Gertrina Hayden



### **About the artist**

Gertrina Hayden is a local contemporary Aboriginal Artist with family connections to North Badimia Yamatji and South Whadjuk Noongar Country. Gertrina loves to illustrate stories of her childhood and create paintings that keep her connected to country and culture.

### **Artist statement**

I have based my design on the waterways around and in the Gosnells area. Centre Meeting Place represents the City of Gosnells Civic Centre. There is a waterway flowing on either side representing the Southern and Canning Rivers. The Frogs are a part of the waterways along with Dragonflies that also represent change and transformation. The small light blue circles throughout the design represent the community and projects that have been done throughout Gosnells and ongoing projects as well as new ones. The branches coming out from the meeting place represent growth in the Gosnells area. Commitment from the Council to improve, adjust and listen to local community members, which are represented by grey background dots throughout the design. Turning Gosnells into a bright vibrant suburb.

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