WELCOME/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND ELDERS PROTOCOL

TRADITIONAL WELCOME OR WELCOME TO COUNTRY

A traditional welcome is a speech that is done usually by an Elder of the local Aboriginal community of the area. It is mostly done at major events, and meetings. It welcomes people to visit and meet on the traditional area. The traditional owners of the area are people who have originally come from that area, and also are acknowledged by the community. They are people recognised by the community as a whole.

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL OWNERS

This is something that is done in acknowledgement of the traditional Aboriginal owners of the area in which you are working. It is done when an Elder or appropriate member of the Aboriginal community is not available to give the Traditional Welcome, or when a smaller less formal gathering is taking place.

Acknowledgement wording for an **Aboriginal person** who is not a traditional owner of the land where the event is being held:

"I am (name) an Aboriginal person from (tribe/clan) and I wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Dharawal Country and recognise their continued connection to the land we meet on today. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region and extend my recognition to their descendants who continue to live on Country."

Acknowledgement wording for a **non-Aboriginal person**:

"I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Dharawal Country and recognise their continued connection to the land we meet on today. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region and extend my recognition to their descendants who continue to live on Country".

Apply the following colour coded guide to determine whether a 'Welcome' or 'Acknowledgement' is required at Council events.

RED - Local event

Any activity that is held in Shellharbour City Council area, is open for the public, is organised by Council staff, and the Mayor, Councillors, Members of Parliament or other distinguished persons are invited to attend. Media coverage will be expected.

> **Official 'Welcome' by a local Aboriginal Elder is required.**
>
> **It is also appropriate for each speaker to make an acknowledgement of the traditional owners when speaking after a traditional welcome.**

ORANGE - Service delivery/community development activity

Any activity that is organised by Council staff to promote service delivery/community development outcomes, is open to specific members of the public, and the Mayor and/or Councillors may be invited to attend. Media release probably required.

> **A 'Welcome' by a local Aboriginal Elder can be used or an 'Acknowledgement' by another Aboriginal person can be invited.**

GREEN - Service delivery/community development occasion

Any activity that is organised by Council staff to promote service delivery/community development outcomes and is not open to the general public. Media release may be required.
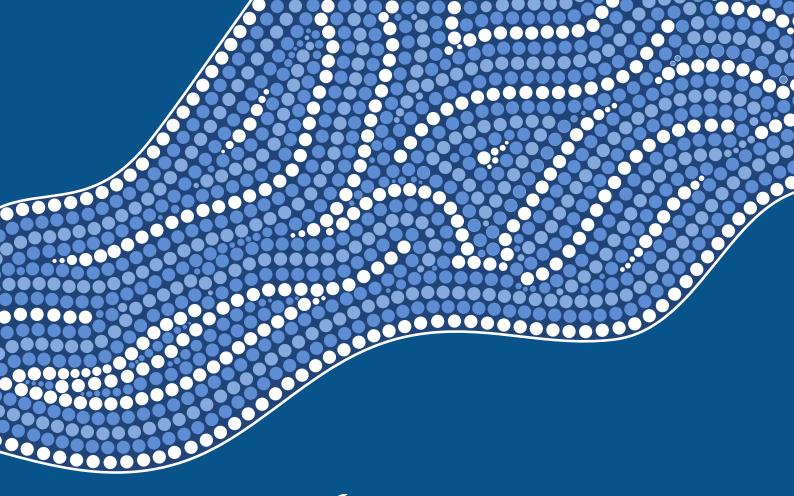
> **Only an 'Acknowledgement' is required. This can be done either by asking Council's Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer and if unavailable, the Council Officer organising the occasion can do an 'Acknowledgement'.**

PURPLE - Regional activity

Any event that is organised by a regional working party, is open to the public and may involve the attendance of Mayor, Councillors, Members of Parliament or other distinguished persons may be invited to attend but is not a Council owned event although Council staff may represent Council on the working party.

> **Official 'Welcome' by a local Aboriginal Elder is required.**
>
> **It is also appropriate for each speaker to make an acknowledgement of the traditional owners when speaking after a traditional welcome.**

Shellharbour
CITY COUNCIL