

A Commitment by Newcastle City Council To Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of the City of Newcastle

The Council of the City of Newcastle acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in this council area Awabakal and Worimi, were the first peoples of this land, and are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of continuing dispossession.

Newcastle Council recognises that the British invasion initiated massive changes to the land and its peoples.

As a vital step towards building a just, common future, Newcastle Council recognises the loss and the grief held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Council acknowledges that this loss and grief has been caused by alienation from their traditional lands, the loss of their lives and their freedom, and the forced removal of their children.

Newcastle Council supports the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to live according to their own values and cultures.

Newcastle Council recognises the vital importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' contribution to strengthening and enriching our city and region.

Newcastle Council, in consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is committed to:

respecting and conserving their cultural practices, traditional sites and significant places,

promoting activities which increase cultural sensitivity and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,

developing an agreement between local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other community members for the care of the local environment,

working towards the recovery of their languages, health, cultural practices and lost kinship.

Newcastle Council will look towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for practical knowledge which could help to secure a sustainable future for our community.

Newcastle Council, in negotiation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, will further reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other community members by working together for a treaty and/or other agreements of reconciliation.

Newcastle City Council, in negotiation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, will develop an action plan to redress disadvantages and attain justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this community.



Signed for and on behalf of
Newcastle City Council by:

The Right Worshipful
The Lord Mayor of Newcastle
Councillor Greg Heys

.....
Robert Gibbons

Mr Robert Gibbons
General Manager, Newcastle City Council

.....
R. Gibbons



Signed for and on behalf of the
Aboriginal Community of the
Newcastle Local Government Area by:

Mrs Iris Russell

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Iris Russell.....
ATSIC Commissioner NSW East Zone
Mr Jim Wright

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Jim Wright.....
Mr Rodney Smith

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Rodney Smith.....

14 April 1998