

A Commitment to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples of the Shire

This document demonstrates Mount Alexander Shire Council's active intention to support and promote the local Aboriginal community. It is a working document owned by the Aboriginal community and Mount Alexander Shire Council. This commitment statement was adopted in June 2014.

Acknowledgment

Mount Alexander Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung as the traditional owners of the lands and waters of the Mount Alexander Shire. We also recognise all other Indigenous people of the Shire. We acknowledge the vital role of the traditional owners, the local Jaara people, as the custodians of the region. We acknowledge the Recognition and Settlement Agreement including the Land Use Activity Agreement registered in October 2013 between the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the State Government, affecting all Crown land in the Shire.

We acknowledge that European colonisation caused disruption and grief to the indigenous population. This includes the alienation from their traditional lands and their cultural practices. We acknowledge the destructive impact of the removal of children from their families and culture.

We acknowledge the need to support reconciliation between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people in the Shire.

Commitments

Mount Alexander Shire Council will work in partnership with the Indigenous population to:

1. Encourage the local Aboriginal community and other community members to work together to care for the environment – in particular to impart practical knowledge of how the Aboriginal community has cared for the land for many generations.
2. Develop a relationship between the Mount Alexander Shire Council and the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation.
3. Build respect for and promote preservation of Aboriginal cultural practices, traditional sites and significant places.
4. Facilitate activities which will increase cultural sensitivity and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people in the Shire, particularly the Dja Dja Wurrung.
5. Conduct cultural awareness training for Council staff and Councillors.
6. Promote a range of economic projects and employment opportunities.
7. Communicate progress through meetings and a wide range of communication tools.

Implementation and Review

Council commits to hosting two round tables per year with members of the local Indigenous community, Councillors and Council staff and others to agree on actions arising from this commitment and to review progress. Council will receive an annual report on progress made in responding to this commitment.

Civic Centre
Cnr Lyttleton and Lloyd St, Castlemaine
P.O Box 185 Castlemaine VIC 3450

t (03) 5471 1700
e info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
w www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au

