

The Council Plan 2013-2017 sets out Council's commitment to strengthen its role in Aboriginal reconciliation and supporting the local Indigenous community.

At the Council Meeting on the 8 December Council endorsed the *"draft Mount Alexander Shire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Action Plan for Reconciliation"*.

The action plan highlights current and potential future initiatives that Mount Alexander Shire Council will seek to implement as part of its commitment to reconciliation with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community over the next few years.

Commitments	Mount Alexander Shire Council Activities	Timelines
<b>1. Encourage the wider community to work with the local Aboriginal community to care for the environment.</b>	Consult with local community on use of local indigenous plants.  Other relevant initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Aboriginal Landcare Group</i></li> <li>• <i>Nalderun Upper Loddon Planting &amp; Cooking Course</i></li> </ul>	Ongoing
	Facilitate partnerships between Community Planning Groups and the local community in addressing priorities focused on the environment.	2016
<b>2. Develop a relationship between the Mount Alexander Shire Council, local community elders and the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation.</b>	Develop an MOU between MASC and Nalderun Upper Loddon.	2016
	Participate in the bi-annual Indigenous Round table.	2015 - 2016
	Identify opportunities to work with the local indigenous community as part of the MASC Climate change action plan.	2015
	Seek Council's support for a recurrent budget contribution to initiatives delivered by the local indigenous community.	2016 - 2017
	Investigate opportunities to provide "welcome to country" signage for MASC.	2016

Commitments	Mount Alexander Shire Council Activities	Timelines
<b>3. Build respect for and promote preservation of Aboriginal cultural practices, traditional sites and significant places.</b>	Continue to include traditional owner acknowledgement in Council publications.	On-going
	Consult with the local community as part of the development of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan for Castlemaine Off-lead Dog Park	2016
	Work with the community to develop / source and distribute resources that highlight the Dja Dja Wurrung as the first peoples of the Mount Alexander Region	2016
	Work with the local community to identify a sustainable “keeping place” for indigenous artefacts.	2016
<b>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.</b>	Explore opportunities to incorporate Welcome to Country into Council’s Citizenship Ceremonies.	2016
	Work to incorporate an acknowledgement of the indigenous community into the Councils Australia Day event.	2016
	Work with the local community to install a “Reconciliation stone” outside the Civic Centre.	2015 - 2016
	Continue to consult with Dja Dja Wurrung regarding culturally appropriate road naming.	On-going

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	Explore opportunities for ‘dual naming’ of significant locations across the Shire.	2016
	Continue to include “Acknowledgement of Country” at the commencement of Council meetings and events.	On-going
	Continue flying of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags over Civic Centre	On-going
	Support for the Meeting Place initiative.	2015 - 2016
	Participate in the Nalderun Events Committee	On-going
	Continue to provide venue support for the Reconciliation Week Exhibition	On-going
	Consultation with the Dja Dja Wurrung Corp on Wayfinding signs, and inclusion on Traditional owner acknowledgement on signage	2015
<b>5. Conduct cultural awareness training for Council staff and Councillors.</b>	Develop a program for the delivery of on-going cultural awareness training to Councillors and Council staff	2015 - 2016

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<b>6. Promote a range of economic projects and employment opportunities.</b>	Provide access to the Community Bus to facilitate the transporting of children to school	2015 - 2016
	Explore opportunities to increase employment of indigenous community members	2015 - 2016
	Explore the development of indigenous tour activities for local and visitor audiences	2016 - 2017
<b>7. Communicate progress through meetings and a wide range of communication tools.</b>	Utilise Engagement funding to provide financial support for the Koorie Family Homework Centre.	2015 - 2016