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1. Statement

Ipswich City Council values the history and culture of the Indigenous Australian community and ensures that the Indigenous people have a right to practice and preserve their unique culture and traditions.

Council also acknowledges the ongoing challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognises the importance of community and government coming together to achieve the best outcomes for the Ipswich community.

Ipswich City Council's Indigenous Accord 2020 – 2025 sets the framework for reconciliation and community governance with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their communities. It contains targeted and specific actions and sets the agenda for cooperation, collaboration and partnership.

2. Purpose and Principles

The following principles underpin how we work with and seek to improve outcomes for Indigenous Australians in Ipswich.

- **Cultural Recognition, Respect and Community Engagement (Accord Theme 1):** Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples work together for the purpose of mutual respect and to positively, respectfully and proactively recognise, include and engage with the community.
- **Traditional Owners (Accord Theme 2):** Council recognises the rights of the region's Traditional Owners and their central role in decision-making about the lands, regions, places and natural resources of Ipswich.
- **Education, Employment and Skills Development (Accord Theme 3):** Council recognises the importance of education, employment and skills development in enhancing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the communities of Ipswich. Council's Indigenous Accord aims to establish Ipswich City Council as a leading employer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- **Business Development (Accord Theme 4):** Council acknowledges its shared responsibility with the Ipswich community to support, encourage and promote of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, entrepreneurs and enterprises.
- **Housing (Accord Theme 5):** Council acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's right to sustainable, affordable, dignified and culturally safe and inclusive

housing. Council's Indigenous Accord outlines mutual responsibilities for the sharing of information, collaboration and advocacy.

- **Health and Wellbeing (Accord Theme 6):** Council acknowledges the significant challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in maintaining good health and wellbeing. The Indigenous Accord outlines mutual responsibilities to promote the health and wellbeing of people, places, communities and families.
- **Community Safety (Accord Theme 7):** Council recognises the fundamental rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to feel and live safely. The Indigenous Accord outlines mutual responsibilities to ensure the safety and security of our shared places, spaces, organisations and communities.

3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan theme/s:

- Vibrant and Growing
- Safe, Inclusive and Creative
- Natural and Sustainable
- A Trusted and Leading Organisation

4. Regulatory Authority

- *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)*
- *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)*
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)*
- *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) & Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993*
- *Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)*

Related Documents

- iFuture 2021 -2032
- Ipswich City Council Indigenous Accord 2020 - 2025
- Ipswich City Council Indigenous Australian Social Justice Accord Procedure
- Human Rights Policy
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Signed 3 April 2009)

5. Human Rights Commitment

Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

6. Scope

This policy applies to all Councillors, Council staff, contractors, and others that act on Council's behalf to ensure they work in accordance with the policy principles and in accordance with the relevant legislation.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

All Councillors and Council Officers are responsible for understanding this policy, together with Council's commitments under the Indigenous Accord 2020 – 2025.

8. Key Stakeholders

Ipswich City Council will work with Ipswich's Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to support the implementation of this policy. Specific initiatives will be guided by input from:

- Ipswich City Council Indigenous Accord Working Group
- Ipswich City Council Executive Leadership Team and key departments including:
 - Community, Cultural and Economic Development
 - Corporate Services
 - Infrastructure and Environment

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Council will review its policy and associated procedure every four years, or as required, whichever is first.

Council will measure outcomes of the Accord on an annual basis and publish this work in an annual progress report. Monitoring will be supported by regular engagement and input from the Accord Working Group.

10. Definitions

Council: Abbreviated reference to Ipswich City Council.

Indigenous Australians: Descendants of people who lived in Australia and the surrounding islands prior to European colonisation.

Traditional Owner of Ipswich: Descendants of the apical ancestral groups that, prior to European colonisation, occupied the areas of land and water traditionally known as 'Tulmur' in the Yagara language, and now also known as 'Ipswich'.

11. Policy Owner

The General Manager (Community, Cultural and Economic Development) is the policy owner and the Economic and Community Development Manager is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.