

Council Policy

Policy Title:	Welcome to Country
Policy Number:	1.3
Focus Area:	Governance and Process
Responsibility:	Governance and Corporate Risk
Meeting Adopted:	23 June 2015 - 230615/14

OBJECTIVE

To provide respect to the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land in Richmond Valley.

POLICY

In order to pay respect to the Aboriginal community at large and the traditional owners of the land, Richmond Valley Council Staff and Councillors should recognise the traditional owners of the land at important formal functions, which shall include Ordinary Meetings of Council.

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee should guide the way in which respect should be shown (protocol). This guidance may vary from time to time.

Each time a variation of the Welcome to Country Protocol is recommended by the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, a report should be provided to Council advising of the new Welcome to Country Protocol.

Updated versions of the Welcome to Country Protocol will be distributed to Councillors and Council Staff.

Council will also seek guidance from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Working Party in regard to appropriate wording by Council (of recognition of Aboriginal lands) for use at the commencement of Council Meetings, etc.

Until such time as the Aboriginal Advisory Committee advise the Protocol and wording of the Welcome, the following shall be used:

"Council would like to show its respect and acknowledge all of the traditional custodians of land within the Richmond Valley Council area and show respect to elders past and present."

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by Council at the time of any relevant legislative changes, compliance requirements or at least every four years.