

PROPOSED NOTICE OF MOTION (Elected Members)

Name: Cr Tim Barling

Date of Meeting: 21 May 2019

Meeting of the: Ordinary Meeting of Council

Subject: Proposed Policy on Cultural Awareness

Disclaimer: Where administration has provided any assistance with the framing and/or wording of any motion/amendment to the Elected Member who has advised their intention to move it, the assistance has been provided on an impartial basis. The principle and intention expressed in any motion/amendment is solely that of the intended mover and not that of the officer/officers providing the assistance. Under no circumstance is it to be expressed to any party that administration or any officer holds a view on this motion other than that expressed in an official written or verbal report by administration to the Committee or Council meeting considering the motion.

PROPOSED NOTICE OF MOTION: CITY OF MELVILLE

That the Council acknowledges:

That in June 2017 the City of Melville was the first local government in Western Australia to endorse a Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and remains one of only one of two Local Governments in Western Australia to have one. A 'Stretch' RAP represents the third stage in a series of four as outlined in the reconciliation program by Reconciliation Australia, the City's Stretch RAP builds on Relationships, Respect and Opportunities.

That the Council requests the Chief Executive Officer, guided by the City of Melville Stretch RAP 2017- 2021 and other related City Strategies and Policies, to draft a new Council Policy on Cultural Awareness which includes or considers the following:

- 1) That investigations be conducted to draft an Acknowledgement of Country that is unique to the Whadjuk history and Cultural uniqueness of the Bibbulmun people that exists within the City of Melville district.**
- 2) That the above Acknowledgement of Country be given by the Mayor or Elected Member at every public meeting of Council and that it is written in the foreword of agendas and minutes. Also, until that time, that the current Acknowledgement of Country be incorporated into the foreword of agendas and minutes immediately.**
- 3) That the above Welcome to Country be incorporated into the 'Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country Policy' so as to be given at City of Melville events and activities.**
- 4) For the Australian, West Australian State flags and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander flags continue to be flown in front of the City of Melville Civic Centre.**
- 5) That Elected Members be provided with ongoing cross cultural awareness training every two years and that this aligns with the timing of the induction training for newly elected Councillors.**
- 6) That the draft Cultural Awareness Policy is brought to an Elected Members Information Session for discussion before being presented to the August 2019 Ordinary Meeting of Council.**

PROPOSED NOTICE OF MOTION

(Elected Members)

REASONS:

1. The City of Melville Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2017-2021 embodies the four goals of 'Respectful Relationships', 'Respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture', and 'Increased opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'. Whilst these goals are being embedded within the corporate structure they are somewhat absent and lacking in exposure in the specific activities of the Council (i.e. The Mayor and Elected Members).
2. There are nearly two dozen 'Sites of Cultural Significance' that have been identified within the City of Melville, with a descriptive list available on the City's website. Many of these sites are unique in significance within Western Australia because of their topography such as 'Yagan's Lookout' (Wireless Hill), 'Goolugatup' (Point Heathcote), because of a specific cultural significance like Bidi Katitijiny (Piney Lakes Aboriginal Women's Trail) or that they are featured in Dreamtime stories. An Acknowledgement of Country that is unique to the City of Melville aligns with the fact that a Welcome to Country ceremony is personal and local to the person and place that it is given. To make it unique will also make the Melville Acknowledgement of Country more meaningful and less likely to be seen as simply an act of procedural compliance.
3. Most local government authorities within metropolitan Perth give an Acknowledgement of Country at the start of every public council meeting and at least half have one published in their agendas and minutes. In the City of Melville Stretch RAP the second action under Goal 2 states 'Demonstrate respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities by embedding cultural protocols as part of the way our organisation functions' with 'Measures of Success' being that Acknowledgement of Country is included at the commencement of important internal meetings and delivered at all public events. Council Agendas do not currently have an Acknowledgement of Country printed in them and whilst one is sometimes given it is sometimes forgotten; to have it printed within the agenda should ensure that it is not overlooked in the future. Council Agendas and Minutes are often accessed documents and for those that do not attend meetings, or access the online recordings, will not be aware of an Acknowledgement of Country that is given verbally.
4. The City of Melville has made a commitment to staff training and community educational programs to improve the understanding and awareness. For the same reason this training should be provided to Elected Members every two years as an update and to newly elected Councillors at the start of their term. This will aid in the whole of organisation approach in cultural understanding and awareness.
5. Reconciliation Week starts at the end of this month (27 May - 3 June) and the City of Melville will have a diversity of events to celebrate.

SIGNATURE: _____