

Memorandum  
of  
Understanding  
Between  
The Council of the City of Dubbo  
And the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party

27 May 2007

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## **Introduction**

The development of a MOU with the Dubbo Aboriginal Community was endorsed by Dubbo City Council on 23 April 2007 and the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party on 1 May 2007. The MOU seeks to achieve common goals to advance reconciliation and to apply the citizenship rights of the Dubbo Aboriginal Community.

The City of Dubbo recognises and acknowledges the Tubba Gah People as the traditional caretakers of the majority of the Wiradjuri land within the Dubbo local government area. Dubbo City Council acknowledges the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party as the representative body for the Dubbo Aboriginal Community. It is also recorded that the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party has membership from many different Aboriginal Nations and Language Groups.

Whilst Dubbo City Council and the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party are committed to this Memorandum of Understanding, both are autonomous bodies and retain their autonomy.

The MOU was a joint initiative of Dubbo City Council and the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party. The assistance of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs in developing this MOU is officially recorded.

This MOU details the approach to be taken by both Dubbo City Council and the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party to work together to fulfil the aspirations of Aboriginal people in the Dubbo community.

This MOU will be reviewed one (1) year after the date of endorsement and thereafter at the request of either the Dubbo City Council or the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party.



## **Understandings**

The City of Dubbo has demonstrated a commitment to working collaboratively with the Aboriginal community in striving to improve its service outcomes and thus the quality of life of the Aboriginal community.

This document details a set of principles with a strategic framework that ensures Council is action –oriented towards its goals

Key characteristics of this document are based on the principles of human rights, equity and fairness and social justice

The Dubbo City Council and the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party commit to working closely and supportively together for the term of this MOU

## **Principles**

### **Dubbo City Council ...**

acknowledges that Aboriginal people were the first people on this land and that the Tubbagah people are the traditional care takers of the majority of the land within the Dubbo City local government area:

is committed to establishing a formal process for the Aboriginal Community to have an input on Council decisions

is committed to working with the Aboriginal community and supporting the efforts of non Aboriginal Australians in understanding Aboriginal culture and values

will continue to demonstrate commitment to change in response to its evaluations of programmes and services

will take a leadership role in facilitating change within the general community towards services and programmes that impact on the Aboriginal community

### **The Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party ...**

is committed to working with Council in the development process of providing accessible and appropriate local government services for the benefit of the whole community

is committed to working together so that its programmes and services have a greater opportunity to create sustainable change

## **Culture**

Council will refer matters of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage to the Working Party. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage deals with more than just the tangible artefacts that have resulted in long-term Aboriginal settlement of the area. It is also about the importance and significance of flora (e.g. food and medicinal), fauna (e.g. totemic significance), landforms, landscapes, and language to the Aboriginal people of the area.

The Working Party will provide Aboriginal people to perform “Welcome to Country” ceremonies at official events. In the absence of a representative of the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party at official functions, Council will acknowledge the traditional caretakers of the Wiradjuri Country.

Council will provide advice and support to the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party in its aspirations to develop an Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

The Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party will assist Council to develop and maintain a ‘Dubbo Aboriginal Cultural Protocols Manual’ to assist Council staff to be culturally aware of Aboriginal issues.

The Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party will provide advice to Council for the programming of significant cultural and reconciliatory events.

Council will provide advice and support to the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party to stage Aboriginal cultural events and ceremonies.

Council will develop a formal Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management and Protection Protocol in accordance with legislation and the Dubbo Aboriginal Community’s aspirations.

## **Communication**

Council acknowledges the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party as the representative body of the Dubbo Aboriginal Community and that it will communicate with the Working Party on matters affecting the Dubbo Aboriginal Community.

Council representatives will attend meetings of the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party every three (3) months.

Council will invite the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party to provide Aboriginal representatives on all Council Committees and Working Parties which have a position for an Aboriginal community representative.

The Mayor of Dubbo and the Chairman of the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party are committed to dialogue on Aboriginal issues which are urgent and/or critical.

Prior to any public and /or media comment on major and/or critical issues impacting on the Aboriginal community, the Dubbo City Council and the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party will make every effort to consult.

All relevant planning documents, including the Council's Corporate Strategic Plan and Annual Management Plan, will be referred to the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party for input when such documents are being drafted.

## **Employment**

Council and the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party will work collaboratively to further enhance employment, training and economic development strategies to create more employment and business opportunities.

## **Social Justice**

Council will provide advice and support to the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Working Party for its involvement in the '2020 Vision for the City of Dubbo: Strategic Directions 2007 –2020' and the NSW State Government's ' State Plan : A New Direction For NSW.' .