

	Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country Policy Policy No. GOVPOL 14	Version No:	2
		Responsible Officer/s:	Governance Officer
		Classification:	Council
		Issued:	1 September 2008
		Next Review:	August 2030

1. Purpose

It is recognised that the traditional owners of all of the land within the District Council of Grant are the Boandik people.

2. Scope

This Policy outlines the protocols for acknowledging the traditional owners of land within the District Council of Grant local government area at meetings and major events.

3. Policy

3.1. Council Meetings

At the commencement of each Council meeting, the Mayor (or nominee) shall provide an Acknowledgement of Country as follows:

“It is a privilege to be standing on Boandik country. We acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians to the development of all peoples in this country we live in and share together – Australia.”

3.2. Major Events/Functions

Where a major event or function is planned, a ‘Welcome to Country’ may be arranged. The Protocols for a Welcome to Country are as follows:

- In the first instance, local First Nations representative/s will be invited to discuss and decide on the Welcome to Country Ceremony, the invitee list, the speaker and/or performer (s) to deliver the Welcome to Country and the ceremony format (eg: speech, song, ceremony or a combination).
- If no First Nations representatives are available to perform a Welcome to Country, Council’s representative will perform an Acknowledgement to Country as below:

“It is a privilege to be standing on Boandik country. We acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians to the development of all peoples in this country we live in and share together – Australia.”

Council expects respectful conduct during Welcomes to Country and Acknowledgements of Country. Behaviour that undermines or shows disregard for these practices is inconsistent with Council’s values.

4. Responsibilities

All Elected Members and staff are responsible to ensure the requirements of this Policy are met.

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5. Review

This Policy shall be reviewed by the District Council of Grant at a minimum, once within every four (4) year Council term (or on significant change to legislation or other matters which could affect this policy).

Action	Date	Minute Reference
Adopted by Council	1 September 2008	08193.3
Reviewed	7 October 2015	15127.7.10
Reviewed	21 January 2019	19004.2
Minor formatting amendments	4 May 2020	Governance Officer
Reviewed	16 April 2026	
Reviewed – Adopted by Council	18 May 2026	Resolution 26114