

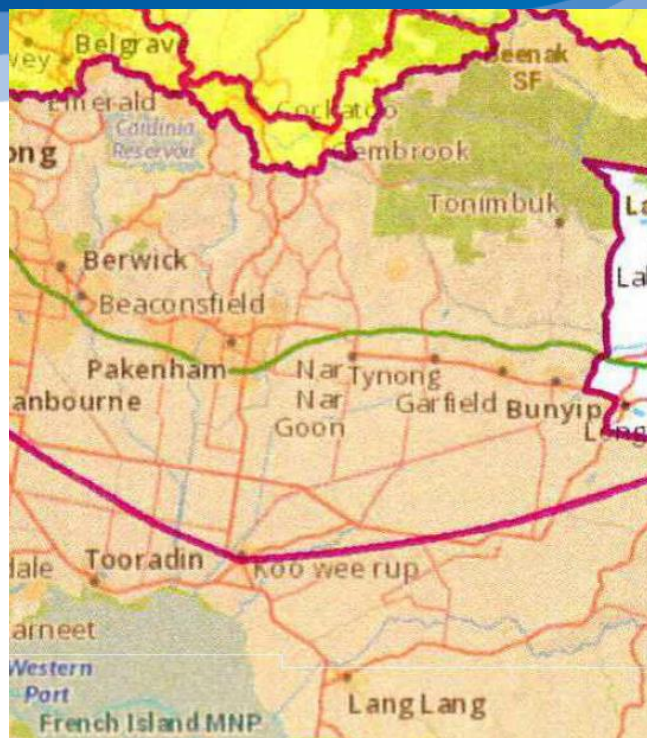
Acknowledgment of Country

An Acknowledgement of Country is an opportunity for anyone to show respect for Traditional Owners and their continuing contribution and connection to Country. It can be given by both non-Indigenous and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Cardinia Shire Council has two Registered Aboriginal Parties the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people, decided upon by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage of Victoria (VAHC).

Map Key: ■ Wurundjeri ■ Bunurong

It is important to note, that unlike an Acknowledgement of Country a formal 'Welcome to Country' can only be delivered by the original custodians of the land where the meeting or event is taking place. This can be organised with either the Bunurong Land Council or the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Council.



Acknowledgement of Country statements

Place specific acknowledgement

"I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the country on which we meet, the (Bunurong or Wurundjeri) people, and pay my respects to their Elders, both past and present."

Dependant on the land the acknowledgement is occurring on you should recognise the appropriate Registered Aboriginal Party in the acknowledgement. The map above shows the boundary of each area. If you are unsure please speak to the Community Strengthening Team for advice.

Shire wide acknowledgement

A variation on the above can recognise both traditional owners of Cardinia. Council meetings are an example of where this may be applied.

"I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the lands of Cardinia Shire, the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people, and pay my respects to their Elders, both past and present."

Online acknowledgement

"I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the lands I am joining you from the (your Registered Aboriginal Party), along with the traditional custodians of the various lands on which you all join us from today. I pay my respects to their Elders, both past and present."

You can also provide the opportunity for participants of the online meeting to share their local traditional owner group within the chat as part of your acknowledgment (if you feel this is appropriate).

If you are unsure of the traditional owner group to acknowledge please contact the Community Strengthening team.

The shire wide acknowledgment can also be utilised online.

"I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the lands of Cardinia Shire, the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people, and pay my respects to their Elders, both past and present."

Shire wide website and printed document acknowledgement

"Cardinia Shire Council acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional custodians of these lands the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people."

The above statement should be utilised on Council's Website and any printed material that encompasses the entire Shire.