

Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country is where hosts of an event such as a meeting, conference or gathering acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which the event is being held.

While the Acknowledgement of Country, which can be delivered by a non-Aboriginal person, can be formal or informal, the South Australian Government has developed a formal Acknowledgement in consultation with Aboriginal people and representative bodies.

The statements are to be read aloud at the commencement of gatherings.

Statement of Acknowledgement

Prior to planning an event or visiting a community it is recommended that staff use the [Native Title Vision \(NTV\)](#) mapping tool to identify the name of the traditional owner group with cultural responsibilities for the area you will visit.

Traditional Owners from across South Australia have provided the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation with their preferred wording for a Statement of Acknowledgement on their country. This wording is available [here](#). Following is an extract of relevant Eyre Peninsula statements:

Barnjarla Aboriginal Corporation	I would like to acknowledge the Barnjarla people, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present today.
Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation	I would like to acknowledge the Far West Coast people including the Kokatha, Mirning and Wirangu peoples, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present today.
Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation	I would like to acknowledge the Gawler Ranges people including the Kokatha, Barnjarla and Wirangu peoples, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present today.
Kokatha Native Title	I would like to acknowledge the Kokatha peoples, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay my respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present today.
Nauo Native Title Management Committee	I would like to acknowledge the Nauo people, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present today.

Wirangu No 2 Native Title Management Committee	I would like to acknowledge the Wirangu Number 2 people of whose land we meet on today. I also pay my respects to their elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and who else are present today.
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Please note these statements are subject to change without notice, so always check the link provided above before use.

In areas where Native Title claims overlap or no Native Title claim has been lodged, it is recommended that the following General Statement of Acknowledgement is used:

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present today.

Welcome to Country Ceremony

A Welcome to Country ceremony – which may be a short spoken statement or something more involved with traditional singing, dancing or smoke ceremonies – is **only performed by an Aboriginal Elder, Traditional Owner or custodian** to welcome visitors to their traditional country. It is an ancient practice dating back many thousands of years.

If you are planning an event and would like to include a welcome to country ceremony [contact the appropriate community](#) or talk to the Communications and Engagement Team.