

Landscapes SA Boards – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statement of Commitment



Partnership – Meaningful | Authentic | Together

Country (land, water, sky) is important for everyone. Landscape Boards recognise for Aboriginal people, Country does not just refer to the natural world. It is also the blood, spirit, creation stories, teachings and law of Aboriginal people.

Managing our landscapes should not and cannot be separated from the interconnectedness of people and Country. Through respectful cross-cultural knowledge sharing, learning together and long term conversations, the Landscape SA Boards commit to implementing actions that will see board members, staff and Aboriginal people partner to manage, protect and restore Country.

This will be undertaken in line with the State and Federal targets including *Close the Gap* and Reconciliation principles.

Each of the nine Landscape SA regions encompass rich and diverse cultural stories and histories. There is no single way to collaborate with local Aboriginal partners, however there are key principles that will promote success and these are the pillars of this Statement of Commitment, to be adapted and applied at a regional level by individual Landscape Boards.

The Landscape Boards of South Australia undertake to:

- Listen to our Aboriginal partners and learn from them and with them, and acknowledge Aboriginal people's rights and interests in the land and waters presided over by Landscape Boards;
- Actively encourage Aboriginal peoples input and ideas in planning, co-designing and implementing the Landscape Boards' activities in culturally appropriate ways;
- Seek out opportunities to create employment and economic outcomes for our Aboriginal partners;
- Identify together, the most appropriate and achievable ways of advising Landscape Boards on matters of cultural importance;
- Develop formal agreements if desired, that create a shared commitment and accountability to working together;
- Capture and showcase stories of shared success in land management and positive outcomes achieved together with and for Aboriginal People;
- Create opportunities for many voices speaking for their nations, not single voices speaking for many nations;
- Commit to cultural learning and cultural safety for all board members and staff facilitated by the appropriate people;
- Create programs and resources that reflect the value and input of Aboriginal people and culture through inclusive language, images, acknowledgement and truth telling;
- Support the aspirations of local Aboriginal people in their role as partners;
- Strive to do better in fostering and protecting relationships of trust as we develop relationships and understanding; and
- Acknowledge Free Prior and Informed Consent principles and protocols in interactions and the protection of Aboriginal peoples intellectual property rights in relation to projects and activities.

Through these commitments, each Landscape Board values the opportunity to achieve stronger relationships with Aboriginal people and organisations in South Australia, support greater economic prosperity and wellbeing for Aboriginal people and communities, and looking after our country and sea better, together.

The Landscape Boards of SA recognise the interchangeability of language including, Aboriginal, First Nations, First Peoples, Indigenous, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or any specific cultural language applied to the same, and this document is intended to be inclusive of all, irrespective of differing language and naming conventions recognised by many groups and partners.

More information

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