

Landscape SA Board’s STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders



PARTNERSHIP *Meaningful · Authentic · Together*

Country—encompassing land, water, and sky—is important to all people.

Landscape boards acknowledge that, for Aboriginal peoples, Country is more than the physical environment. It includes cultural identity, ancestry, spirit, creation stories, knowledge systems, and lore, reflecting deep and ongoing relationships that have been sustained over time.

Caring for landscapes cannot be separated from the relationships between people and Country. Through respectful, two way knowledge sharing, learning together, and ongoing dialogue, landscape boards aim to work in partnership with Aboriginal peoples to care for, protect, and restore Country.

This commitment is guided by shared priorities at both state and national levels, including Closing the Gap, reconciliation principles, and aligning with the Department for Environment and Water’s Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan.

Across the nine Landscape SA regions, there is a rich diversity of cultures, histories, and knowledge systems. There is no single approach to working together. Collaboration is shaped by local contexts, relationships and governance. While this Statement of Commitment outlines guiding principles at a statewide level, each Board continues to develop and strengthen region-specific partnerships, structures and approaches that support meaningful outcomes with Aboriginal communities.



The Landscape Boards of South Australia undertake to:

- **Listen deeply and learn together** with Aboriginal peoples, recognising and respecting their enduring rights, interests and connections to land and waters across South Australia.
- **Support Aboriginal-led approaches** to project development and delivery, particularly where initiatives affect Aboriginal communities, ensuring partnerships are equitable and respectful.
- **Respect and uphold all relevant legislation** that recognises, protects and promotes the rights and interests of Aboriginal peoples.
- **Engage Aboriginal peoples meaningfully and respectfully** in planning, co-design, and implementation of landscape board activities, in ways that are culturally appropriate and locally informed.
- **Work collaboratively to create pathways** for employment and economic participation that are meaningful, sustainable and beneficial to Aboriginal peoples and communities.
- **Identify together appropriate ways** to provide advice to landscape boards on matters of cultural significance, ensuring these processes reflect local knowledge and governance.
- **Share and celebrate stories of collaboration**, highlighting positive outcomes in land management achieved through partnerships with Aboriginal peoples.
- **Enable diverse voices to be heard**, respecting that different Nations and groups speak for themselves rather than being represented by a single perspective.
- **Commit to ongoing cultural learning and cultural safety** for board members and staff, guided and led by appropriate Aboriginal knowledge holders.
- **Develop programs and resources collaboratively** that reflect the knowledge, perspectives, and contributions of Aboriginal peoples, using inclusive language, imagery, acknowledgement and truth-telling.
- **Continuously build and strengthen relationships** grounded in trust, respect and mutual understanding.
- **Uphold the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent**, ensuring all engagement respects the rights of Aboriginal peoples, including the protection of cultural and intellectual property.

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 look after our Country and sea better, together.

Note on language: 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.

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