Sydney Olympic Park Authority Policy

Policy Name: Aboriginal Cultural Protocols & Practices
Policy No.: POL05/2
Department File No.: F05/29
Business Unit: Place Management
Officer Responsible: Senior Manager Education and Visitor Programs
Approving Officer: Director, Place Management
Date of Approval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Review</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Approved By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 April 2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>May 2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Reviewed</td>
<td>October 2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Reviewed by Executive Manager, Events and Precinct Coordination</td>
<td>February 2014</td>
<td>GMOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Reviewed by Executive Manager, Events and Precinct</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>GMOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Reviewed by Assistant General Manager Operations</td>
<td>February 2016</td>
<td>GMOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Reviewed by Assistant Director, Major Events and Precinct</td>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>Acting Executive Director, Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Reviewed</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>Director, Place Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Reviewed by Senior Manager, Education and Visitor Programs</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>Director, Place Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL PROTOCOLS AND PRACTICES

Purpose
Aboriginal cultural protocols and practices provide opportunities for meaningful community engagement, reconciliation, celebration and conservation of cultural heritage. The NSW Public Service Commission’s ‘A guide to Aboriginal cultural protocols’ assists agencies to acknowledge Aboriginal people’s unique position, and to observe appropriate Aboriginal cultural protocols at official events.

Procedures
‘A Guide to Aboriginal cultural protocols’ is attached. This emphasises improving cultural competency in the public sector; recognition of Aboriginal cultural practices and promoting Aboriginal cultural practices.

The SOPA Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group, chaired by the Director, Place Management and informed by Indigenous representatives is the forum that will help determine local Aboriginal protocols and how Aboriginal cultural practices are to be included in official events organised by SOPA at Sydney Olympic Park.

Local Protocols

Acknowledgement of Country for Sydney Olympic Park events
A recommended Acknowledgement of Country at Sydney Olympic Park is:

- “We acknowledge the Wangal as the first Custodians of the land, air and waters now known as Sydney Olympic Park. We pay respect to all First Nations People and our community Elders past, present and emerging.”;
- If you are not sure you can remember or pronounce the name of the local clan you could use the following;
- “I would like to acknowledge the Indigenous custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Ancestors and Elders both past and present. I would also like to extend my respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present here with us today.”

Cultural Respect and Recognition

- The Sydney Olympic Park area has been a meeting place for many Indigenous clans and nations for thousands of years and as a result, several nations of Indigenous people lay claim to this area (as with many areas of Sydney). The local Indigenous clan to the Sydney Olympic Park area is generally accepted as the Wangal (pronounced “one-gal”);
- Events and ceremony should reflect the intertribal nature of Indigenous communities within Sydney wherever possible. The emphasis should be on inclusion and the acknowledgement of diversity;
- Use the word ‘custodians’ rather than ‘owners’. Indigenous people believe they belong to the land, the land does not belong to them. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are custodians who care for the land;
• Include both groups of Indigenous people. Use the terms “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders” or the word Indigenous to include both distinct groups;
• Respect Ancestors and Elders. Capitalise both as a sign of respect;
• Always include a reference to Indigenous land when making an Acknowledgement of Country.

Contact Officer
Any enquiries relating to this Sydney Olympic Park Policy should be addressed to the Senior Manager, Education & Visitor Programs on 9714 7334.
A guide to Aboriginal cultural protocols
for NSW government sector events
May 2017