

Sydney Olympic Park Authority Policy

Policy Name Aboriginal Cultural Protocols & Practices

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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

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1		2 April 2007	
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3		October 2009	
	Reviewed	November 2012	
3.1	Reviewed by Executive Manager, Events and Precinct Coordination	February 2014	GMOS
3.2	ve Manager, Events and Precinct	February 2015	GMOS
3.3	Reviewed by Assistant General Manager Operations	February 2016	GMOS
3.4	Reviewed by Assistant Director, Major Events and Precinct	February 2017	Acting Executive Director, Operations
3.5	Reviewed	June 2018	Director, Place Management
3.7	Reviewed by Senior Manager, Education and Visitor Programs	September 2019	Director, Place Management

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



