

PRINCIPLES OF CO-OPERATION

between

METROPOLITAN LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL (MLALC)

and

INNER WEST COUNCIL (IWC)

PRINCIPLES

The parties acknowledge Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council as a significant landholder within the Inner West, and within a number of other Sydney Councils. Council acknowledges Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council as the legal custodian of Aboriginal land, cultural sites and waterways in the Inner West, and pay respect to the fact of the Land Council's spiritual and cultural connection to the lands and waterways within the Inner West.

Inner West Council is the elected representative body for Inner West residents and the consent authority for land use planning and certain development approvals within the area.

The parties are major stakeholders in securing the social and spiritual health and wellbeing of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the parties agree to that clear respectful communication, engagement and an agreed framework for negotiating projects is essential.

The land of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council is of great significance. Archeological sites and cultural landscapes, spiritual and legal connection to Country, and broad education is paramount in Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council's Community Land and Business Plan priorities.

Inner West Council's policy priorities are established through its Community Strategic Plan and associated plans. Council's commitment to reconciliation is given policy effect through its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. The parties, through the operation of this agreement, will foster Reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

This agreement recognises that both parties can achieve mutual aims in respect of developing Aboriginal land and other projects including the potential for joint ventures between parties.

The parties to this agreement seek to work proactively and collaboratively to identify relevant projects. Further, the parties agree to inform and involve each other in relation to development proposals on or affecting Aboriginal interests.

Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council aims to work with Council to achieve development consistent with the Community Strategic Plan.

The parties agree that there is pressure for development in the current climate. Therefore, the parties agree to pre-Development Assessment discussions to help identify potential pathways for development proposals affecting Aboriginal interests. This will align Aboriginal interests and community objectives.

The parties will use best endeavors to recognise and promote understanding of the custodial obligations, spiritual and cultural ties of Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, not withstanding Council's statutory rights and responsibilities in relation to Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council lands and waterways.

THE PARTIES AGREE TO:

- Recognise Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council as the peak organisation representing Aboriginal interests within its boundaries and the Inner West Council as the elected body representing local residents
- Respect Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council's rights, obligations and aspirations Council's rights and responsibilities for the local community
- Respect and understand each party's decision-making processes
- Encourage the establishment of appropriate protocols and governance for the consideration of development proposals effecting Aboriginal interests
- Identify collaborative opportunities in shared projects and proposals that are mutually consistent with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council's interests and Council's objectives
- Conduct negotiations in confidence and where agreed by the parties, disclose information in a mutually agreed manner
- Work collaboratively to improve the communications with any identified stakeholder, including the NSW Government departments and authorities relevant to the facilitation of projects consistent with Aboriginal aspirations and interests
- Identify potential joint projects that can improve employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal peoples. These may include development opportunities, tourism management, Council procurement and community development as well as any other agreed initiatives.

COORDINATION COMMITTEE

In order to achieve the above, the parties will establish a coordination committee which will comprise Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council's Chair and CEO and Council's Mayor and Director Community to coordinate issues associated with this agreement. Other nominees may attend as agreed.

Coordination shall include the sharing of information necessary to implement the principles inherent in this agreement.

The Coordination Committee will meet as required to identify opportunities, plan projects, or resolve any issues associated with the implementation of this agreement.

The Coordination Committee may look at issues that either party has formal commitments around in their respective strategic planning documents.