

Media Release



Wednesday 10 July 2019

Council endorses Camden's first Aboriginal Protocols Policy

Camden Council is celebrating NAIDOC Week by throwing its support behind a number of practises that will pay respect to, build relationships with and share in Aboriginal culture.

At last night's Ordinary Meeting, Councillors unanimously supported Camden's first-ever Aboriginal Protocols Policy. It outlines inclusive protocols to acknowledge the Aboriginal community and promote greater understanding and acceptance of general cultural awareness. These protocols include:

- Continuing to include a Welcome to Country or an Acknowledgment of Country at Council and civic events and meetings, as a sign of inclusion and respect;
- Continuing to permanently display the Aboriginal flag. It will also be flown at half-mast at appropriate times, to recognise periods of significance to the Aboriginal community;
- Conducting Smoking Ceremonies at major Council events, by Aboriginal people with specialised cultural knowledge;
- Continuing to acknowledge the local Aboriginal community by observing and celebrating culturally significant dates and events such as NAIDOC Week, where protocols will be incorporated; and
- Including an Acknowledgement in high-level Council documents.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Theresa Fedeli, said, she was proud Council could formalise these important customs and values.

"The Camden area sits in traditional Dharawal lands and we know it's incredibly significant to our local Aboriginal community," Cr Fedeli said.

"As such, Council is already undertaking many of these practises.

"But, by having these practises part of an adopted policy, I hope the Indigenous community can see just how much we respect and appreciate their cultural traditions, history, diversity and contributions."

These protocols apply to all Council staff, consultants, contractors, volunteers and delegates.

For more information, visit camden.nsw.gov.au

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