

Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Engagement

The Shire of Roebourne recognise that Aboriginal people are the traditional custodians of this land and have a deep historical and spiritual connection to country, waterways, rivers and seas within our region. We pay our respects to past, present and future ancestors of the Aboriginal community.

We accept Aboriginal people as the first inhabitants of Australia. They have lived on this land for many thousands of years and are recognised as one of the oldest living populations of the world, with unique languages and spiritual relationships.

This Statement of Commitment is an acknowledgement of past practices and policies which impacted on the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people. The Shire of Roebourne recognises the pain and loss consequently placed on Aboriginal people, who were dislocated from their culture, displaced from their homelands and separated from their families.

For the Shire of Roebourne, this Statement of Commitment means building our cultural awareness, understanding and competencies by making a formal commitment to embark on a process of reconciliation. The Shire of Roebourne firmly believes that reconciliation in practice, is a responsibility shared by all.

Vision

The Shire of Roebourne will seek to:

- Forge stronger relationships, a deeper respect and identify more possibilities for Indigenous Australians.
- Ensure our region remains a place where people of all cultures are welcome, respected, experience freedom and contribute to life in the local community.
- Improve the overall wellbeing of our Indigenous Australian communities and in particular, provide opportunities that may lead to better outcomes for Indigenous people within our towns.

Support

The Shire of Roebourne supports:

- Indigenous Australian's self-determination, which is a process where all community members regardless of race or culture, have a right to freely determine their own political, economic, social and cultural development.
- The vision of a united Australia which respects this land of ours, values local heritage and provides justice and equity for all.

Commitment

The Shire of Roebourne commits to:

- Adopting a shared responsibility to a whole-of-organisation approach and active engagement with Indigenous Australian people.
- Building mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and other Australians, that allow us to work together to solve problems and generate success that is in everyone's best interest.
- Embarking on a process of reconciliation that is based on listening, understanding, recognition, appreciation and a belief that we can achieve sustainable outcomes for a better future.
- Developing a three stage Indigenous Engagement Strategy (Listening; Visioning; Voicing) over the next two year period.

All references to Indigenous Australians specifically denote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Message from Shire President

I am very proud to present the Shire of Roebourne Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Engagement. This is a unique and exciting time for our region and the organization to move towards forging stronger relationships, deeper respect and identifying more opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Our vision for reconciliation involves building mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and other Australians that allow us to work together to solve problems and generate success to the mutual benefit of all. Achieving reconciliation involves raising awareness and knowledge of local history and culture, changing attitudes and encouraging actions where everyone plays their part in building a relationship between all fellow Australians.

Cr Peter Long
Shire President