



Hon David Templeman MLA
Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts

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TO ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

CIRCULAR N^o 02-2018

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RECOGNITION

Acknowledgement and recognition of Western Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the traditional owners of our nation, is an important part of progressing towards the goal of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

As the tier of government that most closely interacts with communities, local governments are able to significantly impact the inclusiveness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members in their communities and to build positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, based on respect and understanding.

I understand that many local governments already have a Reconciliation Action Plan, and may be appropriately recognising and acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through: flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags as appropriate with the Western Australian and Australian flags; beginning Council meetings and other events with an Acknowledgement of Country; and inviting local traditional owners to perform a Welcome to Country at special events.

I encourage all local governments to commit to developing a Reconciliation Action Plan, and implementing the steps listed above to symbolise respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their history and their culture.

Further information can be sought from your local Native Title Representative Body.



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HERITAGE; CULTURE AND THE ARTS

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