

## **What is reconciliation?**

At its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Australia's colonial history is characterised by devastating land dispossession, violence, and racism. Over the last half-century, however, many significant steps towards reconciliation have been taken.

Reconciliation is an ongoing journey that reminds us that while generations of Australians have fought hard for meaningful change, future gains are likely to take just as much, if not more, effort.

In a just, equitable and reconciled Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children will have the same life chances and choices as non-Indigenous children, and the length and quality of a person's life will not be determined by their racial background.

## **What is a Reconciliation Action Plan?**

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) gives your organisation a framework to contribute to the reconciliation movement. RAPs deliver tangible and substantive benefits for First Nations peoples and increase cultural safety in the workplace.

## **What does reconciliation look like?**

The Berri Barmera Council Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group is seeking input from the broader community on what reconciliation should look like for Berri Barmera Council. Input received may be used to form the vision and included in the Council's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Input can be in the form of dot points, paragraphs or single words.



Example vision from other Councils Reconciliation Action Plans are below for reference.

*Coorong District Council RAP Vision*

## Our Vision for Reconciliation



*Coorong District Council's Vision for reconciliation is we recognise and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the First Australians and we engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in decision making processes and build and strengthen relationships.*

*Through these relationships we embrace and celebrate our cultural diversities and gain a greater level of understanding and acceptance of our shared history. To this we acknowledge this shared history and use the lessons from the past to build our relationships to ensure the future is built on mutual respect.*

*Together we develop practices and support all dimensions of reconciliation recognising that equality and equity for all Australian's is only built on mutual trust and respect.*



*Mid Murray Council RAP Vision*

## Our Vision for Reconciliation

### Together, for a better shared future.

**To be a culturally safe organisation that acknowledges, values, and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and heritage based upon respectful relationships and underpinned by self-determination principles to create a community that is unified, equitable and welcoming for all.**

**We will achieve this by:**

- Recognising and valuing the important and ongoing connection and responsibilities Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have to Country
- Acknowledging the wrongs of the past that continue to impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today
- Committing to building formal respectful and equitable relationships between Aboriginal peoples and the Mid Murray Council
- Listening, learning and engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to enhance understanding and strengthen relationships
- Implementing practical actions that drive Council's contribution to reconciliation both internally and in the community
- Working with Traditional Custodians to create appropriate spaces that acknowledges and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures, history and contributions to the community
- Working with Traditional Custodians to ensure the protection, care of Country and culturally significant sites within the Mid Murray area
- Walking the journey of reconciliation with the broader community

*Port Augusta City Council RAP Vision*

## Our RAP

Our vision for reconciliation is "To have a united, prosperous and respectful city where the rights, interests and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are celebrated and protected along with the broader community. We acknowledge and value their contributions and culture and encourage a community where we all walk together as one with equality."



*Town of Gawler RAP Vision*

## **Our Vision for Reconciliation**

*At the Town of Gawler our vision for reconciliation is to build respect, understanding and dialogue between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, with a focus on creating environments where meaningful interactions and relationships can occur.*

*City of Marion RAP Vision*

## **Our Vision for Reconciliation**

Our Vision for Reconciliation is for strong two-way relationships built on trust, respect, integrity, inclusion, equality and equity, working together to grow awareness, understanding and positive outcomes for all.

Submission can be lodged via email or post by Thursday 14 December 2023

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