

Indigenous signage

Policy, procedure, protocol	Policy
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Related documents	
Author	Manager
Section / Department	Environment, Development & Strategic Planning
Linkage to Our Community Plan	1 Our Society
Objective	1.1 We will have proud and inviting communities
Strategy	1.1.6 Encourage greater awareness of our earliest communities and inhabitants in partnership with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent framework for the development of indigenous signage.

2. Definitions

Council - Clarence Valley Council

Elder(s) - Aboriginal(s) who has gained recognition as a custodian of knowledge and lore, and who has permission to disclose cultural knowledge and beliefs. In some Aboriginal communities a person over 50 years of age is automatically recognised as an Elder.

Traditional Owner(s) – An Aboriginal person or group of Aboriginal people directly descended from the original Aboriginal inhabitants of a culturally defined land or country.

Language Group – The distinct language tied to a particular Aboriginal nation or culturally defined area of land or country.

Local Aboriginal Land Council – Local Aboriginal Land Council's are constituted under the Aboriginal Lands Rights Act 1983.

Sign - Relates specifically to indigenous signage which may include names of places or country, symbols, or the like.

3. Background/legislative requirements

The augmentation of existing town and place names with indigenous signage will:

- Deliver an opportunity for the presentation of Aboriginal social and cultural heritage meanings to the wider community
- Create a sense-of-place, respect and opportunity for the Aboriginal community
- Improve cross-cultural understanding.

4. Policy statement

The development and translation of Aboriginal place names is the responsibility of the Traditional Owners of the land where the sign is to be located. If the Traditional Owners are not identifiable, then the Local Elders along with the Local Aboriginal Land Council will be required to consult with linguistic experts.

Technical knowledge, expertise and legislative requirements are the responsibility of Council.

Collaboration in relation to indigenous signage, between Council and the Traditional Owners/Aboriginal community will be an on-going and two-way basis

Copyright will always remain the Intellectual Property of the traditional owners.

The *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth) (section 65) allows for the making of reproductions (such as photographs, films and paintings) of works that are permanently situated in a public place as long as it is not for commercial purposes.

When a request to implement an indigenous sign is received, Council will seek the assistance of the Traditional Owners (and if this group is not identifiable, the Local Aboriginal Land Council) relevant to the geographic location of the sign to consult with the broader Aboriginal community and ensure consensus. In instances where a geographical feature crosses a boundary or boundaries, all relevant Traditional Owners and/or Local Aboriginal Land Council's will be informed.

5. Procedures

Communications

Requests for indigenous signage will be advertised through Council's weekly newspaper column and placed on public exhibition for twenty-eight (28) days.

Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance of approved indigenous signs will be the responsibility of Council.

Specifications

All signs shall:

- be erected and located under the direction of Clarence Valley Council Civil Works team and in accordance with any signposting guidelines
- not obstruct the passage, line of sight or create a hazard for vehicles or pedestrians
- not significantly obstruct or impede all or part of a view of a river, the sea or other place or feature in which in Council's opinion is of significance.

6. References

Sample agreements - Arts Law Centre of Australia

FATSIL Guide to Community Protocols for Indigenous Language

Copyright Act 1968 (Cth)

NSW Health Communicating Positively – A guide to appropriate Aboriginal terminology