



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

POLICY MANUAL

WELCOME TO COUNTRY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Originated Date: 18 February 2019 (min. ref. 036/19)

Amended Date/s: 21 March 2022 (min. ref. 22/90)

Applicable Legislation:

Objective

- 1) To acknowledge the cultural importance of Aboriginal people and their connection to Northern Midlands heritage and identity.
- 2) To provide direction and support to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and officers of the Northern Midlands Council for Welcome to Country and Acknowledgment of Country protocols.

Administration: Governance

Review Cycle/Date: Next review 2026

DEFINITIONS

Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country is given by Aboriginal people, welcoming visitors to their Land.

Acknowledgement of Country

An Acknowledgement of Country is respect and recognition of Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples' survival and continual connection with the land spanning more than 40,000 years.

APPLICATION

Welcome to Country

Only Tasmanian Aboriginal people can give a Welcome to Country in Tasmania. It is highly disrespectful for anyone else to do so.

Acknowledgement of Country

An Acknowledgement of Country pays respect to Aboriginal people present.

An Acknowledgment of Country can be given at an official opening, meeting, concert, school assembly, or other event. Any person can give an Acknowledgement of Country.

In the absence of a Welcome to country, an Acknowledgment of Country may be given; and it should be the first item on the agenda. Speakers also often acknowledge Country as they speak for the first time (even though a Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country may have already been given).

An acknowledgement of Country is to be given in accordance with the guidelines and examples provided on the Tasmanian Government, Department of Communities Tasmania (or this departments successor) website.

Resource: Department of Communities Tasmania – Acknowledgement and Welcome to Country