
24 October 2018

Cultural Awareness on the Cards

The Shire of Esperance will be working with the relevant Indigenous groups in the Esperance region on developing a plan that respects everybody involved so that we can move forward.

The motion raised at the October Ordinary Council Meeting by Councillor Payne was that Council:

1. Acknowledge Country as the first item of business at all formal Council meetings.
2. Raise the Aboriginal Flag as a permanent flag alongside the Australian Flag at the Council building.
3. Have a culturally appropriate Welcome to Country ceremony to install the Aboriginal Flag by a Nyungar Elder.
4. Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan.

There was debate over this motion with Council resolving the following:

Lay this matter on the table until such time as the proposed indigenous cultural awareness training has been completed by Council with the relevant facilitator and that Council receive from the CEO a report on the implications and consequences of a proposed reconciliation action plan early in 2019.

The Cultural Awareness training, being provided by Kaata Tidje, is to be completed by Council and Shire staff involved in the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan. This will ensure the training will be locally focussed providing a full understanding for our region's cultural history.

Shire President Victoria Brown said, "We have some cultural training coming up and from the people I have spoken to who have attended it have found the training to be a valuable experience.

"Council wants an informed and meaningful process; we don't want to just be ticking the boxes so it's very important that we work with our community.

"The Shire and ETNTAC have worked together the last few years with NAIDOC Week celebrations and the Esperance Tjaltjraak Bushrangers have been instrumental in outdoor works projects including the upgrades at Alexander Bay."

Ends

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