
29 May 2019

Reconciliation Action Plan

The Shire of Esperance and Reconciliation Australia have developed a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan 2019/2020 (RAP).

A Reflect RAP is one of four identified types of Reconciliation Action Plans and is designed to prepare the organisation in understanding and outlining our commitment to reconciliation, while developing and strengthening our relationships with our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders.

Through the development of stronger connections, we can then begin to work towards a combined vision of how reconciliation can be achieved for all members of our community.

This week was also marked with the raising of the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian flags on the new flag poles at the Administration Building on Monday to signify the beginning of Reconciliation Week in Esperance.

Shire President Victoria Brown said, "It has been a privilege to work with the Elders and traditional owners in developing this plan which is a small step of bigger things to come for reconciliation in our community. To have endorsed the plan in National Reconciliation Week is very apt and it is wonderful to have the Aboriginal Flag flying loud and proud on a daily basis alongside the Australian flag in front of the Esperance Shire Office."

Chief Executive Officer Matthew Scott said, "This plan will assist the organisation in developing a governance structure which is vital for all stakeholders to be involved in to determine the different roles we will all undertake in reconciliation. Initial discussions have commenced with representatives from Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC) and further consultation will be necessary to ensure this plan is implemented successfully."

ETNTAC Chairperson, Gail Reynolds-Adamson said, "We celebrate the Shire's adoption of its first Reconciliation Action Plan and regard it as another important step towards a more just, equitable and reconciled Esperance community.

"We hope that the actions identified in the RAP will facilitate positive and respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The actions required will help all of Esperance to better understand and celebrate the culture of the first people to live in Esperance and their ongoing connection to this place.

"Whilst we had hoped that the RAP might go further in some areas, we recognise that this initial "Reflect" RAP prepares the Shire for future reconciliation initiatives, and that its successful implementation will take real commitment from all involved. Esperance Tjaltjraak

commends the leadership of the Shire President and her CEO in bringing this RAP into existence. We look forward to working with all stakeholders on its implementation.”

Information on the four different types of RAPs can be found on the [Reconciliation Australia](#) website. The Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan 2019/2020 is available on the [Shire website](#).

Ends

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