

Community Feedback Summary Creating our Reconciliation Action Plan

January - February 2023



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1. Background

The City of Cockburn is proud of the culture, history, and First Nations people of Beeliar Boodjar. Beeliar are one of the clans of the Whadjuk group of Nyungar People. What we know today as the City of Cockburn is Beeliar boodjar.

In 2011, the City created a three-year plan for reconciliation with our First Nations community and was the first Perth metropolitan local government organisation to do so. The City has had three Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) since and is now preparing its fourth, covering 2023 to 2025.

Reconciliation is about building and strengthening respectful and genuine relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.

Reconciliation Australia, an independent not-for-profit organisation that is the lead body for reconciliation in Australia and guides the development of Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs), sees reconciliation as based on five dimensions that all work together:

- Race relations
- Equality and equity
- Unity
- Institutional integrity
- Historical acceptance.

Reconciliation Australia requires that organisations annually report on their progress and achievements in implementing actions within the RAP.

The City has made some significant achievements during its first three RAPs including:

- Creating the Nyungar Tourist Trail
- Introducing Nyungar signage
- Use of stories in language
- Hosting reconciliation and NAIDOC week events
- Planning for a new Aboriginal Cultural and Visitors Centre.

The City's newest RAP will follow the 'Innovate' theme; its purpose is to reflect on where the City is with reconciliation and what else needs actioning. An 'Innovate' RAP allows the City to better understand our sphere of influence and establish the best approach to advance reconciliation.

The City of Cockburn engaged Nyungar man, Danny Ford of Kambarang Services, to consult First Nations people and the broader community of the Cockburn region. The findings of this process, and results of the City's 2022 and 2023 MARKYT Community Scorecard, will help to inform the City's latest RAP.

The consultation objectives were to identify key areas of interest and the emerging themes around reconciliation. This document summarises the consultation process and the responses received.

2. Process

The consultation process included:

- Workshop with the City's Aboriginal Reference Group
- Workshop with First Nations people of Cockburn
- Meeting with representatives from Cockburn resident associations.

Other community participation opportunities included:

- Completing an online or hard copy survey, and option of a phone survey or postal copy
- Contributing feedback via the Aboriginal Reference Group members, resident associations, Elected Members, or relevant City staff.

Participants were asked their views on reconciliation in Cockburn including:

- How the City can strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people
- What they would like to know or learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and people
- What the City can do to improve the reconciliation journey.

The City promoted the project and opportunity to participate in the following ways:

- Websites – City of Cockburn and Comment on Cockburn
- Social media – Facebook
- E-newsletters
- Local newspaper advertisements
- Staff email signatures
- Library displays
- Resident association notices
- Posters
- Direct correspondence with contacts from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

3. Feedback Summary

The project page on the City's Comment on Cockburn website received 450 visits and we received input from over 150 people via the online survey, workshops, and interviews. Key findings include:

- Most respondents (47%) are unaware the City has a Reconciliation Action Plan, while only a small percentage (7%) report being well-informed about it.
- Top five themes for strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people –
 - Cultural awareness and education: This includes activities such as workshops, language classes, cultural events, and learning about Aboriginal history and culture. It emphasises the importance of understanding and respecting Aboriginal culture.
"More first nation lead educational events. Dance, art, stories etc."
 - Employment and opportunities: This focuses on providing employment opportunities and career development for Aboriginal people.
"Traineeships, employment opportunities, career development for Aboriginal people."
 - Consultation: This highlights the importance of including Aboriginal Elders and community members in decision-making processes. It emphasises the need for consultation and collaboration to address issues affecting Aboriginal people.
"Consult with First Nations people when new developments are in progress (naming); consider renaming areas of significance."
 - Equality and inclusivity: This promotes equality and fairness by treating all individuals equally, regardless of their heritage.
"Ensure all programs, services, consultation activities, and events are culturally inclusive, acceptable, appropriate, and accessible to first nations people."
 - Addressing racism and negative stereotypes: This calls for actions to address racism and negative stereotypes that exist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. It suggests targeting racism issues, promoting positive role models, and challenging negative perceptions.
"Support youth work and schools to integrate both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal kids activities. Celebrate and advertise Aboriginal role models. Educate the people living in the city on Aboriginal culture and values."

- Top five themes our community would like to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and people –
 - Language, stories, and oral history.
“Personally I would like to learn the Nyungar language.”
 - About Traditional Owners and their connection to the land.
“Cultural connections to areas throughout City of Cockburn. VR learnings too, visual learnings takes you back.”
 - Places of significance and their uses.
“...some historical and graphical plaques along key points on the coastal walk would be an awesome way to teach kids (and us parents) the basic history of the Aboriginal people of the area.”
 - The role of men and women within the community.
“How they respected the land and took special care with selecting what they took to trade or eat, to ensure there was balance. The role men and women have within a community...”
 - The truth, including the mistreatment and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
“Stolen generation and how it has impacted on their lives and the wider Australian community.”
- Top five themes for how the City can improve the reconciliation journey –
 - Increased Aboriginal representation and participation: This includes having regular circles for storytelling and giving voice to First Nations members, and Aboriginal voices on and within the Council. It also emphasises supporting First Nations initiatives, enterprises, and involving local communities in talks and events.
“More Indigenous representations in leadership roles ... to have more of a voice in notions and ideas that are presented to them that affect their lives...”
 - Education and awareness: There is a strong emphasis on education and for the wider community to respect culture and history. This includes truth-telling, dual naming, and acknowledging the history of Aboriginal people.
“Continue to provide community awareness through courses provided in the past. Try to create a link between schools and Aboriginal groups, especially for schools that do not have an Aboriginal and Islander

Education Officer on the premises.”

- Equality and inclusivity: Many respondents highlighted the importance of focusing on unity, respect, and mutual understanding, rather than segregating specific groups.

“More photos of Aboriginal people in ... marketing.”

- Acknowledgment: Many respondents highlighted the importance of acknowledging the past in order to move forward together. This involves recognising the historical injustices faced by First Nations peoples and taking steps to address them. The focus is on moving forward with a positive and balanced relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

“Say sorry for what the people of the past did...”

- Community involvement: There was emphasis on the importance of community involvement and collaboration. It suggests organising events that bring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people together, fostering mutual understanding, and creating opportunities for dialogue and relationship-building.

“Finding mutual interests, again family and relationships team building, inclusion making events enticing to all ages and cultures.”

4. Participant Responses

Responses are shown as received with minimal editing, and therefore some spelling and grammatical errors may exist. Any derogatory, racially insensitive, or inappropriate comments have been redacted.

4.1 Survey Responses

Q1. What are the kinds of things the City of Cockburn can do to strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people?

Stop looking at it as "us" and "them", just treat everyone as "people"

Stop pushing it so hard

Stop using a Canadian term and not an Australian term " First Nations" is a made up Canadian word

Invite Indigenous people to give their perspective on how this can happen

More cultural awareness activities (Free or very small fee)

Employ more Indigenous people, mentor Indigenous kids, do things that praise Indigenous culture, sponsor Indigenous Councillors, do meaningful cultural education for all staff and Councillors, identify with traditional owner permission sites and areas of significance in the Council area, run regular Noongar cultural information sessions and stamp out racism in Council.

More first nation lead educational events. Dance, art, stories etc

Encourage small activities where people interact

Work together with recognised local Elders. Meet onsite at the City with Police, Elders and key staff to discuss where things are going wrong and how they can improve, in the view of the Elders.

NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week activities at accessible times for community who may work. Doesn't always have to be an event, could be series of workshops, talks, guided walks, profiling local Aboriginal musicians and artists. Sharing language on social media and e-news.

Aboriginal Themed Events will help

'Firstly I am not Aboriginal so my suggestions are coming from a white person wanting to learn and understand more and to see Aboriginal culture celebrated and acknowledged.

- Facilitate workshops run by Aboriginal people on subjects such as weaving baskets, walking bush tucker tour, walking historical tours on where Beeliar

Boodjar use to fish, hunt, trade etc.

- Offer Noognar as a language option at high schools and language centres.
- Use the Beeliar Boodjar names for places and landmarks of significance.
- Partner with Aboriginal organisations that do cool burnings as a way of fire management.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Do not divide the community by race we are all equal in Australia with our diverse multi-cultural population

[REDACTED]

Activities mixing the two or as a small business owner give Aboriginal people incentives to visit the local businesses owned by non

Consult with First Nations people when new developments are in progress (naming); consider renaming areas of significance

Hold councillors to a higher standard in situations where they have made racist remarks.

Stop celebrating the 26th of January. No longer hold citizenship ceremonies on this date.

[REDACTED]

Your question is based on a false premise. Where is the evidence that there is a problematic relationship between Aboriginal people and everybody else? If there is a problem, then the same question should be put to Aboriginal people as well. Local councils are for RATES, ROADS and RUBBISH

treat all of us the same no preferential treatment for anybody and no segregation.

Treat everyone equally

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We can listen to them. I think they haven't been listened to enough in this country.

Traineeships, employment opportunities, career development for Aboriginal people.

No celebration of Australia Day on 26 Jan.

Call us as ONE no distinguishing we are Australians one and all

Come out in support of the Voice to Parliament

Employ pro actively Aboriginal people, especially young people

Support local youth activities

If both aboriginal and people and those who are born or who have settled here are all treated the same and support the same social and moral values

Create a welcoming safe environment that encourages First Nations people to participate more in Local Government in community reference groups, community activities of all kinds, as Elected Members, at council meetings, asking questions at council meetings, to help increase activity and visibility in our community and so we can hear what they have to say about what we can do to make Cockburn more inclusive of our local First Nations peoples.

We already have a strong relationship

Education is always the key, but there are multi cultures in Cockburn/Western Australia and so focus should be on integration and strengthening of all cultures not just one versus all. Maybe food is one way of joining people together, everybody has to eat, what about trying out traditional dishes and cooking methods, inclusion at the dinner table.

The first thing is to decide if the City should be celebrating Australia Day on the 26 January.

As a non-indigenous Australian, if our first nations people are offended or aggrieved by Australia Day celebrations, then I think we should be mature enough as a community to have an open and honest conversation about what can be done to not offend them. eg. no Australia Day celebrations, and a whole of community celebration on a mutually agreed date.

To educate and understand the all people are to be treated equal in every facet

I don't believe a reconciliation action plan is necessary. All community members are equal.

Ensure First Nations people and Aboriginal elders are included in decision making which has a direct or indirect impact on Aboriginal people, land, heritage or culture. Ensure all programs, services, consultation activities, and events are culturally inclusive, acceptable, appropriate, and accessible to first nations people.

Provide programs, services, events and initiatives to help make first nations people feel better connected in their community.

Continue and increase the amount of cultural awareness and education for non-Aboriginal people in the community.

Create opportunities for connections - to get to know one another.

Encourage non-Aboriginal people to learn more about Aboriginal history and culture, and how to respect it better.

Provide more education opportunities for Aboriginal people.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Make a strong focus on prevention and support the development of healthy families where every child will have a better chance of thriving and feeling safe.

[REDACTED]

City of Cockburn should follow City of Fremantle's inclusive stance and show real respect, and give dignity to all First Nations People, by not recognising 26 January as Australia day. (historical acceptance*)

Our needs to start in the schools with young children, but also consult elders and indigenous representatives about matters, but including EVERYONE in issues. All local residents, which include all people from multiple backgrounds have a stake in the council and the impacts of decisions.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employ a greater number of local Indigenous people across every aspect of the City's workforce. Prioritise skills and training for real job opportunities. Actively Promote and support the inclusion of ATSI children and adults in community sports and the arts.

Teach more local history and noongar language classes. An indigenous voice to council position. truth telling sessions

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Listening to what the Aboriginal people need and how we can integrate this

[REDACTED]

Difficult question

More activities for the youth develop an area for trail bikes

I think they've done enough

Target racism issues

[REDACTED]

Stop treating them differently, they are human just like you and me that's it

Q2. What more would you like to know or learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and people?

Dedicated page on the Cockburn website explaining the heritage of the areas.

Walking trails that can link think into an online experience across the city.

I'd like to know more about traditional owners and not city aboriginals

Invite Indigenous members to talk at public spaces - and pay them eg libraries etc so that we may better understand past and recent culture and issues .

Language -- stories -- oral history

I would like CCC to run information sessions on Indigenous culture and areas of significance specific to the Cockburn area. For example produce an audio visual information package on the Indigenous history, culture and knowledge of the Manning Park area and lake. This area has to have had a rich Indigenous history.

The truth.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

N/A - none

sharing of cultural stories relating to Cockburn area specifically.

[REDACTED]

Aboriginality should be proudly recognised by all at all times not just kept for special days Aboriginal youth should be made to feel special ...and not vulnerable.

What about actual people stories?

'- How they respected the land and took special care with selecting what they took to trade or eat, to ensure there was balance.

- The role men and women have within a community.

- Punishment systems

- Places of significance and what that place was used for.

I have done many professional courses as I am and have been a primary school teacher for over 30 years. I am aware of and respect their rich history and culture.

I am fairly well educated in the matter.

There is adequate information in our library or the state library for all to see

[REDACTED]

As an educator in Cockburn, I'd like a session where I can learn local information to teach students more accurate & local info

Very excited for the cultural centre to be built and to learn directly from the custodians and owners of the land we live on.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

every thing about all nationalities and cultures inclusive to everyone

Nothing more than I already know

Not a such not. In saying that, some Historical and graphical plaques along key points on the coastal walk would be an awesome way to teach kids (and us parents) the basic history of the Aboriginal people of the area

[REDACTED]

It's ongoing - I'm learning all the time and take many opportunities to increase my understanding.

Yes.

Teach it at school as our culture and heritage

Like to know more local history

Denise Cook does a fab job

[REDACTED]

Stories of local First Nations residents as they relate to the local landforms, suburbs, landmarks, experiences growing up over the decades - this would include a truth telling aspect

None

I would like to know how family life and their culture impacts in todays bringing up children/teenagers? What are their cultural aspirations, such as what makes them content and happy and what they see the future looks like for generations to come.

[REDACTED]

I'd like to learn more about the Noongar groups that lived in and around the Munster area I live ie. special areas, traditions etc

Ancient territorial and tribal punishments for crimes against each other in tribal and outer tribal

I can gather any information on Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginals on line.

Everything.

Language lessons free for all

All about their true history and mistreatment, what exactly happened to them, and why

[REDACTED]

Their stories of history.

I don't believe education is required from a local council standpoint, other than showing inclusion of all people.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Everything!

What their vision is for their families and community.

How we can support that.

language, history, earth care

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I think we are aware

As much as possible. I respect aboriginal sovereignty over their history, so just as much as they want to share with us wadjalas

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Run information days

Who were the indigenous groups in areas around Cockburn

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Did they use Thopson's Lake for anything

Their family histories and stories

Learn more about the places in the city that have strong Aboriginal heritage value.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Stolen generation and how it has impacted on their lives and the wider Australian community

Role models from Aboriginal history and current figures, especially with a focus on

Whadjuk Noongar

What is the significance of our lakes to the the Aboriginal people?

See above

I think learning anything would be a good start. I think encouraging more tours with indigenous people, like nature/history/culture tours and food events like bindi bindi dreaming or Nannup does

Everything in relation to the colonization of our country, specifically WA and their traditional cultural beliefs and systems. How they feel we can assist in bridging the gap. I would like to hear from a broad cross section of Aboriginal people from our community including those that are educated, non-educated, employed and not employed, those that have criminal convictions and elderly members. I would like to learn more about their skills and wisdom in relation to managing the environment.

I'm on the path of learning already. As I work at a metropolitan school, and have 2 Aboriginal children myself (26 & 30), my passion is to guide Aboriginal students through the school system and assist as much as possible to make their journey less traumatic. Building a strong, positive connection with their parents assists this solid connection to Reconciliation. As I am a whadjula yorga (white woman) who married an Aboriginal man sometime ago, I have a vested interest in developing conversations around reconciliation.

All history and culture relating to Western Australia, information days or nights?

Personally I would like to learn the Noongar language. Professionally as a teacher, I have concerns that I am teaching the wrong thing, or upsetting the Aboriginal People. Currently I use the Koori Curriculum with Jessica Staines to guide me. It would be amazing to have some Early Childhood resources available from our local community eg. W.A.

Local area Aboriginal history.

a timeline of what they were doing in our areas over which periods of each decade or century.

The language, way of life, relationship with the sea and land

I would like to learn more about how they would like to see Cockburn's public spaces, bushland and parks and sacred sites protected and cared for. I would like the city to provide more AEO to go out to local schools and provide free workshops to the students on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and people in Cockburn

Local stories of significance to the area (dreamtime, sound lines etc.)

I'd like to know more about the local Indigenous history.

[REDACTED]

Language, local community groups, how regular people can spend their money on small independent local indigenous owned and ran businesses.

How someone becomes an Elder.

Everything. It should be part of the curriculum for every year of schooling. The City of Cockburn could encourage history displays at shopping centres and ARC.

I would love to learn more about Noongar culture in Cockburn and surrounding area. Our western boundaries are often not aligned with Noongar places of cultural significance and it would be fascinating to expand our non-indigenous understanding about how this region interconnects with other regions. I would like to learn more about local Aboriginal knowledge of endemic flora and fauna, how ecosystems used to function, and anything that the Noongar community thinks is important for people to know so we live well on this land and look after it. Manning Park and Azelia Ley Homestead have recently enhanced colonial historical information, yet we still know so little about the Noongar experience under early European occupation. The recent Terra Rosa report 'COC1901 Hamilton Hill Swamp Precinct Study' collated information given by the Noongar community. Knowledge about massacre sites, drained swamp land, sacred ceremonial sites and creation stories embedded in the landscape ... how can this be widely shared so we collectively live more sensitively and respectfully as a society? Opportunities to come together and listen is the key.

Mental health and trauma implications

what medicinal foods and plants they consumed

Practices

Seasons

Language

Bush tucker

Traditions

Story telling

How we can nurture the land

All about Beeliar Noongar people and culture

I would love for every job role, schools, universities to have to undergo a culture respect course to understand the land we live on and the indigenous people we surround ourselves with. So we can understand cultural differences and to be more respectful.

Significance of cultural sites, stories from Elders about what life was like, who the significant Elders and Families are.

Language, how they lived and survived, what do they cook- native plants

More of the local Aboriginal (Noongar) history to be included in audio around the City of Cockburn.

Local truth telling and treaty, more obvious consulting with local knowledge holders.

Learning language would be amazing - perhaps singing in language

How they did things prior to colonisation.

Understand/ learn traditional ways.

More in a local context... history, sacred and significant sites.

I would love to know in more depth the stories of the cockburn region and how indigenous peoples travelled through it and how they lived on this specific part of the land. To understand more of the spiritual offerings of indigenous culture.

More about Torres Strait culture and stats in Cockburn

Quarterly expo's displays for the community, highlighting Aboriginal presence within the community that is supportive and encouraged.

[REDACTED]

It would be wonderful to have Noongar classes and upskill resident groups to acknowledge country in language

Cultural connections to areas throughout City Of Cockburn. VR learnings too, visual learnings takes u back

Q3. What do you think City of Cockburn could do to improve the reconciliation journey?

I think that they are already batting above their average

Have a regular circle that encourages story telling and a voice from our indigenous members, get local council representatives to be involve , get aboriginal voices on /within the cockburn council.

Be engaged with recording indigenous history so that future generations have access to it.

It should support Indigenous initiatives and enterprises.

Education education education.

Have local communities give talks, organise events etc

Be inclusive (but not exclusive at the same time, like other Local Governments)

[REDACTED]

Truth-telling and dual naming.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Aboriginal Themed Events will help

Acknowledge the slavery of Aboriginal people on Rottnest Island. Display accurate information on rotto of the horrific treatment of Aboriginal men and the way they were buried disregarding their burial practises and customs.

I think the City of Cockburn are currently doing many things but I am opposed to changing Australia Day. However I do think we can acknowledge their culture and all others on that day and celebrating Australia as a peaceful united nation.

Say sorry for what the people of the past did. Leave it in the past and move forward with good vibes not a heavily weighted negative relationship.

Treat all of the community as equals

Treat us all the same I'm non aboriginal and was born here as far as I'm concerned Australia is my country as much as theirs, I don't care what colour you are I respect everyone as long as they respect me.

educating Aboriginal people to integrate , in the meantime the rest to respect their culture and its history

Unsure. You guys are doing great stuff.

As above.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

They could change the date of Australia Day if that's what the local Nyungar people want.

Again - if they want it, I'd like to see them have their own community centre, run by them and financed by us the ratepayers.

I'd like the city to support whatever first nations people want to happen in the area that has been Aboriginal heritage listed in the Dixon Park precinct. There's an opportunity there for them to perhaps heal the country and themselves. Perhaps the ratepayers could pay to employ their own people in whatever they might choose to do there.

See item 1

[REDACTED]

Support The Voice to Parliament

Not provide an advantage to any group or race - treat all the same fairly with the same opportunity

Create several small community reconciliation events that enable local First Nations people to tell their own story of the lives growing up locally, or anywhere in Australia. A bit like mini Lets Talk About Racism workshops where non-First

Nations people can listen and also engage by relating their own understanding/experiences of racism toward First nations people and how it has affected their lives. Engage speakers from the Uluru Statement From the Heart to address local community meetings to help explain how it will benefit all Australians

Have local elders help in activities and take ownership and responsibility for growing our community.

Finding mutual interests, again family and relationships team building, inclusion making events enticing to all ages and cultures.

[REDACTED]

See my answer to question 1, that is the key first step to true reconciliation.

Treat everyone equally

By not being divisive

Increased employment opportunities for first nations people at the City of Cockburn.

have stability within the roles, continue to have this as an allocated position

On purpose organize some events where Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people come together, not separate. Start with something small and keep developing.

[REDACTED]

Change date of Australia Day celebrations.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Get security guards and police off their backs. Ban the humiliating practice of having these groups follow Indigenous folk until they leave shopping centres. I'd be shouting and swearing if they treated me in this way too 🙄

put funding into offering these events above for residents

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Not sure - listening and then acting????

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employment for the youth in this area

Have a younger aboriginals on your committees

I honestly think enough has been done. There's been an apology and also kids in school learn so much more about it.

Naming of places around Cockburn to include Aboriginal words.
Include aboriginal artwork on Cockburn train station display and other places around the shire
Signage to explain cultural significant areas and provide history information
Have aboriginal groups form a service to drive around the shire talking to aboriginal youth ensuring they get home safely
Have more facilities activities for youth to do

DONT KNOW

Stop looking at the past and focus on the future, this country will never heal if we don't move on

Doing very so far

Visit their homes

Educate the population and stop discrimination.

[REDACTED]

More aboriginal staff
More photos of Aboriginal people in our marketing
Further Let's Talk about Racism workshops for internal staff. Could an avenue be created for our wider community to learn more about racism in the community and the trauma due to our colonial history.
Training for community and internal staff to understand the importance of Acknowledgment of Country
Review current namings of Parks, infrastructure that elevate figures in history that were racist
Aboriginal training mandatory for all staff
More plaques around the City detailing Aboriginal history, culture and people

See above

It all seems a bit tokenistic to me when it comes to the council really, like you say you want to do this stuff and put on little events to go oh look at us supporting aboriginal people but there's nothing happening on a daily basis that I can see, like maybe create some informal conversation groups in the community asking indigenous people how they want to be represented, and not just well known people/businesses, like actual people in the community of all ages getting involved somehow in their own spaces that the council supports and that can give feedback

Provide mentors and programmes to engage and educate the aboriginal community. These services need to be run by the aboriginal people in collaboration with the wider community.

I believe City of Cockburn have already improved the reconciliation journey to some extent. It's really good to see this happen, but we can always do more. Hopefully some of the above suggestions can assist with the reconciliation.

Welcoming people from the community to come to an open day incorporating both cultures and displaying information of different services in the Cockburn City that are available to all cultures.

Education. Respect works both ways

Continue to increase the Noongar language through signage. Continue to provide Community awareness through courses provided in the past. Try to create a link between schools and Aboriginal groups, especially for schools that do not have an Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer on the premises.

Current reconciliation programmes are about wright.

As mentioned above, improvements can be made with support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart as it will represent a sense of allyship.

Provide forum for Indigenous people to lead understanding and share their experience and why change is important and necessary now

Host more free cultural and artistic festivals and events that are Elder led and that bring the diverse Cockburn community together. E.g. such as the Danjoo Koorliny Noel Nannup led Full Moon celebration Meeka Morrat. Or a Winter Festival such as the one the City of Melville hosts which brings together a diverse range of artists and story tellers including Elders from all nationalities. Support schools in the Cockburn area to develop their RAP plans. I went to one fantastic RAP support meeting hosted by the city, more could be done in this space. More FREE educational programs for local schools to connect into.

Education program for residents to better understand /inform their response to the forthcoming referendum.

Ensure all OCM reporting includes a section regarding association/impact on the City's RAP.

Support The Voice, even though it has become politicized, ,

Nothing, leave as is

Aboriginal members of council

Cancel the annual Australia day Celebrations or move it to a different day and call it something else like the City of Fremantle has. The new event should celebrate and advocate First Nations peoples culture and history.

Not host events on Australia Day, including citizenship. Increase cultural walks and cooking sessions and positive ways in which the community can embrace and understand Aboriginal culture.

Listen. Listen and Listen to what they have to say. We have a lot to say sorry for in society and its past the time we started. If any one thing that has effected our first land owners was to effect any white person, there would be a royal commission set up but no, our politicians cannot say sorry. How would you feel if your children were taken away from you with no reason given. Just one example.

Support the Voice to Parliament in alignment with the Noongar community and their views. Look after country. Plant endemic species of flora and re-establish

ecosystems to bring back native fauna. Commit to urban and commercial development that is respectful to Noongar culture and worldview. Establish more local signage (visual information) and promote community awareness about important Noongar sites and places, natural processes and truth telling about the impact of colonial contact.

Get as many staff on board!

I think they do a good job.

Engage with local elders and invite them to tell their stories and find out how Indigenous people would like their culture to be celebrated.

Info on website is excellent but we seek relationships with interested community members.

More Indigenous representations in leadership roles - government roles, enforcement roles to protect their people, for them to have more of a voice in notions and ideas that are presented to them that affect their lives. Like building of roads, demolishing certain lands etc.

Endorse the Uluru Statement and start building the much promised Cultural Centre (it has been in discussion for far too long)

Is there a journey??? Not even aware of one

Construct the Aboriginal Centre at [Lake Walliabup] Bibra Lake ASAP.

Truth telling and treaty.

Provide cultural education and cultural awareness workshops to the community

All the above.

Have targets, dates and action plans agreed and approved by First Nation Australians.

Commit to long term evidence based solutions.

Tell the community what it sees as a vision for reconciliation in a local context.

Merging indigenous and non indigenous folks in everyday life will help heal wounds that run deep over many generations. Community, love and connection. Run embodiment workshops!!! Tuning into self and nurturing environment is a good step to letting go of cultural preconceived notions and find ways to step into the future with ease and joy.

You are doing well

Turn these recreational grounds into community pantries where you plant fruit trees and offer more community gardens so the local community can care for them. Create a sense of belonging for ALL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There was a missed opportunity with this consultation by failing to offer a face to face workshop with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal attendees - that is the purpose of Reconciliation.

See also comments about the City getting behind the yes vote.

More community consultation in person, surveys sent out, course for Aboriginal people in City of Cockburn

Q4. On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you know about the City's Reconciliation Action Plan?

1 = I didn't know the City had one

5 = Well-informed

Answer	No. Responses
1 (I didn't know the City had one)	47
2	12
3	26
4	14
5 (Well informed)	7
Total	106

Q5. Any other comments:

RAPs are meaningless and tend to be tokenistic without real investment and meaningful action

N/A

Aboriginal themed event please.

Let's celebrate as one rather than make huge changes as moving Australia Day to another Day. We need to respect all cultures and history.

Let's set up appropriate and effective programs for the unsupervised youths in Cockburn.

I dont believe that we need a plan at all it is dividing our community by race. We could have a reconciliation action plan for many of our community diverse, cultural members but again that would be dividing us by race and personal heritage

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This whole push for "reconciliation" is just dividing people futher. We are all one Australia under the one flag. I totally respect every single law abiding Native Australian just as I do any other Law abiding person there is no difference in my eyes at all. We are all the same in the eyes of God!

I'm not looking for Cockburn council to do much other than to efficiently use my rates to repair Road and collect rubbish.

It's not the roll of this council to take on this roll.

As per comment 1. I am not racist, have many Aboriginal friends and have worked in remote WA. Throwing more 'offers' out will not improve anything. Support and growing together comes from within.

Toughen up and get on with living.

Although I wasn't aware of a plan I had noticed various activities that were held at the library and the wetlands centre. I attended a great day of local cultural education last year or the year before.

No

I think the City's events committee deciding the community didn't need to consider changing the date of the City's Australia Day activities was a direct snub of the Aboriginal Reference Group and a disservice to the community as a whole. As a result, the Council did not debate the issue which meant the community was not allowed to participate in a discussion on this topic. Only discussion to air everyone's feelings on the issue, as hard and as painful as it may be, will get it out in the open and make it feel more normal to talk about it and get people used to the idea that things cannot stay the same forever. Change is inevitable. Pushing it under the carpet slows this progress down

No

what are the reasons its needed? I am interested to know what caused the fall out in the first place and what keeps it going?

We can always do better in this space.

would like to be involved as much as possible with connections and programs

Love the step in the right direction

Stop dividing people by colour, Creed or religion.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. It needs to stop immediately otherwise it will continue to cause resentment between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people.

I'm interested in knowing about it.

[REDACTED]

I know the city offers me opportunities to learn some language but . . .

I think the gov (local,state and federal) have been pro active for years now in reconciliation. I'm just not sure what more the Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders actually want.

I do believe EVERYONE should be treated equally

[REDACTED]

The Council is sick .. nothing will change but a waste of money .. get real

I note that you have a question "do you identify as" but you dont recognise my ethnicity is not that exclusivity in itself ?

The city needs to publicise these plans more effectively to reach the wider community.

Cockburn City keeps us well informed.

I was a community member of the RAC committee, but haven't had the opportunity to get involved.

Good on you for having a RAP. Bad on you for your Australia day celebrations.

Too much focus on staff Aboriginal training and not enough on liaising with the community or offering educational opportunity to residents and community. Aboriginal staff have had a very low profile in the community the past 4 years.

Yesterday was when this should have begun.

Thank you for this opportunity to give feedback.

I love that the Mayor and other members of council always personalise their acknowledgement of country.

The diversity and multiculturalism are not addressed at City of Cockburn comparing to other Cities

Truth telling and treaty, we need to understand why Aboriginal people are so disadvantaged, We need to know their connection to land and sea. Not just the nice stories but even them are especially location specific.

Thank you for your commitment. I hope we are more successful at closing the gap.

Thanks Barbara and team for presenting the RAP plans at the CCDG meeting in Success 16th Feb

How do you know your RAP document is effective?

Stop wasting the rate payer's money.

How about resources for resident groups to develop RAPs?

Q6. Do you identify in any of the following groups?

Answer	No. Responses
Aboriginal	7
Non-Aboriginal	82
Prefer not to say	17
Total	106

Q7. Which of the following best identifies you?

Answer	No. Responses
I live in the City of Cockburn	94
I live outside the City of Cockburn	5
I am a City of Cockburn employee	9

4.2 Written Responses (email or post)

By allowing them a platform where they can be heard , something accessible where their needs can be supported

This survey is one sided. Both parties need to be willing to reconcile not the council. Are any aboriginals doing this survey? We need to blend better and all be considered Australian and not indigenous and non-indigenous. Everyone is bending over backwards to say sorry and yet it makes no difference.

I think indigenous people need to blend in with the larger population and make friends outside their community. How will we be friends if its always them and us. I have indigenous friends but only because we were friends at either school or work. Both girls were not raised as indigenous but just Australian so we didn't see colour.

The best example of reconciliation I have seen was the beautiful aboriginal family entertaining at Australia Day celebrations at Coogee . They included everyone and asked that everyone join with them to celebrate. This is what we need not politicians, journalists and do gooders coming up with ridiculous divisive plans We are all Australians and most have a terrible cruel history but let's all live in the now and a future as one people

4.3 Community Workshop - First Nations People

The City invited First Nations people to attend a community workshop on Tuesday, 7 February 2023 at the Coolbellup Hub in Coolbellup. The workshop was designed and facilitated by Danny Ford of Kambarang Services. The key themes discussed are summarised in the table below.

Theme - Relationships
• More transparent communications with Elders and families. • Building more trust with the community. • Information booklet or directory of local Aboriginal services and events. • More education on noongar culture in local schools. • Aboriginal Reference Group – Ability to make recommendations to council. • Meet and Greet – Aboriginal community and City Of Cockburn staff. • More consultation in local planning and development. • A member of each appropriate family needs to sit on each board or committee. • Creation of community champions for up-and-coming Aboriginal leaders. • Build better relationships with Aboriginal employees. • Yarning circles implemented throughout the city. • More community meetings and forums. • Development of Aboriginal communication strategy.
Theme - Respect
• Special memorial for Sealin Garlett (at the cultural centre). • City of Cockburn to accept Uluru statement going forward. • Renumeration for consultation. • Noongar street names or dualled named. • More dual naming of locations within the City of Cockburn. • Children and youth need to have more of a voice and be included more. • Support the change the date movement. • More language implemented throughout the city. • Recognition of memorial for Aboriginal people who have served in the wars.
Theme - Opportunities
• Newsletter promoting local services and cultural events. • Local traineeships (both school based and non). • More local apprenticeships. • A program that connects local aboriginal people access to local employers and opportunities. • More Aboriginal roles within the City of Cockburn. • Aboriginal advisory roles to the council. • Everyone to have open invitations to events • Provide a noongar community list.

- Centre of community services.
- More cultural workshops and networking events.

4.4 Workshop – Aboriginal Reference Group

The City's Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG) met with Kamabaring Services to identify how we should consult the community on this project and important considerations for the 'Innovate' RAP. A summary of the key discussions points is provided in the table below.

Consultation process
• Open to everyone • One large community workshop • Host workshop in person at Len Packham Hall, Coolbellup • Those that cannot attend can complete survey • Conduct additional one-on-one interviews, and identify these people through the workshop process • Have a take-home form available at the workshop so attendees can have more time to think about their responses • Create a contact register of workshop attendees so the City can update them on the outcomes • City and ARG chairperson to work together to create the workshop questions • Once questions are prepared, ARG can provide responses to these questions
RAP considerations
• The RAP has four levels - Reflect, Innovate, Stretch and Elevate • Currently the City is on a Stretch RAP, which means actions need to be set and then followed up and actioned. As some of the actions from the previous RAP have not yet been fully achieved, the City is looking at going back to Innovate, so as to re-group, reassess and consolidate what needs to be done and also get everyone on board • Cockburn has been one of the leading Council in reconciliation, even having an Aboriginal Cultural and Visitors Centre (when built). Stepping back to Innovate will still mean that the City is one of the main leaders • The ARG is the second oldest Reference Group after Kulini. Being a member of the ARG gives us a voice about a shared path and creates opportunities for Councils to hear our voices for this land • The ARG has been going since 2002. Very proud of this. The City had its first RAP in 2011 and was the first metropolitan local government to do so • Walking together on the same path is very important. To some people, reconciliation means assimilation – it is not about putting white man in front. Reconciliation is about walking together. It's about creating outcomes and making change together

- The City often asks for community input and takes it on board. Many people put a lot of effort into giving this input, but then the City doesn't give them recognition for it
- Members were asked how this recognition could be given – members need more time to consider this
- Agreed that the overall aim of the RAP going forward is to achieve the ability to walk together side by side
- Today is the start of that journey and we need to establish where everyone's at now and also obtain ideas about what people think about the reconciliation space
- One of the RAP actions can be to come up with a name for the Aboriginal Cultural and Visitors Centre - comment that since the building is in the shape of a turtle it should have the Nyungar name for turtle, however, there are three names for turtle, so which is the right one?
- Fremantle, Melville and Cockburn have been meeting for around a year on the RAP and trying to get some shared actions together

5. Next Steps

Thank you for sharing your views on improving our reconciliation journey in Cockburn. We appreciate your input.

The City is reviewing the feedback from our First Nations and the broader community, which will help to inform the development of our 'Innovate' RAP. The RAP will benefit everyone who lives, works, and visits Cockburn by ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people achieve equality in all aspects of life.

Once the draft is ready, we will seek further feedback from several Elders, Knowledge Holders, and Traditional Owners identified through the consultation process.

We will present the draft RAP to Council for consideration and endorsement, and finally, Reconciliation Australia for final approval. When available, we will publish the approved Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-2025 on the City of Cockburn website.

For more information, please contact the City at 08 9411 3444 or customer@cockburn.wa.gov.au.

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