Statement of Commitment

Statement of Commitment to the Wurundjeri People and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri People as the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which Moonee Valley is located, we pay our respects to Elders past and present. This Statement of Commitment was updated in 2017 and reaffirms the partnership between Moonee Valley City Council and Wurundjeri Council and renews our commitment to the Wurundjeri People and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Respect - Gahgook

Moonee Valley City Council respects:
• the Wurundjeri People as the first Australians on this land
• the unique status of Aboriginal Peoples as the original custodians of traditional lands and waters
• the special and distinctive spiritual and material relationship that Aboriginal Peoples have with the land, water, trees, rocks, hills and valley creeks, rivers and flood plains of the Moonee Valley area
• the value of the diversity and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and cultures to the heritage of all Australians.

Recognition - Ngarngaith

Moonee Valley City Council recognises:
• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as having a distinct culture, history and legacy with vibrancy, diversity and richness that all Australians can share in
• the unique spirit and contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and the richness of traditional Indigenous languages
• the historical and environmental importance of the significant and sacred sites, and special places within the city
• the past injustices inflicted on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by this and previous generations of non-Aboriginal Australians, and expresses our profound regret that these injustices occurred. In particular, Council is sorry for the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, confiscation of their traditional lands, the implementation of policies designed to extinguish Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practices, language and culture and for the pain these actions have caused and continue to cause the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Relationships - Djerri

Moonee Valley City Council will advocate for:
• respect towards and recognition of the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to Australian society, past and present
• the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
• increased opportunities and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
• the sustainability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and programs.

Mayor
Cr John Sipek
Moonee Valley City Council
Date:

Wurundjeri Elder
Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council
Date:

Wanganyinu ngarr-gu Wurundjeri Gulinj ngargunin twarn biik wenerop Moonee Valley dharri, wanganyinu gahgook Nanggit baambuth ba yalingbu'.

1 This acknowledgement has been written in Woi wurrung – the language of the Wurundjeri People.