

CITY OF SOUTH PERTH

RECONCILIATION PLAN 2025–2030



City of
South Perth





ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER PEOPLES SHOULD BE
AWARE THAT THIS DOCUMENT
MAY CONTAIN IMAGES OR NAMES
OF DECEASED PEOPLE.

A city of active places and beautiful spaces



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Left: Smoking Ceremony, Manning Rippers Football Club Community Day, supported by the City of South Perth.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

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Welcome Wandju Wandju

“As a Noongar artist, [painting] allows me to tell the story of my people and their deep connection to the land, guided by the six seasons” - **DJINDA KAAL**

**Kaartdjinin Nidja Nyungar Whadjuk
Boodjar Koorā Nidja Djining Noonakoort
kaartdijin wangkiny, maam, gnarnk and
boordier Nidja Whadjul kura kura.**

**We acknowledge and pay our respects
to the traditional custodians of this land,
the Whadjuk people of the Noongar
nation and their Elders past and present.**

This acknowledgement has been written
in Noongar – the language of the
Whadjuk Noongar people.



This Reconciliation Plan is for our community
– for everyone who lives, works, studies, or
visits the City of South Perth.



Fiona Reidy
ARTIST

Fiona Reidy, who goes by the artist name Djinda Kaal, is a Noongar woman from the Ballardong and Whadjuk clans. Fiona partnered with the City of South Perth to create a series of artworks that are featured throughout this plan.

The artworks depict the six Noongar seasons – Birak, Bunuru, Djeran, Makuru, Djilba and Kambarang.

Djinda Kaal's vivid paintings are rich with detail and meaning, revealing within their layers the enduring storytelling culture of First Nations people. The series now forms part of the City of South Perth public art collection and has been incorporated into its visual branding.

Left & above: Fiona Reidy
'Djinda Kaal.'



"I AM THE FIRST NOONGAR
WOMAN TO BECOME AN
HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE
CITY. I PRAY IT WILL PAVE
THE WAY FOR THE REST OF
MY PEOPLE TO DREAM THEIR
DREAMS AND ACHIEVE WHAT
THEY WANT IN OUR COMMUNITY."

DENA GOWER, FREEMAN OF THE CITY



INTRODUCTION

South Perth has been home to the Whadjuk Bibbulmun Noongar people for thousands of years.

The City of South Perth is committed to our vision for reconciliation, and we will continue to embed key reconciliation strategies that create space for meaningful change. We will continue to work with our local community to make progress together.

Whadjuk Noongar people make significant contributions to our community. We recognise the continued importance of improving connections and forming stronger relationships with First Nations people in our local government area.

The City of South Perth Reconciliation Plan 2025-2030 builds on the work we undertook as part of the 'Innovate' Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2023 and the City's first Aboriginal Engagement Strategy developed in 2013.

The revised Reconciliation Plan continues the City's commitment to progressing reconciliation in our community.



Left: Dena Gower (top right) and five generations of her family.
Above: Dancers from Djoona performing at the City of South Perth Citizenship Ceremony, January 2025.





CITY'S VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

- **Immersion in First Nations cultures:** To fully integrate First Nations cultures and ways of working into everyday life.
- **Respect for First Nations:** To respect First Nations people, their traditions, languages, and cultures.
- **Acknowledgment of the past:** To achieve understanding of our country's First Nations history and recognise the need for healing.
- **Positive relationships:** To support collaborative activities where both First Nations and non-First Nations people work and interact together in the community.
- **Connection to country:** For our entire community to be committed to caring for the land and maintaining a deep connection to the country.



Left: Smoking ceremony at Collier Primary School, NAIDOC Week 2024.

OUR COMMUNITY



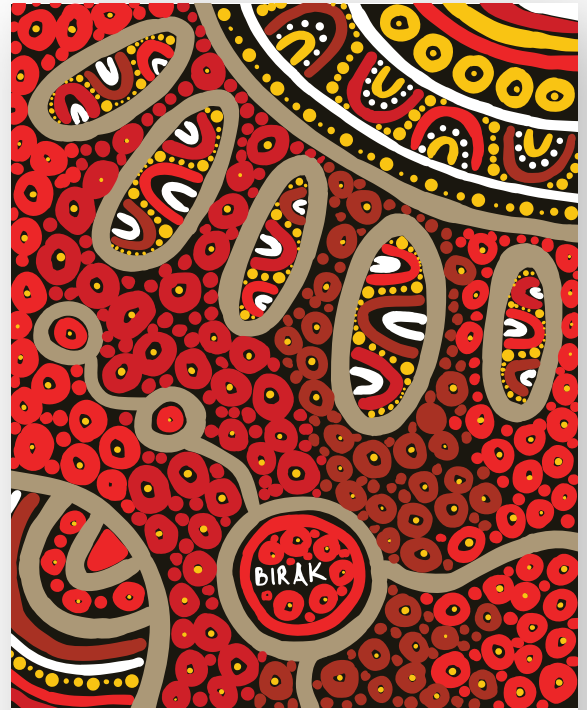
The City of South Perth is a city of active spaces and beautiful places. The local government area covers nearly 20 square kilometres and includes South Perth, Kensington, Como, Karawara, Manning, Waterford and Salter Point. The City has approximately 43,000 residents and a diverse workforce of an additional 15,000 people each day.

The City sits on the land of the Noongar nation within the Whadjuk region. The Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation are the Traditional Custodians of the south-west of Western Australia.

The City of South Perth is bounded by Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) and Djarlgarra (Canning River) and encompasses a number of significant places to both First Nations and non-First Nations peoples.

The rivers continue to be sources of spiritual, cultural, economic and familial connection for the Whadjuk people and to First Australians more broadly around the state. Based on Whadjuk mythology, the Derbarl Yerrigan and Djarlgarra were created by the Waugal, the ancient creation serpent who made the fresh waterways.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census, 638 First Nations people currently reside in the City of South Perth, which represents 1.5% of the City's total population.



Noongar season:

BIRAK

December - January

Around the time of December and January the land comes alive with the first summer season known as Birak.

This is the season of the young and is known as the fire season. It's a time where the land and the air becomes dry and hot. Controlled fires are set off in mosaic patterns to help reduce fuel and to aid with regeneration, ushering in new life and growth.

Djinda Kaal's Birak art design showcases the sun and has vibrant reds to reflect the warmth of the season.

Left: Manning Rippers Football Club First Nations celebrations.

ALIGNMENT OF THE RECONCILIATION PLAN



STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN 2021–2031

This Reconciliation Plan aligns with the City of South Perth's Strategic Community Plan 2021–2031 and supports the delivery of the City's plans in the following areas:

CULTURAL PLAN 2023–2028

1. **Cultural Identity:** Deliver events, activations and programs.
2. **Cultural Heritage:** To value, protect and preserve our cultural heritage.
4. **Community connection and collaboration:** To facilitate cultural activities for all and enhance community wellbeing through participation.
5. **Creative economy:** To support the local economy through cultural activity.

CITY OF SOUTH PERTH WORKFORCE PLAN 2022–2026

Embracing diversity and inclusion

- 5.8 Explore and promote employment pathways for under-represented people in our workforce (people with a disability, First Nations Australians and youth) to greater encourage participation.

Left: Community dinner at George Burnett Leisure Centre in Karawara.



Noongar season:

BUNURU

February - March

Bunuru the second summer season in February and March, represents adolescence and is characterised as the hottest part of the year.

It is the perfect time for fishing and witnessing the vibrant blooming of flowering gums. Djinda Kaal's Bunuru design has used burnt oranges and highlighted the sun to capture the essence of this scorching season.

NATIONAL AND STATE RECONCILIATION LANDSCAPE

We acknowledge the changing landscape of reconciliation following the 2023 Voice to Parliament referendum. Our community is still healing.

There is a whole-of-government commitment to reconciliation with a number of plans and agreements in progress at national and state levels. Some of these are outlined below.

State of Reconciliation in Australia Report (2021): A snapshot of the country's reconciliation journey. Recommended actions include truth-telling and addressing issues of inequality and racism in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights.

Closing the Gap (2019-2029). This agreement aims to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to work together to achieve equality in life outcomes. A Closing the Gap Implementation Plan released in 2021 outlines the role local government plays in supporting this work.

Aboriginal Cultural Centre: The WA State Government in partnership with Aboriginal communities is developing a centre located on the traditional lands of the Whadjuk Noongar people in Boorloo (Perth) next to the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River). The centre will be a culturally safe place for truth telling and reconciliation, providing spaces for art, education, community and tourism activities.

South West Native Title Settlement agreement: Is a long term investment in Noongar people and the shared success of Western Australia. The Settlement is the most comprehensive agreement negotiated in Australian history. It comprises six Indigenous Land Use agreements negotiated between the Noongar people and the WA State Government and reflects Noongar people's strong connection to boodjar (Noongar land).

Sources:

- Reconciliation Australia
- Closing the Gap
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet

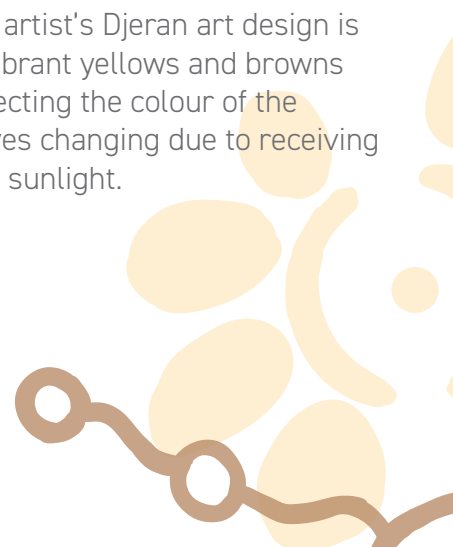


Noongar season:
DJERAN
April - May

Djeran, the autumn season in April and May, represents adulthood and brings cooler nights and refreshing early mornings with dew.

It is the time when traditional mia mia's (shelters) were repaired, waterproofed, and checked to ensure they are facing the right direction for the rainy and damp weather, preparing for the approaching winter months.

The artist's Djeran art design is in vibrant yellows and browns reflecting the colour of the leaves changing due to receiving less sunlight.





Above: Six Seasons mural launch at Village Green 2021.



Above: Print block designs created by Moorditj Keila.



Above: Noongar six seasons signage at Goss Bushland.



Above: Freeman of the City honour awarded to Dena Gower, accepted by her daughter.



Above: Noongar Language story time with Dylan Collard.



Above: NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremony at South Perth Community Hall.



Above: Welcome to Country at the City's Australia Day Morning Ceremony.



Above: WestCycle Beeloo Cycling Program led by Whadjuk Noongar Traditional Owner Joe Collard.

CITY OF SOUTH PERTH'S RECONCILIATION PROGRESS



- Welcome to Country and other cultural ceremonies celebrated at major events.
- First Nations art promoted through Emerging Artist Award.
- Whadjuk Bibbulmun language incorporated throughout the community on entrance statements and signage.
- Calendar of events for NAIDOC Week and National Reconciliation Week celebrated each year.
- First Nations procurement policy created to increase procurement of goods and services from First Nations businesses.
- Black Swan Habitat Island named Djirda Miya, meaning 'home of the birds,' to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land.
- Freeman of the City awarded to Dena Gower in 2022. Dena is the first Noongar woman to receive this honour.
- Partnership with Djinda Kaal to create our new visual brand identity, highlighting the Noongar seasons Birak, Bunuru, Djeran, Makuru, Djilba, and Kambarang.
- The first stage of the Old Mill First Nations History Project completed.
- A diverse range of First Nations initiatives supported through City's community funding and partnership programs.



Noongar season: MAKURU June - July

Makuru, or winter, brings the first rains in June and July, making it the coldest and wettest time of the year. These rains fill up waterways and catchments, bringing fertility to the land. Animals begin to pair up in preparation for breeding in the upcoming season. In the artist's Makuru design, she has incorporated bold blues to symbolise the filling waterways and to represent the coldness of this time of the year.

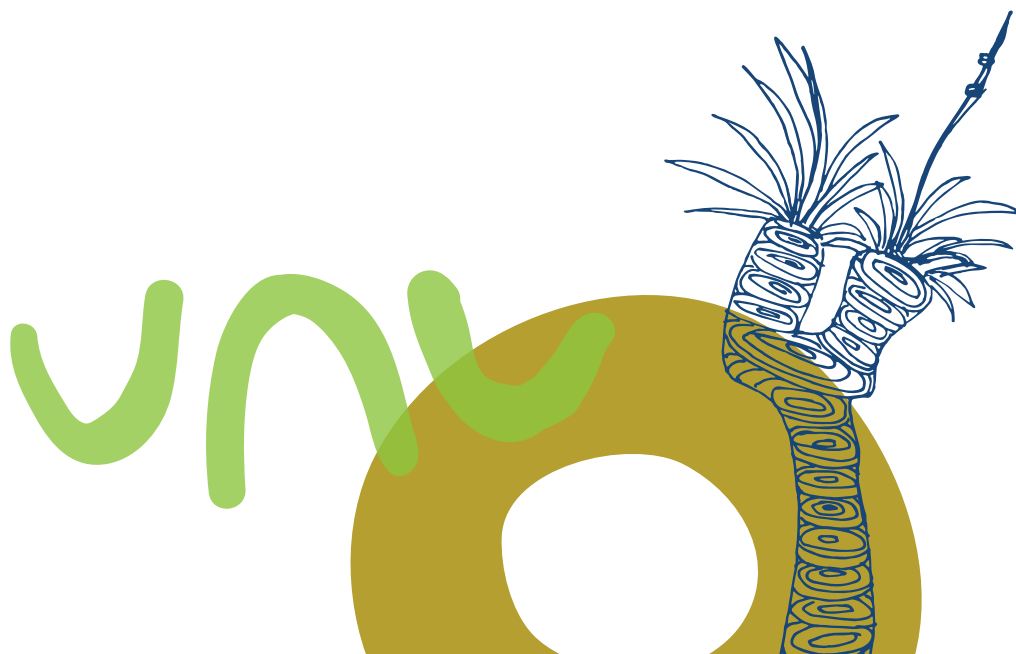
Left: Welcome to Country performed by James Webb at Community Dinner, Karawara.

RECONCILIATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION 2025-2030

OUTCOME AREA 1 – Elevating the First Nations Voice

Goal: The City of South Perth will continue to encourage meaningful connections for First Nations people in our community.

ACTION	CITY INVOLVEMENT	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Establish a database of Whadjuk Noongar Elders, First Nations businesses, organisations and other stakeholders located in City of South Perth.	Planner	x	x	x	x	x
Provide opportunities for the City to engage with Whadjuk Noongar Elders, First Nations businesses, organisations and other stakeholders for relevant City projects.	Planner	x	x	x	x	x
Participate in National Reconciliation Week by sharing information and participating in events and initiatives, where appropriate.	Coordinator	x	x	x	x	x
Acknowledge the achievements and contributions of local First Australians through initiatives including the communication of key achievements to the community.	Provider	x	x	x	x	x
Include an overview of the Reconciliation Plan as part of induction process for new employees and Elected Members.	Provider	x	x	x	x	x
Facilitate networking meetings with local First Nations Education Officers to coordinate relationships with local schools.	Planner		x	x	x	x



OUTCOME AREA 2 – Truth Telling and Upholding Culture

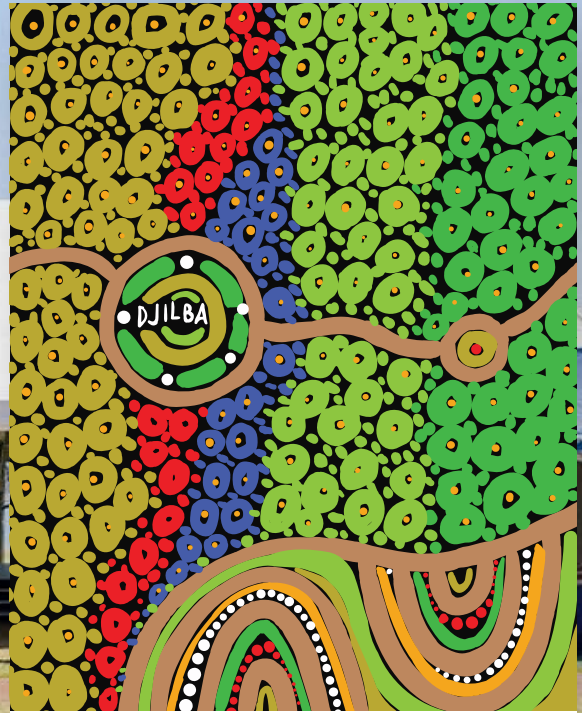
Goal: The City of South Perth will be known as a place that demonstrates that it honours the lives, achievements and histories of First Nations people. We are committed to working with the Whadjuk Bibbulmun Noongar community to ensure tradition, protocol and culture are upheld, respected and preserved.

ACTION	CITY INVOLVEMENT	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Undertake community education strategies to promote the importance of local places of significance.	Planner		x			
Conduct a review of cultural learning needs within our organisation.	Planner			x		
Consult local Traditional Owners and/or First Nations advisors on the provision of employee Cultural Awareness Training.	Planner		x		x	
Increase employee understanding of the purpose and significance behind cultural protocols, such as Welcome to Country.	Planner	x	x	x	x	x
Invite local Traditional Owners or Custodians to provide cultural protocols at significant community and civic events each year.	Planner	x	x	x	x	x
Provide opportunities for First Nations artists and cultural practitioners to participate in community to demonstrate and honour the truth of First Nations life, achievements and history.	Provider	x	x	x	x	x
Continuously fly the Aboriginal flag and Torres Strait Islander flag as a sign of respect and a way to acknowledge Country.	Provider	x	x	x	x	x
Provide opportunities for local First Nations communities to grow and promote native plants for foods, medicines and usage via local community gardens.	Planner	x	x	x	x	x

OUTCOME AREA 3 – Coming Together to Listen

Goal: The City of South Perth will support opportunities for First Nations people to plan for their life-long journey in the area, including employment, business growth, well-being and housing.

ACTIONS	CITY INVOLVEMENT	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
<p>Aim to increase the percentage of First Nations employees at the City, as guided by the Workforce Plan, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising job vacancies via channels that reach First Nations jobseekers (e.g. LinkedIn, Facebook, dedicated First Nations Job Boards). Including First Nations artwork and/or language in job advertisements to encourage applications from First Nations people. 	Planner	x		x		x
Connect our First Nations communities to information on housing and affordable home ownership for First Nations people.	Partner			x		
Encourage procuring goods and services from First Nations businesses to all employees and establish progressive procurement targets for First Nations businesses.	Provider	x	x	x	x	x
Become a corporate member of 'Supply Nation' (Australia's largest national directory of verified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses).	Planner		x			
Conduct an audit of the City's existing plans, policies, programs, services, projects and facilities involved in the delivery of public health with a focus on First Nations communities.	Planner			x		
Promote community education opportunities about First Nations peoples (e.g. increase the City's library collection to include items by and about First Australians; and enhance relevant content in the Local History Collection through research, acquisitions and engagement with Local Elders, community members and historians).	Planner	x	x	x	x	x
Explore avenues to increase opportunities for participation by First Nations people within existing and future community facilities.	Planner	x		x		x



Noongar season:
DJILBA
August - September

Djilba marks the arrival of spring in August and September. Although the days are still cold and wet, there is a transition towards warmer weather. This season is associated with conception, and birds like magpies and willy wagtails are busy nesting and protecting their young by swooping. As the weather begins to warm up, vegetation starts to regrow. Djinda Kaal has incorporated vibrant greens to symbolise the rejuvenation of plants during this season.



OUTCOME AREA 4 – Progress Reporting/Gathering Knowledge

Goal: The City of South Perth will clearly communicate and report our commitment to reconciliation. This knowledge and understanding must be two-way learning.

ACTIONS	CITY INVOLVEMENT	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Define resource needs for Reconciliation Plan implementation through annual business plan to read planning and budgets.	Planner	x	x	x	x	x
Engage employees and Elected Members in the delivery of the Reconciliation Plan actions.	Planner	x	x	x	x	x
Report Reconciliation Plan quarterly progress through the City of South Perth Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework.	Provider	x	x	x	x	x
Report Reconciliation Plan annual progress to the community by including this progress in all major report documents and publications.	Provider	x	x	x	x	x
Work with WALGA to provide information to First Nations people about how local government works and the process of becoming an Elected Member.	Partner		x		x	

RESOURCING

Any financial requirements for implementing the Reconciliation Plan will be sought through the annual operating budget process, external funding, and cash and/or in-kind contributions from project partners.

MORE INFORMATION

Community Development Coordinator
City of South Perth
9474 0777
enquiries@southperth.wa.gov.au



Noongar season: KAMBARANG October - November

Kambarang is the second spring in October-November. This is the season of birth, with longer dry periods. The yellows from the Acacias abound and so do the Banksias. There are smaller, delicate flowering plants out at this time such as the Kangaroo Paw and the Orchids. Balgas start to flower too. The Moojar tree has the most striking yellow and orange flowers signalling the heat is on its way. Snakes and reptiles awaken from hibernation.

Kambarang is the artist's favourite season because of the weather and the wildflowers. The weather is still cool and warming up making the days feel pleasant. The abundance of wildflowers and their beautiful colours making this season look the most beautiful.



USEFUL CONTACTS

Civic Centre

9474 0777

Cnr Sandgate St & South Tce,
South Perth WA 6151

Fax 9474 2425

southperth.wa.gov.au

Recycling Centre

9474 0970

Hayman Rd & Thelma St, Como
enquiries@southperth.wa.gov.au

Animal Care Facility

9474 0777

199 Thelma St, Como

Ferry Tram

9474 0777

Windsor Park, Cnr Mends St &
Mill Point Rd, South Perth

George Burnett Leisure Centre

9474 0855

Manning Rd, Karawara

leisurecentre@southperth.wa.gov.au

South Perth Library

9474 0800

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1800 007 774

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9474 0777

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