



**MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL  
DOCUMENT FOR RECONCILIATION**

**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE**

**OUR COMMITMENT TO ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER PEOPLE**

Muswellbrook Shire Council acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were the first people of this land and have survived European settlement for more than two centuries.

Muswellbrook Shire Council recognises that the arrival of Europeans brought massive change to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to the land.

Muswellbrook Shire Council acknowledges the past injustices towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and in doing so makes a commitment to support self-determination.

Muswellbrook Shire Council welcomes the rights of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders to live according to their own values and customs, within the law.

Muswellbrook Shire Council acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture strengthens and enriches our community and commits itself to respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, protecting their special places and significant cultural sites.

Muswellbrook Shire Council accepts its responsibility to develop an awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture, and will positively promote their culture in conjunction with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at a local, regional and national level.

Muswellbrook Shire Council commits itself to the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to equity and access to Council, its resources and community services.

Muswellbrook Shire Council supports all people working together to achieve mutual respect and harmony within the community.



Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council  
Representative  
Margaret Matthews



Hunter Valley Aboriginal Co operative  
Representative  
Gordon Boney Snr



Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council  
Community Representative  
Helen French




Hunter Valley Aboriginal Co operative  
Community Representative  
Julie Griffiths



John Colvin, Mayor

Signed in the presence of Deputy Premier and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs



The Hon. Dr A. Refshauge MP

13<sup>th</sup> August 2001