



Ipswich Jets'

Reconciliation Action Plan –

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Welcome to – Country Protocol



Reconciliation
A U S T R A L I A
RECONCILIATION ACTION PLANS

Background

Reconciliation is the process where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people combined with other Australians work together for the betterment of the overall Australian community.

The Ipswich Jets have developed a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) that sets out our commitment to help close the gap between the opportunities open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians and to build strong, sustainable and inclusive communities.

Reconciliation Australia approved the RAP on the 9th of July 2012.

A key commitment in the RAP is to build our members and fans understanding of and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their culture and aspirations.

Recognising traditional owners and inviting Aboriginal Elders to give a Welcome to Country ceremony at Ipswich Jets' activities are appropriate ways in which to show our respect for Australia's first people.

As part of the RAP the Ipswich Jets has resolved that this Protocol shall be observed at relevant Ipswich Jet activities.

Acknowledging traditional owners

At the start of an Ipswich Jets' activity it is respectful for the master of ceremonies or first speaker to recognise the traditional owners and custodians of the lands on which the activity is taking place.

Later speakers may also recognise traditional owners and custodians.

The Ipswich Jets has three acknowledgements that may be used depending on the activity.

- Formal Acknowledgement

The Ipswich Jets acknowledge the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul people, the traditional custodians of the land upon which we play Rugby League in Ipswich.

The Ipswich Jets affirms that the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people are the Indigenous peoples of Australia; Australia's first people.

The Ipswich Jets pay our respects to the Elders, both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australians.

Remembering that underneath the concrete and asphalt this land is, was and always will be traditional Aboriginal land and believing that we walk together towards a better future we meet this today.

The Formal Acknowledgement should always be used at larger activities:

- i) the pre-season launch and end of year awards night;
- ii) which bring people from outside of the Ipswich Jets together;
- iii) when people have travelled to meet together from other areas; and



iv) especially when discussing issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are in attendance.

- Game Day Acknowledgement

The Ipswich Jets, like the City of Ipswich, is rich in the participation of Indigenous Australians as players, coaches and administrators.

The Ipswich Jets acknowledge the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul people, the traditional custodians of the land upon which we play Rugby League in Ipswich.

The Ipswich Jets pay our respects to the Elders past and present; celebrate, and thank them for, their wonderful contribution to the Ipswich Jets.

- Simple Acknowledgement

'The Ipswich Jets respectfully acknowledges the past and present traditional owners of the land on which we live and work.'

The Simple Acknowledgement may be used for internal Ipswich Jets meetings or for activities where the other acknowledgements need not be used.

Welcome to Country

A 'Welcome to Country' is the ceremony by which a traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander custodian of the land or Elder welcomes people to their land. This can be done through a speech, dance, song, traditional smoking ceremony or a combination of these.

When opening a significant event (particularly if there are overseas guests) or on a special occasion like the Indigenous Appreciation Day it is appropriate to hold a Welcome to Country.

The Welcome to Country ceremony should be the first activity at the event.

After the ceremony, the following speaker or master of ceremonies should formally thank the Elder who provided the 'Welcome to Country' and then acknowledge the traditional owners of the land by using the Ipswich Jets' Formal or Game Acknowledgements.

