



# LATROBE CITY COUNCIL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PROTOCOL FACT SHEET

## What is the Victorian Traditional Owner Settlement Act?

The Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 is a Victorian law which provides for an out-of-court settlement of native title and resolution of land justice.

The Act allows the Victorian Government to make agreements with Traditional Owners to recognise their relationship to the land, and provide for certain rights on Crown land and other benefits.

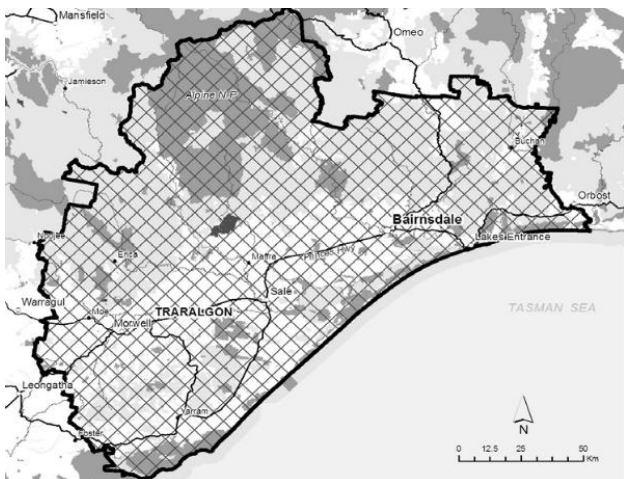
## Who are the Traditional Owners of Latrobe City?

The Traditional Owners of Latrobe City are the Gunaikurnai nation. The Gunaikurnai nation is made up of five clans, the Brabralung, Brataualung, Braiakaulung, Krauatungalung and Tatungalung people.

The Gunaikurnai agreement area extends from west Gippsland near Warragul, east near Orbost to the Snowy River, north to Mount Buller and south to Port Welshpool. It also includes 200 metres of sea country offshore.

The Gunaikurnai nation is represented by Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC).

For more information on GLaWAC please visit their website: <https://gunaikurnai.org/>



## What is an Acknowledgement of Country?

An Acknowledgement of Country recognises that Victoria has a strong and proud Aboriginal history and complex ownership and land stewardship systems stretching back many thousands of years. It pays respect to the Traditional Owners.

## When is an Acknowledgement of Country appropriate?

An Acknowledgement of Country should be read aloud at formal events, forums, functions, meetings, conferences, school assemblies, concerts and official openings.

## Who should give the Acknowledgement of Country?

The first speaker at an event or function (following the welcome or in the absence of a welcome) should read aloud the Acknowledgment of Country. The speaker does not need to be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. Any person can read the acknowledgement.

Subsequent speakers may also give an Acknowledgement of Country, but are not required to.







## What form should the Acknowledgement of Country take?

Latrobe City lies in the traditional land of the Braiakaulung clan of the Gunaikurnai nation so the acknowledgement should read as follows:

*I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting here today on the traditional land of the Braiakaulung (bry ak ah lung) people of the Gunaikurnai (gun eye kurn eye) nation and pay respect to their Elders past and present.*

*I would also like to acknowledge other Elders present with us today.*

## What is a Welcome to Country?

Welcome to Country allows traditional owners the opportunity to formally welcome people to their land. This is done as a ceremony or an oral welcome, by an Elder or appropriate nominated person. It may involve ceremonies of dance, smoke and song to bless the event and welcome participants.

## When is a Welcome to Country appropriate?

It is suggested that a welcoming ceremony be arranged for major public forums and functions. Naturally, if the function has a broad impact on, or significance for, Aboriginal people a welcoming ceremony will be appropriate.

## Can any Aboriginal person perform a Welcome to Country?

No, a Welcome to Country should only be performed by a representative of the Traditional Owner group. Asking an Aboriginal person to perform a Welcome to Country when they do not belong to the Traditional Owner group may cause them embarrassment and may offend the Traditional Owners.

In Latrobe City, only a representative of the Gunaikurnai nation can perform a Welcome to Country.

## Who do I contact if I want to organise a Welcome to Country?

Contact the Traditional Owners of Latrobe City, which is:

**Gunakurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)**

27 Scriveners Road (Forestec)  
KALIMNA WEST VIC 3909

Telephone: 03 5152 5100 Fax: 03 5152 1666

Email: [reception@glawac.com.au](mailto:reception@glawac.com.au)

<https://gunaikurnai.org/services/welcome-to-country/>

## How to Report and Protect a possible Aboriginal Place or Object

### Discovery of human remains

If suspected human remains are discovered, you must contact the Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be contacted on 1300 888 544.

### Discovery of Aboriginal places or objects

If you think you have found an Aboriginal cultural heritage place or object on any public or private land in Victoria you must report it to Aboriginal Victoria under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

### Aboriginal Victoria:

The Heritage Registrar, Aboriginal Victoria, PO Box 2392, MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Telephone: 1800 762 003 Fax: 03 8392 5392

Email: [VAHR@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:VAHR@dpc.vic.gov.au)

<https://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage/protection-of-aboriginal-places-and-objects/report-and-protect-a-possible-aboriginal-place-or-object.html>

## For Further Information

If you would like assistance with organising a Welcome to Country, or advice about anything else in this fact sheet, please contact Latrobe City's Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Chelsea Stewart.

Telephone: 1300 367 700

Email: [Chelsea.Stewart@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:Chelsea.Stewart@latrobe.vic.gov.au)

