Our Statement of Commitment

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO THE WURUNDJERI WOI-WURRUNG PEOPLE

Wanganyinu ngarr-gu Wurundjeri Gulinj ngargunin twarn biik wenerop Moonee Valley dharri, wanganyinu gahgook Nanggit baambuth ba yalingbu[1].

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the Country and Waterways on which Moonee Valley is located, we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

This Statement of Commitment was renewed in 2022, the same year Moonee Valley City Council (Council) began working towards *Bagarru Bagarru Djerring* (Shoulder to Shoulder Together) Reconciliation Plan 2022-2025. Council proudly reaffirms the journey and commitment of Reconciliation between Moonee Valley City Council and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and all Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples.

Council respects the spiritual connection to the six layers of Country of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples, and in order to maintain this connection we must care for Country and embed the ways of the past to secure culture for the future.

We must acknowledge the past injustices including the Stolen Generations and forced removal of children, the effects of disease brought to their lands, dispossession of land, and the continuing pain this causes. We particularly acknowledge the pain that the 26th January can cause First Peoples and we will commit to delivering *Bunjil's Marroun* Healing Ceremony every year.

We acknowledge that as a Council we have a unique connection to our community and we have the role to educate and support the sustainability of cultural heritage through the use of Woi-wurrung language in our streetscapes, parks and open spaces, strategic documents, naming of buildings and places, and at events and celebrations. Language is also the continuation of culture for generations to come.

Shared decision making will be at the centre of what we do, consulting with Elders and the broader Aboriginal community on a regular basis by listening to their perspectives and experiences to ensure our processes and procedures reflect an accessible governance structure.

Council supports a future where all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, particularly the young, feel supported and connected to their culture, and where they are provided opportunities to succeed through education and secure employment.

For the life span of *Bagarru Bagarru Djerring* Reconciliation Plan 2022-2025 we will be accountable to members of *Marra Wirrigirri* (Community Messengers) Advisory Group to commit to the delivery of initiatives within the Plan. We will also continue to consult with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders as we work together to improve Reconciliation outcomes for our community.

***Tharangulk biik* – Star Country**
***Wurru Wurru Biik* – Sky Country**
***Murnmut Biik* – The Wind Country**
***Bannj Biik* – Water Country**
***Biik Dui* – On Country**
***Biik Ut* – Below Country**

Mayor
Cr Pierce Tyson
Moonee Valley City Council
Date:

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

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