



4 September 2018

Ms Michelle Andrews,
Director, Aboriginal Policy Unit
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
2 Havelock Street
West Perth, Western Australia 6005

via e-mail: AboriginalPolicy@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Andrews

Aboriginal Accountability and Advocacy Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the *Discussion Paper for an office for advocacy and accountability in Aboriginal affairs in Western Australia*.

The City of Perth supports the Government's initiative to facilitate and foster greater advocacy for Aboriginal peoples, by Aboriginal people in their local communities. The City is similarly supportive of an office to independently hold all tiers of government to account in delivering on its well-documented recommendations to improve outcomes for Aboriginal peoples, across the seven COAG endorsed building blocks, contained in the *Western Australian Closing the Gap Report 2015*.

The City has been actively engaging with the Aboriginal community and working in collaboration with stakeholders, community and other levels of government through the adoption and launch of its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (Reflect RAP) in April 2018.

To improve the City's service, respect and recognition to the Whadjuk Nyoongar peoples of Perth, a clear communication plan from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to facilitate engagement with the proposed new entity would be warmly received. The City has a distinct leadership role as the capital city authority of Western Australia to ensure Perth continues to develop and flourish without compromising future generations. As such it is important that a clear pathway is set out to enable the City to communicate with the proposed independent office.

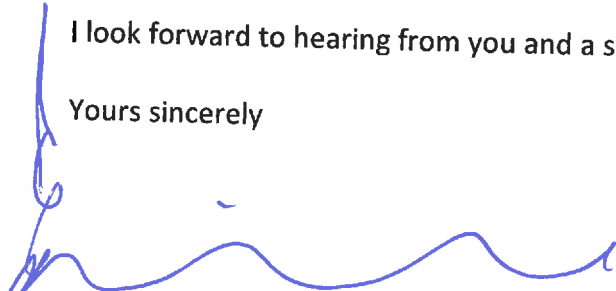
Through the Reflect RAP, the City has a strong focus on building the foundations for relationships, respect and opportunities, whilst focusing on building a positive internal culture and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, particularly Nyoongar cultures. As such, the City would welcome an entity that would provide improved brokerage between Aboriginal and non-indigenous parties for key relationships, programs and deliverables across the tiers of government.

The City is privileged to be home to sites of cultural and historical significance to the Whadjuk people including; Gargatup (Kings Park), Matagarup (Heirisson Island), Pinjar (the lakes - location of the Perth train station and surrounds) and Byerbrup (ridge line linking Gargatup and Matagarup). With respect to these places and others, the City is keen to see how we can better facilitate strategic cultural planning for key infrastructure projects and programs, working with the state and championed by the Whadjuk Nyoongar peoples, for their traditional lands.

We would welcome an opportunity to speak with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet about these matters. The City also requests the Government consider giving some guidance notes for local government with regard to the how to best navigate the cultural advice from the new independent office alongside existing protocols relating to South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee, Whadjuk Working Party and similar entities representing Aboriginal peoples in Western Australia.

I look forward to hearing from you and a successful outcome from your discussion paper.

Yours sincerely



Robert Mianich
A/Chief Executive Officer