



**MEDIA RELEASE | 25 May 2022**

## **Council formalises its commitment to reconciliation with First Nations peoples ahead of National Reconciliation Week**

***Ngopun yuntulun-ambi namawi peranbun paldi. Walking together for our shared future.***

The City of Victor Harbor has approved the lodgement of its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for endorsement with Reconciliation Australia.

Based around the core pillars of relationships, respect and opportunities, the RAP outlines actions for the Council to take in order to enhance relationships with First Nations peoples and create genuine change.

Once endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, it will guide Council to sustainably and strategically take meaningful action to advance reconciliation.

Elected Members and Council staff worked closely with three cultural advisors (Mark Koolmatrie, Cedric Varcoe and Kyla McHughes) to produce the RAP.

Community input also proved invaluable throughout the process, with constructive feedback provided during an open workshop in June 2021 and a reconciliation forum in November 2021.

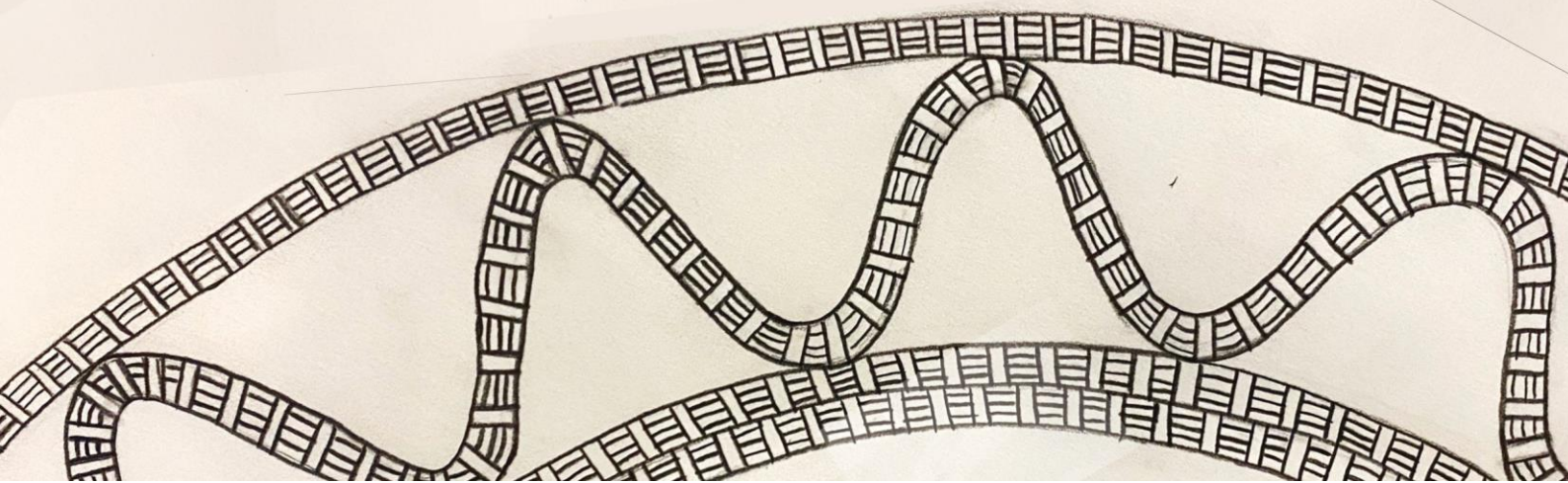
Further broad community consultation was undertaken in April 2022, and all feedback received was considered and used to refine aspects of the final document.

The City of Victor Harbor has already commenced implementing some of the actions within the RAP and will look to further advance its efforts by developing another plan in 2023/24.

City of Victor Harbor Mayor, Dr Moira Jenkins, said reconciliation is everybody's responsibility.

"As a Council, it's essential that we lead by example and formally commit to reconciliation as an organisational priority," said Mayor Jenkins.

"This RAP looks at what we've already achieved in terms of building relationships with First Nations peoples and celebrating Ngarrindjeri-Ramindjeri culture, and prompts us to investigate where we could be making improvements."



“We would like to thank everyone who was involved in creating the RAP – from our passionate cultural advisors who provided expert advice and insight, to community members that participated in forums and workshops over the past twelve months.”

“The decision made at Monday night’s Council meeting to lodge our RAP with Reconciliation Australia is a timely next step, as National Reconciliation Week is set to commence on 27 May.”

National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about First Nations history, culture, and achievements thus far. It is also an opportunity to explore how reconciliation can be achieved in our country.

*Be Brave, Make Change* is the 2022 National Reconciliation Week theme, which presents a challenge to Australia to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation.

Several events are taking place in Victor Harbor for National Reconciliation Week, including:

- **Nunga Screen at Victa Cinema**  
Tuesday, 31 May 2022 at 2pm and 7pm
- **First Nations Dreamtime Stories at the Victor Harbor Library**  
Monday, 30 May 2022 and Wednesday, 1 June 2022
- **Ngarrindjeri Art Exhibition at Coral Street Art Space**  
from Friday, 27 May 2022 to Monday, 11 July 2022
- **Ngarrindjeri Language Class at the Victor Harbor Library**  
Thursday, 2 June 2022 from 10am

For more information, visit [www.victor.sa.gov.au/reconciliation](http://www.victor.sa.gov.au/reconciliation).

*Artwork “Weaving” by Kyla McHughes*

*When we weave, we are making ourselves stronger. We are weaving our story, stitch by stitch.*

