

Welcome to Country

Acknowledgement of Country

What is it?

A ceremony to acknowledge and give consent to events taking place on traditional Aboriginal lands.

A way of showing awareness of, and respect for, the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which a meeting or event is taking place.

Who can give it?

A local Aboriginal person of significance (usually an Elder).

Commonly delivered by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

When is it appropriate?

Major events, forums, functions and ceremonies.

Major events if a Traditional Custodian is unavailable to deliver a Welcome to Country, or at smaller events/meetings.

When should it occur?

At the opening of the event as the first item on the program.

At the beginning of an event, or in response to a Welcome to Country.

What form can it take?

Varies from speeches, in language or English, to dance, song and ceremonies or a combination.

Speech or written as part of email signatures, featured on websites and signs at the entrances of buildings.