



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STATEMENT

The Board of Directors and members of the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) have a long-demonstrated history of dialogue and engagement with Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This relationship is not a static relationship. The industry's relationship with Australia's original inhabitants is a partnership that encompasses the different ways we learn, as we continue to co-exist on the lands we live and work.

Every day the industry continually learns from the rich knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This knowledge is one defined by the deep roots of time, a continuous connection to Country of at least 65,000 years where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have walked.

Walking together in partnership between governments, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and industry there is an overwhelming responsibility to identify, protect and promote cultural heritage for current and future generations.

Through agreement making processes with Traditional Custodians, MCA members commit to a respectful engagement based on an open dialogue that delivers unique opportunities for the individual communities. Focussing on the outcomes and opportunities desired by the individual communities, the minerals industry will assist in creating opportunities that support and promote intergenerational wealth outcomes.

By continuing to enhance opportunities for employment, skills development, genuine procurement and business creation the minerals industry will ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have greater options in accessing services that lead to better and sustainable outcomes that will close the gap within a generation.

Mining is a critical industry in Australia and provides continued and ongoing opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. With compliance of domestic regulation being the minimum standard and guidance of ratified international charters, MCA members commit to:

- Consulting with Traditional Custodians to form agreements which cover the whole of mine life cycle
- Engaging with governments and Traditional Custodians by seeking to obtain and maintain free, prior and informed consent for activities that occur on lands which are subject to an agreement
- Being an active participant working in partnership with governments and Traditional Custodians to find solutions to identify, protect and promote tangible and intangible cultural heritage
- Advocating for fair policy outcomes that supports opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and entrepreneurs to share in the positive contributions of mining.
- Exploring pathways to employment and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our industry.

The MCA and our members look forward to continuing respectful and open dialogue with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities as the world turns to Australia for the critical resources required for our future. The industry has much to learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and look forward to walking together in this partnership.