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Tweed Shire Council

### **Starting the cultural conversation**

Tweed Shire Council this year adopted the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) 2018 following 4-5 years of extensive consultation with the Aboriginal community.

The key focus of the short hit of training (SHOT) will be an introduction to engaging effectively with your Aboriginal community. The training is intended to provide cultural context, protocol and engagement strategies to start the consultation process.

The session will be led by Council's Aboriginal Community Development Officer and Council's Senior Strategic Planner.

Our experience in the development and adoption of the ACHMP has highlighted valuable lessons learnt. Most significant is that the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage involves a mix of skills and a genuine commitment to understanding the cultural context and making the plan work.

Key skills are the Aboriginal knowledge, the most valuable input, supported by mapping, GIS, geomorphology, consultation, planning legislation and cultural heritage legislation.

Training activities will include examples of two way learning, understanding your level of Aboriginal cultural knowledge, identifying the appropriate knowledge holders and people of influence, understanding cultural protocol and how to engage with community.

We will welcome conversations and sharing of challenges which may have been presented to practitioners through their experience/projects.

We will reinforce the role of champions and managing conflicts.

Effective consultation with community is the key to developing successful strategies for incorporating Aboriginal cultural heritage into the planning and development framework. This training will assist starting that cultural conversation.

Contributing to the success of the ACHMP and its implementation is the mutual Statement of Commitment by the Tweed Shire Council and the Aboriginal community, the relationship built with the Aboriginal community and the involvement of the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council (TBLALC) throughout the process, significantly attending all public consultation sessions with Council staff.