

Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Statement

Watertrust Australia (Watertrust) recognises and respects the Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) of First Nations peoples and supports the rights of First Nations peoples to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural knowledge and cultural expressions.

Respecting ICIP emerges from a recognition that for many First Nations groups, their knowledges, belief systems, cultural expressions, and unique perspectives have been collected and used without their consent, with no clear benefit to the group, and without regard to their aspirations.

For the purposes of this statement, ICIP refers to the cultural knowledge, stories, languages, cultural expressions, artworks, images, ecological knowledge, and other cultural heritage developed and maintained by First Nations peoples. This knowledge is deeply connected to Country, culture and community and has been maintained and shared across generations. Watertrust acknowledges that First Nations groups retain the right to determine what ICIP is to them, with this statement applying to any knowledge, cultural expressions, stories, languages artworks, images, ecological knowledge or intellectual property in any other format as described by First Nations groups.

Watertrust acknowledges that ICIP remains the ongoing cultural and intellectual property of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples to whom it belongs. Watertrust will embed these principles across its partnerships, communications and governance.

Our Commitment

Watertrust is committed to working with First Nations peoples in ways that respect cultural authority, cultural protocols, and the rights of First Nations communities to control how their knowledge and cultural expressions are used.

In all work involving ICIP, Watertrust commits to the following principles:

Cultural Authority and Ownership

Watertrust recognises that First Nations peoples are the custodians, knowledge holders and decision-makers regarding their cultural heritage and ICIP.

ICIP remains owned by the relevant First Nations individuals, communities or organisations. Watertrust does not claim ownership of ICIP and will only access or use such knowledge with the permission of the appropriate cultural custodians or authorities.

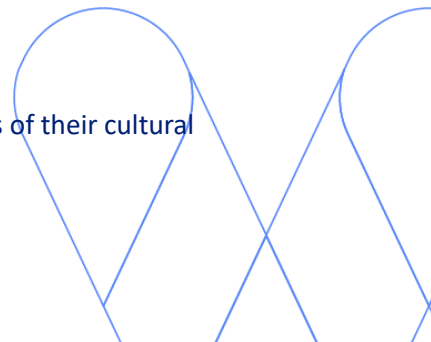
Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Watertrust will only collect, document, publish or share ICIP with the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the relevant First Nations individuals, communities or organisations.

Consent will be:

- voluntary
- informed by how the material will be used
- documented
- specific to agreed uses
- ongoing

Communities and knowledge holders retain the right to review or restrict future uses of their cultural knowledge where feasible and appropriate.



Respect for Cultural Protocols and Cultural Integrity

Watertrust recognises that First Nations knowledge must be shared and used in accordance with cultural protocols and with respect for cultural integrity. Watertrust recognises that some cultural knowledge may be restricted, sacred or confidential and may not be appropriate for documentation or wider sharing.

Where ICIP is shared with Watertrust, the organisation will ensure that its use is consistent with:

- agreed purposes and permissions
- relevant cultural protocols
- any restrictions placed on the material by knowledge holders.

Watertrust will not reproduce, adapt or distribute ICIP beyond what has been agreed.

Recognition and Attribution

Watertrust acknowledges the contributions of First Nations peoples and will ensure that knowledge holders, communities, Traditional Owners and custodians of Country are appropriately recognised.

Where appropriate and agreed, this may include:

- acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and custodians of Country
- attribution of cultural knowledge, stories or artwork
- remuneration for sharing of cultural knowledge
- opportunities for collaboration and co-authorship in research or publications.

Fair Benefit and Collaboration

Watertrust is committed to ensuring that engagement with ICIP is conducted in a respectful and equitable manner.

Where First Nations knowledge or cultural expression contributes to Watertrust's work, the organisation will seek to support:

- collaboration with First Nations peoples in project design and delivery
- fair licensing, compensation or benefit-sharing arrangements where cultural works or knowledge are used
- sharing research findings and outcomes with communities in accessible formats.

Ongoing Learning and Respect

Watertrust recognises that respectful engagement with ICIP requires ongoing learning and reflection. We are committed to continually improving our policies, partnerships and practices and working with First Nations peoples to ensure cultural knowledge is respected, protected and used appropriately.

Questions?

If you have questions about how Watertrust manages ICIP, please contact:

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