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The City of Sydney acknowledges Aboriginal people as the first people of Australia. The Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision recognises Sydney's Indigenous heritage and contemporary culture. The City of Sydney is deeply committed to establishing a process of reconciliation in partnership with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents.

Aboriginal people have lived in the area and around Sydney Harbour for many thousands of years, living near fresh food and clean water. Campsites were usually located close to the shore, especially during summer when fish and shellfish were the main foods. Many of the City's main roads, such as George Street, Oxford Street and King Street, Newtown are constructed on what were probably Aboriginal walking tracks, which served as trading routes between farmed grasslands or bountiful fishing areas.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the City were extensively consulted for Sustainable Sydney 2030. Many issues and ideas raised were consistent with those in the broader community such as improved transport, greater safety, more affordable housing and limiting cars in the City Centre. Ideas raised included supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and practice and providing economic development, employment and social opportunities for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The City of Sydney will involve the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities during the implementation of Sustainable Sydney 2030, consistent with the Principles of Cooperation signed between the City of Sydney and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council in 2006. The City of Sydney will ensure ideas generated during the consultation process are attributed and will work cooperatively with the community during implementation. This process will be based on respect, trust and a spirit of openness and partnership.