

The Yugambeh Law (Lore) Framework

The Land is the Source of the Law – Aboriginal Principle of Land Law.

The region from the Logan River in the north, south to the Tweed River and west to the mountain range, are the traditional homelands of the Yugambeh Peoples.

The Land described is also known to the Yugambeh Peoples as the Land of Five Rivers. The modern description is the Gold Coast.

We declare that the Yugambeh Peoples are the rightful owners and custodians of these Lands and that our status and jurisdictional authority arises from and is based on this exceptionally long relationship with this Land.

This Declaration is expressed as the Yugambeh Laws of Autonomy, Relationality, Reciprocity and Stewardship.

These Laws are the foundation of our custodial and stewardship obligations in looking after said Lands and the well-being and cultural values of all the Yugambeh Peoples within our boundaries who have lived here for millennia and continue to reside here.

The Yugambeh Law Framework contains the following Rules of Conduct during the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018), in the holding of Events like Ceremonies, Celebrations and other gatherings:

1. Lawful behaviour, that is, proper, right conduct, good manners/politeness by and between all participants in all events – Yugambeh and non-Yugambeh, Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal, other Indigenous people from other regions and countries;
2. Respect for everyone – Elders, Women, Young people and families, Neighbours, Guests and Officials;
3. Respect for all cultural traditions and activities in relation to all events;
4. Respect for specific Lands on which all activities take place, in a sustainable approach leaving nothing behind;
5. No Flora and Fauna to be taken, other than by Yugambeh Peoples for traditional customs; and
6. All Yugambeh protocols and cultural values to be upheld, recognised and respected;

Yugambeh Peoples and Elders agree and fully support GC2018 being held here on Yugambeh Lands. This process is supported by a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) developed by GOLDOC in partnership with Yugambeh Peoples.

Developed by Aunty Mary Graham and approved in consultation with the GOLDOC Yugambeh Elders Advisory Group and Indigenous Working Group (March 2018).

We acknowledge the respectful way GC2018 organisers have worked with Yugambeh People in the context of design, related ceremonies, constant and regular discussions and consultations on all aspects of GC2018, including the development of the GC2018 RAP document and many other initiatives.

We also strongly acknowledge the thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from other areas taking part in GC2018 in other capacities such as employment, business participation, artists and entertainers, Cultural Festival participants, observers and visitors.

Yugambeh Elders welcome all people to these Lands for this event and hope for a safe and enjoyable experience.

The Yugambeh Elders also extend this welcome to those who wish to express their opinions about GC2018 which differ from the supportive view of the majority of people who live on Yugambeh Land.

Lawful and respectful behaviour is expected. The Yugambeh Elders may publicly denounce individuals that breach this Law and the relationship with the land. The Yugambeh Elders will state that these individuals have no respect or understanding of Aboriginal Law and what it means.