Statement of Intent
Of
The Woppaburra People
and the
Department of Education, Training and Employment

Qld constitution preamble:
'The people of Queensland, free and equal citizens of Australia ... honour the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share; and pay tribute to their unique values, and their ancient and enduring cultures, which deepen and enrich the life of our community...'

The Woppaburra people have lived on the Keppel Islands for over 5000 years undertaking their daily lives of raising children, building homes, fishing, cooking, laughing, dancing, painting, educating the young, speaking language, following the lore, celebrating: births, age milestones, coming together of partners, and passings of loved ones.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment acknowledge the Woppaburra people as the owners and custodians of Konomie (North Keppel Island) and all the Keppel Islands.

The Department recognises
• the cultural authority of the Woppaburra People
• the importance for Woppaburra people to maintain their cultural practices and connections with Keppel Islands
• the importance of relationship with the Woppaburra people to strengthen the activities carried out by North Keppel Island Environmental Centre (NKIECC)
• genuine engagement and connections and decision making with Woppaburra at all levels is fundamental
• That the strengths, culture, and identity of the Woppaburra are key ingredients to be woven through NKIECC learning and education experiences.
• The need for inspiring, committed, proactive and informed leadership is crucial to establishing and maintaining a culture that is inclusive of the Woppaburra people.

The Department commits to these by
• Recognising the culture and history of Woppaburra people through practical measures such as Welcome to Country and signage
• Embedding the cultures and knowledge’s of Woppaburra people within environmental education programs of NKIECC across the four main areas of school practice: personal and professional accountability, organisational environment, community partnerships, curriculum and pedagogy
• Developing biennial action plans in consultation with Woppaburra people which will cover but are not be limited to;
  ➢ acknowledging and supporting the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement between Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Woppaburra people,
  ➢ undertaking formal consultation with the Woppaburra people on all major land and sea issues regarding the NKIECC
  ➢ acknowledging the Woppaburra on all promotional material
  ➢ supporting access to NKIEC site for Woppaburra people to maintain connection to country and cultural business
  ➢ implementing appropriate Woppaburra and Aboriginal cultural awareness training for all permanent staff
  ➢ Supporting and maintaining a Woppaburra museum/keeping place on NKIECC
  ➢ Implementing governance and communication mechanisms between Woppaburra people and NKIEEC

In signing this Statement of Intent the Woppaburra supports the NKIEC presence on Woppaburra country.

The Woppaburra people will commit to:
• providing and assisting NKIEC with appropriate Woppaburra support that will assist to strengthen the ‘footprint’ of Woppaburra people as the traditional owners and enhance the learning experience of NKIEC students.
• Assisting with traditional land and sea-country names for progressive signage changes on the NKIEC site and transportation.
• Providing advice to assist with implementation of significant cultural events.
• Developing in consultation with the NKIEEC biannual action plans.

Biennial Action plans will be reviewed by the Woppaburra people and the NKIEC and updated or redeveloped as appropriate.

Signed by:-_______________________                                                                   ___________________________