

## **Draft Statement of Commitment**

“Rous County Council is committed to collaborate with the peoples of the Bundjalung Nation to manage the land and environments on which we conduct our work.

Since 2002, Rous has worked purposefully with Traditional Custodians in our drinking water catchments. This journey has laid a solid foundation on which we will continue to build a strong and long-lasting relationship with the region’s Bundjalung peoples.

We acknowledge that the peoples of the Bundjalung Nation were the first people of this land and are one of the oldest continuing living cultures in the world.

We recognise and respect the sacred links and responsibilities that exist between Aboriginal people and the land and water upon which we all live. We recognise the injustices of the past and the harmful consequences which resulted in fractured connections within and between families, communities and to Country.

Wherever we can, we will work with the peoples of the Bundjalung Nation to redress the effects of our shared history. We will sit with, listen to, and learn from, local First Nations peoples. We will better understand, acknowledge, and raise awareness of the historic events and ideas that caused pain and hardships, but which continue to influence daily life and result in hurt and harm in our community today.

We will work with the peoples of the Bundjalung Nation to care for the land on which we conduct our work – this includes adhering to the principles of the Burra Charter to manage cultural heritage sites, and to help restore the deeply important cultural obligations and responsibility to Country of our First Nations communities.”