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Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN)

ACCAN Communications Consumer Congress

Wednesday, 13 September 2023

Captioned by: Bernadette McGoldrick & Kasey Allen

ANDREW WILLIAMS: I'd now like to hand over to Uncle Allen Madden from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council to deliver a Welcome to Country. Once Allen has provided the Welcome to Country, then he will be followed by ACCAN's Chairperson, Professor Julian Thomas, who will provide a few opening remarks as well. So, Uncle Allen. (APPLAUSE)

UNCLE ALLEN MADDEN: Thank you. Once again, my name is Allen Madden, Gadigal Elder. For my first song... Nah! (LAUGHTER) Married man, 10 children. 26 grandchildren and 17 great-great. Yes, we did have TV! (LAUGHTER) Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, born and bred in Redfern, the capital of Sydney. Aboriginal, black, Redfern, follow Manly. No! (LAUGHTER) Not true. Welcome to Country, to me, is always an honour and a pleasure. Just to give you a little bit of an insight of where you are and who we are. As with all Welcomes, firstly, I would like to acknowledge our First Nations and Traditional Owners of the lands that you may have come from or work upon, and pay my respects to all our Aboriginal Elders, all Elders past and present, also pay my respects to all our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters from whatever Aboriginal or Island nation you may have come from - welcome to Gadigal. And to all our non-Indigenous brothers and sisters here today, a very warm and sincere welcome to you to Gadigal. No matter where you've come from, whether it be across the seas, across the state, or across town, once again, a very warm and sincere welcome to you to Gadigal. And as I've mentioned many times before - was, is, and always will be Aboriginal land. Only three things surer than that: Coming, taxation, and going. It's an honour and a pleasure to be here today to welcome one and all to Gadigal. Gadigal is one of 29 clans of the Eora Nation. The Eora Nation is bounded by nature's own - the Hawkesbury River to the north, Nepean to the west, and Georges River to the south. And in between those three mighty rivers is the Eora Nation, and in that nation are 29 clans, and the clan's land we're on today is Gadigal. On behalf of members of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, and of the Gadigal mob, once again a very warm and sincere welcome to you to Gadigal. And as you travel across these traditional lands and waters, may the spirits of our ancestors guide, look over you, and keep you safe. And there's an old Aboriginal saying out there that I think is very appropriate for you mob here today. They say, "Where there's a will, there's relatives." (LAUGHTER) So, once again, on behalf of the Land Council and of the Gadigal mob, welcome, welcome, welcome. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)