

## **Matthew Doyle**

### **Welcome to Country**

Worimi, Wedayo, Yaama,

Many of the words we use to say welcome in Indigenous languages here in New South Wales.

My name is Matthew Doyle. I am a descendant of the Muruwari nation from the far Northwest of New South Wales. However, I was born right here on Gadigal land here in Sydney.

It is indeed an honour and a pleasure to welcome you all here onto Gadigal land. The Gadigal of one of 29 Nations that make up the Eora Nation here in Sydney also known as the Dharug. It is a great honour to welcome you here onto Gadigal land.

It is customary in our culture that we pay respects to our ancestors, our elders past and present and emerging. This is a very important part of our culture, a welcome to country, as it gives one the right to be on country, to be safe while you are here and for safe passage if you are passing through to somewhere else.

We welcome you not as friends or visitors, we welcome you as brothers and sisters, as we all belong to the human race. So, I would like to welcome you here onto Gadigal land, Eora nation.

I would like to welcome you also in our local language. Dadybalang O nya youoli birrong gumadagul Gadigalora, Ngoon gama niya tali ngura ngoon, banyadjeminga tyalgala niya.

We own our ancestors, our elders, we own our country, we own of the sea and we welcome you from which ever part of the world you may come from or from across Australia or from across the seas.

We wish you safe travels.

Thank you.