What the Tree Means



A statement on the emblem of Stand With First Nations, 28 November 2026

Acknowledgement

Stand With First Nations acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands, seas, and waterways of South East Queensland, and pays respect to their ancestors, Elders, and leaders. These lands were never ceded.

Two trunks, one canopy

Two trunks rise side by side at the centre and lean into each other. Each keeps its own grain and its own colours, and they share one canopy. First Nations peoples and the people who stand with them take the same form: each distinct, each beside the other.

A tree holds its ground through many seasons. You make the same commitment: to turn up this year, next year, and the year after.

The canopy

Above the trunks, leaves of many colours spread in three tiers, each wider than the one above it. The leaves stand for the people and groups across South East Queensland who stand with First Nations peoples: different backgrounds, different skills, one shared purpose.

The canopy gives shelter. A newcomer finds a welcome beneath it, and a challenge to act with integrity.

The colours

Black, red, and gold come from the Aboriginal flag. Green, blue, and black come from the Torres Strait Islander flag. The tree holds them all.

Three black leaves sit high on one side of the canopy. Reds, oranges, and golds gather on the other side and low on the first. Greens crown the tree, and blues run through every tier. Streaks of red, orange, gold, and sky blue run up one trunk; greens, blues, and gold run up the other.

The emblem borrows the colours of the two flags and leaves their designs alone. It copies no flag and no sacred design. The colours acknowledge that everyone here lives in relationship with First Nations peoples and with Country.

What the tree asks of you

When you see the tree, let it mean something concrete. You turn up. You listen and learn. You stay.
