**Invocation of the Perrin Creek Watershed and Acknowledgement of Country**

**Responsive Reading**

(original by Valerie Luna Serrels)

We open to sacred relationship with the beings in this ecosystem that is unique to Perrin Creek and Seven Hills bushland, acknowledging the divine mystery alive in all things.

We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional lands of the Yuggera and Turrbal peoples who lived, loved, raised families and shared in life in this place for many millennia. We acknowledge that they lived in intimate harmony with all creation as sacred kin. We acknowledge their suffering and grief at the hands of missionaries and colonisers. We honour their ongoing, living connection with Country.

**We honour the First Nations peoples and their sacred relationships with all creation.**

To the soil, small pebbles and rocks who make up the ground we stand on, and the giant structures of rock that create Seven Hills and the catchment area …

**Thank you for reminding us of the importance of grounding ourselves**

To Perrin Creek and all the storm waters and small tributaries that flow through the gullies and floors of this catchment …

**Thank you for reminding us of the flow that is life**

To the many species of trees – eucalypts, wattles, melaleucas and the poincianas – and to the shrubs, grasses, ferns, vines and mycelium rooted and growing in this bushland …

**Thank you for reminding us of our own rootedness and growth**

To the koalas, possums, flying fox, echidnas and to all species of mammals who build homes and roam through this bushland …

**Thank you for reminding us that we too are animal**

To the kookaburras, scrub turkeys, lorikeets, kingfishers, magpies, butcher birds, crows, currawongs, tawny frogmouths, noisy miners and to all flying species who nest and migrate through this bushland …

**Thank you for reminding us of our limitless potential**

To the fish and eels who navigate the creeks that run through these hills and bushland …

**Thank you for reminding us there is life beneath the surface**

To the frogs, toads, turtles, lizards and snakes and all species of amphibians and reptiles who hop, walk, and slither through this bushland,

**Thank you for reminding us of value of diversity**

To the butterflies, dragonflies, wasps, beetles, spiders, ticks, worms, centipedes and all species who crawl, bury, and weave through this bushland home**,**

**Thank you for reminding us that small things create worlds**

**From the smallest plant fibre to the largest outcropping of mountain, we honour your sacred presence here.**