

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy

Minister for the Environment and Climate Action

Minister for Solar Homes



Wednesday, 6 July 2022

SUPPORTING JOINT MANAGEMENT OF BARMAH NATIONAL PARK

The Andrews Labor Government is helping Yorta Yorta Aboriginal Corporation improve the health of Country and create new tourism and recreational opportunities at Barmah National Park.

The *Victorian Budget 2022-23* invested \$5.8 million to support the Joint Management Plan for Barmah National Park and deliver a funding increase for the Yorta Yorta Co-operative Management Agreement.

Barmah National Park is a popular tourism site, of great cultural and historic significance to the Yorta Yorta people and a habitat for thousands of waterbirds, native fish, aquatic mammals, reptiles and frogs.

The funding will allow Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria rangers to continue works to improving the health of waterways in the forest, increase ongoing pest control programs and identify and protect cultural heritage sites.

Funding also includes the completion of the Dharnya Cultural Centre as a major cultural tourism and interpretation site, conference centre and group accommodation.

Barmah is Victoria's third Joint Management Plan. Its vision is 'Heal the Land, Heal the People – Healthy Country'. It recognises the Yorta Yorta's traditional ownership and custodial rights in a new era of self-determination and equal partnership in decisions, responsibilities and management.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment and Climate Action Lily D'Ambrosio

"Barmah National Park is of great cultural significance for Traditional Owners and is an internationally important refuge for native animals and plants, its important the area is managed sustainably for future generations."

"We will continue to support Yorta Yorta Aboriginal Corporation through joint management so they can reach their aspirations for Country."

Quote attributable to Chief Executive, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Monica Morgan

"The Joint Management Plan is a very significant part of the protection and recognition of Yorta Yorta People's right to care for our country. We welcome this support and look forward to continuing our work towards the plan's vision of 'Heal the Land, Heal the People – Healthy Country'."