



South West Native Title Settlement – Heritage Fact Sheet

Noongar Heritage Partnership Agreements

On 8 June 2015, after extensive negotiations, and authorisation by the Noongar people, the WA Government signed (executed) six South West Native Title Settlement (Settlement) Agreements with the Ballardong People, Gnaala Karla Booja, South West Boojarah #2, Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar, Whadjuk People and Yued Agreement Groups.

The ILUAs require Noongar Heritage Partnership Agreements (NHPAs) be entered into between each of the six Noongar Regional Corporations and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), within 40 days of the appointment of the Noongar Regional Corporation by the Trustee.

The NHPAs recognise that Noongar heritage and culture is of the utmost importance to Noongar people, and is central to supporting a strong Noongar community.

The NHPA template can be found at <https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/information-and-services/aboriginal-heritage/noongar-heritage-and-history/noongar-heritage-partnership-agreements>

Key objectives of the NHPAs

The key objectives of the NHPA are to facilitate a partnership approach between the Noongar community and Government, which will establish mechanisms to build capacity in the Noongar community, develop best practice Aboriginal heritage protection and management for the six Regional Corporations, while building understanding and improving the quality of Aboriginal heritage information held by Government.

The NHPAs will assist in:

- Improving Aboriginal site preservation and management, and building understanding and respect by the broader community;
- Building the capacity for Noongar people to engage in Noongar Heritage Management;
- Promoting the increased registration of Aboriginal Sites;
- Improving data on the Register of Aboriginal Places and Objects and the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (AHIS); and
- Improving the exchange of information with regard to Aboriginal sites between Noongar people and DPLH.

In partnership, DPLH and Noongar Regional Corporations will:

- develop and implement local and regional Heritage Management Plans;
- prioritise site management and protection programs;
- work together on heritage policy and programs;
- jointly identify and develop heritage management and training initiatives; and
- seek funding opportunities to support heritage management.

Implementing the NHPAs

Under the NHPAs, six Noongar Heritage Partnership Steering Groups will be established with equal representation of both Noongar Regional Corporation and Government representatives to oversee the implementation of the six NHPAs and provide advice to the WA Government and the Noongar Regional Corporations about the progress of the implementation

The role of the Noongar Regional Corporations

The Noongar Regional Corporations, via the Steering Groups for the six NHPAs will become the key channel for Noongar people to formally raise all matters concerning Noongar Aboriginal heritage, including but not limited to:

- Advice to the DPLH on Aboriginal heritage matters within the Ballardong People, Gnaala Karla Booja, South West Boojarah #2, Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar, Whadjuk People and Yued Agreement Groups;
- Prepare, amend and implement local and regional Heritage Management plans within the six ILUA areas;
- Provide recommendations and advice to the DPLH to inform decisions on the application of Sections 16, 18, 19 and 20 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (AHA)
- Provide advice and work with the DPLH in the preparation of policies, program and other heritage management documents for the six ILUA areas; and
- Provide advice and work with the DPLH on the development of Aboriginal heritage training and employment initiatives within the six ILUA areas.

Contact Information

Further information on NHPAs can be found at <https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/information-and-services/aboriginal-heritage/noongar-heritage-and-history/noongar-heritage-partnership-agreements>

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South West Native Title Settlement Area

