



South West Native Title Settlement

Noongar Co-operative and Joint Management of the Conservation Estate

The South West Native Title Settlement (Settlement) is a landmark native title agreement negotiated between the Noongar people and the Western Australian Government (WA Government). The Settlement commenced on 25 February 2021.

The Settlement, involving six Noongar Native Title Agreement Groups, and covering 200,000 square kilometres of land, represents significant social and economic investment in the Noongar community and the shared future of Western Australia.

For the latest Settlement information visit wa.gov.au (the WA Government website).



Co-operative and Joint Management of the south-west Conservation Estate

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and the six Noongar Regional Corporations will enter into Co-operative and Joint Management Agreements for the management and care of the South West Conservation Estate.

Map of the South West Native Title Settlement Area showing the six Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) boundaries

What is the South West Conservation Estate?

The South West Conservation Estate is the lands and waters within the Settlement Area managed by DBCA under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act, section 5(1)), and includes State forests, national parks, nature reserves, conservation parks, marine parks and other areas set aside for conservation.

Why is Co-operative and Joint Management important?

The Noongar people, as the [traditional owners of the land and waters, in the Settlement Area](#), have cultural obligations to care for their land. The DBCA has a statutory responsibility to manage the Conservation Estate.

Under the Settlement the Noongar People, through the Noongar Regional Corporations, and the DBCA, will enter into agreements to work together to manage the South West Conservation Estate. Specifically, the agreements will acknowledge the continuing cultural, spiritual and social connections of the Noongar people to the Settlement Area, and their unique traditional knowledge and expertise in the future management of the Conservation Estate.

The Co-operative and Joint Management Agreements are found at Annexures M and N of the six Settlement Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) on the 'South West Native Title Settlement Resources' section of the [Western Australian Government website](#).

How will Co-operative and Joint Management arrangements be established?

Co-operative and Joint Management arrangements will be established in a two-stage process:

Stage 1: Co-operative Management

Six Co-operative Management Agreements (CMAs), one for each of the six ILUA areas, will be entered into by the DBCA and the relevant Noongar Regional Corporation. The CMAs will apply to the whole of the Conservation Estate within each specific ILUA area. Each CMA provides for the establishment of a Co-operative Management Committee to implement each CMA.

Stage 2: Joint Management

The Co-operative Management Committees will work to identify and prioritise specific areas of the Conservation Estate to be jointly managed by Joint Management Bodies established under Joint Management Agreements, as set out in Annexure M to the ILUAs.

What will Co-operative Management involve?

The six Co-operative Management Committees (CMCs) established under the Co-operative Management Agreements (CMAs) will comprise DBCA employees, and Noongar representatives nominated by the respective Noongar Regional Corporations. The Co-operative Management Committees will be responsible for providing high level strategic advice on matters affecting the Conservation Estate within a particular ILUA area.

What will Joint Management involve?

Joint Management Bodies established under the Joint Management Agreements will include up to six persons nominated by the relevant Noongar Regional Corporation and representatives from DBCA. The Joint Management Bodies will be required to manage the specific park or reserve in accordance with an agreed Management Plan and the conditions of the Joint Management Agreement.

Will the Public be able to comment on Management Plans in the South West Conservation Estate?

Yes, both new and updated Management Plans will be subject to standard public notification and submission processes. This includes any Management Plans prepared or updated to facilitate joint management over particular priority areas identified by Co-operative Management Committees.

DBCA is required under the CALM Act to protect Aboriginal cultural and heritage values, and access to certain areas may be restricted to ensure these values are protected. State and Commonwealth laws governing access to land and environmental protection will also remain in place, including protection of Aboriginal heritage sites.

How much of the South West Conservation Estate will be jointly managed?

The DBCA and the Noongar Regional Corporations, through the six Co-operative Management Committees, will work together to identify and implement joint management arrangements over areas of the South West Conservation Estate. At least one Joint Management Agreement for a specific park or reserve in each ILUA area will be put in place within the first five years of the commencement date of the Settlement. At least one further Joint Management Agreement will also be created in another part of each ILUA area within ten years of the commencement date of the Settlement.

Further Information about the Settlement, including the six Indigenous Land Use Agreements, made in compliance with the Native Title Act 1993, and the Co-operative and Joint Management Agreements at Annexures M and N of the ILUAs, can be found on wa.gov.au

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/south-west-native-title-settlement>