

# Media Release

**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**

Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change  
Minister for Solar Homes



Wednesday, 7 July 2021

## **BARMAH NATIONAL PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN LAUNCHED**

A significant milestone in recognising the rights of the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owners in caring for country was reached today, with the launch of a Joint Management Plan for Barmah National Park.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio announced the plan between the Andrews Labor Government, the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board.

The plan symbolises the growing partnership between the Government and Traditional Owners in managing the state's parks and reserves.

The plan's vision for the park 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.

This is Victoria's third Joint Management Plan and involves Yorta Yorta working with the Government to manage the natural and cultural values of Barmah National Park.

To help implement the plan, the Government provided more than \$1.3 million to employ four Yorta Yorta Joint Management Rangers and on-ground works.

The Government has also provided more than \$3.4 million for renovations to the Dharnya Centre. Construction of a conference facility with meeting rooms and an industrial kitchen, group accommodation, site manager's house and landscaping is expected to be completed by July 2022.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio**

*"By working side-by-side with Traditional Owners, we are ensuring the much-loved Barmah National Park is protected and managed in a sustainable way."*

*"This Joint Management Plan for Barmah National Park is a momentous achievement which will make sure Aboriginal culture and knowledge informs the way the land is cared for."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp**

*"Incorporating the aspirations of Yorta Yorta people into management planning of country will enhance the Parks long term health."*

### **Quote attributable to Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board Chairperson Lance James**

*"The Joint Management Plan for Barmah National Park is a significant step forward in providing protection and recognition of Yorta Yorta People's right to care for our country."*