

WKSJN News

Message from our chairperson, Jeanice Krakouer

Kaya,

I want to start by expressing my sincere condolences to our members and wider community who have lost loved ones since our last newsletter.

As we prepare for our second AGM, on Saturday 18 November in Kojonup, it's a perfect time to look back at our many achievements this year. Our CEO, executive assistant and lands manager are working hard to deliver the many moving parts of the Settlement. Since I've been chairperson we've kicked many goals including:

- developed our strategic plan (available on our website)
- signed a cooperative management agreement for our national parks and the South West Conservation Estate
- agreed to release of draft management plan for the proposed South Coast Marine Park (see page 4), and
- identified 17,115ha of land parcels for the Noongar Land Estate (size of 6 Porongurup National Parks!) My thanks to our cultural advice committee and particularly its chairperson, Olivia Roberts, for their ongoing work on this process.

We've also started to bring across existing royalty agreements, and exploring opportunities to renegotiate.

Meeting with mob

The land estate is one of the most important parts of the Settlement. We want you to understand the opportunities it offers, and hear your thoughts.



Our CEO and board met with DBCA representatives to discuss the joint management plan for the proposed Mamang Maambakoort Marine Park. (See page 4 for more details.)



WKSJN chairperson Jeanice Krakouer, CEO Lisa Smith, CAC chairperson Olivia Roberts meeting with Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Linda Burney.

We're holding community meetings across the region and in Perth where you can learn more about the Noongar Land Estate. Your feedback will also inform decisions made by our cultural advice committee.

Use your voice

Our board resolved to support the Voice to Parliament. The Settlement shows how we can improve outcomes at the grassroots level by listening to Noongar people. We support a national Voice as another step in a journey towards equality and self-determination for all First Nations.

The state government's decision to scrap the new heritage act without warning shows how important it is to have a voice in government decisions, and why they shouldn't be able to abolish it when it becomes inconvenient for them.

Most importantly, we encourage you to use your voice in every way available. Please make sure you're enrolled to vote in this historic referendum.

Thanks for being part of this important journey this far. See you at our AGM in November!

Jeanice Krakouer
WKSJN Chair

What's next for Aboriginal cultural heritage protection?

Page 3

NLE community meetings

Page 4

Marine Park update

Page 4



CELEBRATE
CULTURE
DON'T DESTROY IT!

Protecting our cultural heritage

The 2021 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill was rushed through parliament despite objections from most land councils and Traditional Owners across WA.

Now it's been scrapped, what's next?

WКСN's response...

The decision by the Cook Government to scrap the 2021 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act brings mixed feelings.

The bill was rushed through parliament in late 2021 against the wishes of a large majority of land councils and PBCs, including on Noongar boodja.

There was insufficient consultation with Traditional Owners across the state, who argued that the new legislation would not be effective enough to protect cultural heritage.

Despite these objections, land councils have worked hard over this last year to prepare for its implementation, with huge effort put towards becoming a LACHS.

At a time when public support to preserve it was at an all-time high following the State-sanctioned destruction of Juukan Gorge, this wasted effort has distracted from genuine progress on protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage.

"It's frustrating that so few cared when it was just Aboriginal people who opposed the bill, only to see the entire process scrapped two years later.

"The result is hours and years wasted because government didn't listen and work with us to co-design effective legislation with broad public support.

"We hope the state government learns that using its huge majority to rush their bills through without genuine listening and engagement helps no one," our Chairperson Jeanice Krakouer said.

Despite our frustration, we're cautiously optimistic about the future of Aboriginal cultural heritage protection in WA. While supporting the proposed amendments to the 1972 Act, it wants to see greater protections.

In the short term, the changes to section 18 are welcomed, but must go further, given that it was this section that allowed Juukan Gorge's destruction to happen legally.

Section 18 is weighted heavily against Traditional Owners. Between 2017 and 2020, the minister denied just one the 143 section 18 appeals raised by proponents, and in the year following the destruction of Juukan Gorge, 22 out of 23 consents were granted.

Giving Traditional Owners equal rights of appeal is a welcome first step, as is the ban on gag clauses and requiring proponents to report new discoveries to the minister, but without further protections they won't prevent a future minister from allowing further destruction.

In the longer term, WКСN welcomes the government's commitment to mapping cultural sites – particularly in the Great Southern and Wheatbelt.

"The Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar region was the first to be settled by Europeans in Western Australia and there are large numbers of heritage sites across our boodja (land). Mapping in this area should be a priority.

"We take great heart from the premier's commitment to lead a government that listens, and look forward to an environment where all voices are heard, and all perspectives are considered," Jeanice said.

As the voice for WКСN people in our region, we wrote to Premier Cook to request an urgent dialogue with all land councils and Traditional Owner groups. We also outlined WКСN's priorities for land and heritage protection, including:

- **Employment opportunities for land and sea management, and sufficient operating expenses**
- **Identifying key heritage sites for priority cultural mapping, truth telling and community education**
- **Identifying and supporting opportunities for dual/original naming of key places**
- **New training and cultural heritage education opportunities in the above areas, especially for our young people**



Some of the WKSN cultural representatives who helped codesign the marine park plan: Graeme Minter, Olivia Roberts, Averil Dean, Carol Pettersen and Iris Woods.

Noongar Land Estate community meetings

We've been holding a series community meetings about the Noongar Land Estate (NLE), where WKSN staff can answer your questions, such as:

- What land is available?
- Who will manage the land?
- Who can use the land?
- What can be done on the land?
- How do my family and I benefit?
- How do my family and I get land?
- Can I build on NLE land?

Join us for a cuppa and a feed and to learn more about the NLE at our next meetings:

Cranbrook

Friday, 1 September, 10am–1pm
Gillamii Centre, 140 Climie Street Cranbrook

Jerramungup

Tuesday, 19 September, 10am–1pm
Community Resource Centre, 8/10 Tobruk Road

Perth

Tuesday, 3 October, 5–8pm
Cannington Exhibition Hall, cnr Station St & Albany Hwy

Broomehill

Thursday, 19 October, 10am–1pm
Broomehill Recreational Complex, 77 Tieline Road

Albany

Tuesday, 31 October, 10am–1pm
Albany Aboriginal Corporation Hall, 365 Serpentine Rd

Mt Barker

Friday, 3 November, 10am–1pm
Mt Barker Community Resource Centre, 1 Lowood Rd

Kojonup

Tuesday, 14 November, 10am–1pm
Kojonup Sporting Complex, Benn Parade Kojonup

Mamang Maambakoort MARINE PARK

Over the last year, representatives from Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar regional corporation and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) have worked together to design the Mamang Maambakoort Marine Park, which will be located on the south coast between Bremer Bay and Hopetoun. WKSN will jointly manage the marine park with DBCA.

Most of this work has been finalised, and we have now released the Indicative Mamang Maambakoort Marine Park Joint Management Plan for public comment.

This plan will be available for a three-month public comment period. We expect the plan to be finalised before the end of the year, and for the marine park to be established early in the new year.

Once established, the marine park will protect Noongar cultural values and provide the strongest protection against mining and oil exploration, and create a number of ranger jobs for Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar people.

We appreciate the time and knowledge that WKSN cultural representatives put into to this codesign process: Iris Wood, Carol Petersen, Graeme Minter, Murray Hodson, Eugene Eades and Gail Wynne.

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We're looking for two community representatives for our Cooperative Management Committee, which will help select conservation estate for formal joint management, advise on management plans and policies, Aboriginal heritage issues, economic and employment programs and customary activities. Email lands@wagylkaip.org.au with any questions or go to wagylkaip.org.au/cmc

Expressions of interest close 1 September.

This is Jacinta Kickett, who just received funding through the Education, Health & Wellbeing fund for some dental work. Jacinta says she loves her new smile and the confidence it's given her.

The next funding round is open till 29 September. For details visit wagylkaip.org.au/wksn-rno.

