

Media Release – The Hon Shelley Payne MLC

Aboriginal rangers to benefit from \$16.5 million in funding

18 June 2024

- Investment of \$16.5 million made through latest round of Aboriginal Ranger Program
- Aboriginal Ranger Program has created 1,400 jobs for Aboriginal people since 2017
- Tourism and climate action projects receive funding as part of latest round

The State Government is backing the successful work of Aboriginal rangers with a \$16.5 million investment in the latest round of the Aboriginal Ranger Program.

Among the recipients are local organisations Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation, Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation, and Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation.

Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) received \$2,145,975 for the Ngoolyark Climate Action Project, which will extend BAC's key Aboriginal Ranger enterprises of seed collecting, propagation and planting for carbon offsets and land regeneration in the Southwest of WA. These Ranger enterprises will also support youth pathways to jobs in conjunction with BAC's recently funded Junior Ranger Program.

Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation received \$1,276,946 to build its sustainable land management capacity. The project will ensure sustainable management of Noongar owned land and cultural values by establishing a Junior Ranger Program, developing a Fire Management Plan and undertaking planning to build four cultural campsites.

Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation received \$2,112,176 for the establishment of an Aboriginal land and sea ranger program. The program will deliver much needed land and sea care and cultural tourism opportunities for the economic development of the region, and contribute to social outcomes for the local community.

Since its launch in 2017, the State Government has invested \$100 million in the Aboriginal Ranger Program, creating on-Country jobs for 1,400 Aboriginal people.

These roles have supported a range of activities, including biodiversity research, Traditional Owner knowledge transfer, and management of cultural sites and fires.

A full list of recipients can be found at <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/management/aboriginal-engagement/aboriginal-ranger-program>.

Comments attributed to Member for the Agricultural Region Hon Shelley Payne MLC:

“For seven years, the Aboriginal Ranger Program has been making a real difference in our local communities.

“Congratulations to Badgebup, Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar, and Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporations on their inclusion in the latest round of this program.

“I look forward to seeing each of their projects come to fruition.”

Comments attributed to Environment Minister Reece Whitby:

"Research shows that for every \$1 invested in the Aboriginal Ranger Program approximately \$3 worth of social, economic, cultural, and environmental value is created.

"Our Government has invested more than \$100 million in Aboriginal rangers since 2017, making practical differences on the ground for Indigenous communities."

Comments attributed to Aboriginal Affairs Minister Dr Tony Buti:

"This is a fantastic initiative that contributes to the social and economic prosperity of Aboriginal communities.

"We continue to see these grants achieving practical outcomes right across Western Australia."

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