



Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project – Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Caring for Our Country Partnership Project is between the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.

The four year project is funded by the Department of Environment Heritage Water and the Arts for an initial 2 year period (further 2 years to be confirmed) commencing in 2009.

The project will promote traditional and contemporary Gunditjmarara land management practices across the far southwest of Victoria.

Context

Over the past 25 years, the Gunditjmarara community have acquired freehold title over 3200 hectares along the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape.

The community also achieved a cooperative management agreement for the Mt Eccles National Park as part of the Gunditjmarara native title settlement in 2007.

The Mt Eccles National Park accounts for 8375 hectares along the Budj Bim landscape.

The Gunditjmarara community work through the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (Registered Native Title Body Corporate).

The community also works closely with the Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation and the Budj Bim Rangers Program.

Through these existing arrangements, the Caring for Our Country Partnership Project will promote traditional and contemporary Gunditjmarara land management practices throughout the far southwest of Victoria.

The Partnership Project

Many community groups, non-Indigenous landowners and government agencies seek advice on Indigenous land management practices and traditional ecological knowledge.

The Gunditjmarara community has responded to many enquiries over the past few decades however the community has not had the appropriate resources to do so.



The Caring For Our Country Partnership Project will provide appropriate resources to enhance the Gunditjmara community's capacity to identify, collect, analyse and provide advice on land management practices and Indigenous ecological knowledge to other land owners, community groups and government agencies.

Over the 4 year partnership project, an ecological knowledge and practice extension toolkit will be developed by the Gunditj Mirring organisation and provided to other Indigenous and non-Indigenous land managers throughout the region.

The Caring for Our Country Partnership Project will also enhance the Gunditj Mirring organisation's capacity in governance and the administration and coordination of programs.

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority will work in partnership with the Gunditj Mirring organisation to ensure the successful implementation of the project and its outputs.

The key project outputs will be:

- a partnership between Gunditj Mirring and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA.
- one project to record and use Indigenous ecological knowledge and practice.
- 3200 hectares (10 properties) managed in line with this knowledge and practice.
- a further 30 land managers using this knowledge and practice.
- a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan developed and implemented

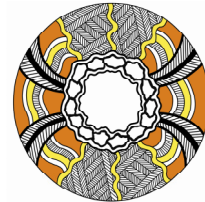
The partnership will employ one project manager and 3 field officers (4 FTE) to manage the project and deliver the specified outputs.

The project manager will establish a project Reference Group. The group will encourage community engagement with, and involvement in, the project. It will also provide advice to the project manager throughout the project.

Purpose of Reference Group

The Reference Group will provide guidance for the Caring for Our Country Partnership Project and contribute advice on a range of issues that may include:

1. How to engage Indigenous people in relevant key co-operative management activities, projects and decision making;
2. Guidance on the development of the project's capacity building programs including cross cultural skills training (identification, survey and monitoring of ecological cultural heritage and interpretation);
3. Engagement in the design of the Works Plan for project staff;
4. Traditional Owner and other Indigenous community needs and aspirations in relation to the project;
5. How Indigenous ecological knowledge can be sensitively, accurately recorded and implemented into the extension toolkit.
6. Ecological, botanical and/or biodiversity knowledge.



GUNDITJ MIRRORING
Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation

Operational

- The Reference Group will meet three times per year over the next 2 years.
- The project manager will be the Executive Officer to the Reference Group (chair meetings, provide agenda and minutes).

Expression of Interest for Reference Group

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the Gunditj Mirring organisation seek expressions of interest from people who would like to be a member on the Reference Group for the Caring for Our Country Partnership Project.

The Reference Group will consist of:

- Gunditjmara Traditional Elder x 2
- Gunditjmara youth x 1
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority representative
- Parks Victoria representative
- Ecologist and/or Botanist or other relevant field of expertise
- Caring for Our Country, Victorian Indigenous Land Management representative

Candidates will be appointed based on what they bring to one, or more of the following categories:

Selection Criteria:

- Understanding of Indigenous ecological knowledge.
- Knowledge of the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape.
- Knowledge and understanding of agricultural and natural resource management activities.
- Knowledge and understanding of community engagement principles.
- Understanding or experience in natural resource management governance.

Closing date for expressions of interest to the Reference Group is Wednesday 2nd September 2009.

Please forward applications to:

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