



TRADITIONAL OWNER LAND MANAGEMENT BOARD

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**11/9/2019**

### **Barmah National Park planners grateful for community attendance and contributions at Open Houses**

Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board are hailing the recently held Open House community consultations as a success. Being held to discuss the recently released Draft Joint Management Plan for Barmah National Park.

Held in Barmah, Echuca and Shepparton, the consultations were an an important milestone in the planning process, and an opportunity for the community to contribute and express their ideas for the most effective and appropriate management strategies for the final plan. With over 100 people attending the Open Houses across the three venues, Chair of the Board, Uncle Des Morgan was more than impressed with the turn out from the community.

“We are certainly grateful for the level of commitment and passion the community has shown for the future of Barmah National Park and the opportunity we had to exchange ideas on Joint Management. It was great to listen to a wide range of views and to clarify some of the goals and strategies set out in the Joint Management Plan. People gave us clear views about what they support in the draft plan and things they want to see changed or added to the final plan. We expect this plan will foster the health of Country and contribute significantly to the welfare of our connected communities and we look forward to working with those into the future. Even if we don’t always agree, we do all love Barmah National Park and we want to see it thrive.” he said.

The exhibition period for the Draft Joint Management Plan will remain open until the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2019. The Board hopes that the community will take the opportunity to make a submission either by email or post during this time.

The next phase of the the Board’s planning process is to work through the feedback that came out of the Open Houses and submissions received to develop a final Joint

Management Plan. The Joint Management Plan will then be delivered by the end of the year to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio for approval.

For the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board the health of Country has been the absolute priority in the development of this plan, Barmah National Park is one of the few remaining tracts of Yorta Yorta Country where the natural environment has not been modified by the development of private farmland and towns.

The Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board has been tasked with writing the first management plan for Barmah National Park. The Board was appointed under agreement between the Victorian Government and the Yorta Yorta Nation in 2014 to jointly manage the park. It comprises Yorta Yorta representatives as well as members of the broader community. Parks Victoria provides day-to-day operational management of the Barmah National Park.

The plan aims to pursue innovation and excellence, to promote and recognise the value of Yorta Yorta culture, to involve Yorta Yorta in management of the Park, and to ensure the well-being of Country and people. It must cover the recognition, practice and utilisation of traditional Yorta Yorta knowledge, the conservation of natural and cultural values, the management of threatened species, and the attraction and management of Park visitors. The Plan sets out management directions for the park for the next 10 years.

## **Further Comments:**

*Spokesperson:*

Uncle Des Morgan, Chair (Please contact Damian Morgan-Bulled below for spokesperson details)

## **Further information:**

*Inquires:*

Damian Morgan-Bulled, Executive Officer: [yytolmbeo@yynac.com.au](mailto:yytolmbeo@yynac.com.au)

*Website:*

[www.ytolmb.com.au](http://www.ytolmb.com.au)

*Frequently asked Questions:*

<https://yytolmb.com.au/faqs/>

## **Submissions:**

[yytolmb@yynac.com.au](mailto:yytolmb@yynac.com.au)

Via post:

Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board  
PO Box 1363,  
Shepparton, Vic, 3632