Background

Since 2013, there has been increasing engagement and a strengthening of our relationship between the Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative and the PPWCMMA.

In 2014, the PPWCMMA commissioned an ‘Active Indigenous Engagement in Agriculture and NRM report’ which identified the main goals and aspirations of Indigenous organisations in this region. The report has been significant for the development of a shared understanding of how our organisations can work together and support each other effectively.

Now, in 2016, this Partnership Agreement marks another step forward in the strength of our relationship. It is the first formal agreement of this type between our organisations. It documents an inclusive process for engaging Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative members in natural resource management activities planned and delivered in the PPWCMMA region.

The commitment

1. The PPWCMMA values its partnership with the Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative and is committed to encouraging Indigenous land management, supporting Indigenous people to work on country and connect to land, and achieving health and employment benefits for Indigenous people.

The PPWCMMA commits to working regularly with the Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative including providing opportunity and support for Wathaurong people to:

i. Connect to culture and cultural identity through caring for country
ii. Develop skills and experience in land management
iii. Be employed in land management
iv. Develop natural resource management-related concepts/business plans.

The PPWCMMA will regularly communicate with Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative regarding natural resource management and sustainable agriculture projects during project planning and implementation.

2. The Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative values its partnership with the PPWCMMA and will provide regular reports and updates to the PPWCMMA regarding the progress of its projects, particularly for those projects funded through the PPWCMMA.

Developing partnerships is important to gaining funding and management assistance, discussing the Victorian Engagement Guidelines (above) and meeting Australian Government staff (below).
Partnership Agreement
between the Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative and Port Phillip Westernport Catchment Management Authority

The Wathaurong Cooperative are working with the Port Phillip Westernport staff to improve and protect the biodiversity values of the Little River corridor and the adjoining grasslands.

Review
The agreement can be reviewed on request by either party to ensure it remains current.

Signed
Neville Goodwin
Chair, PPWCMA
David Buntine
CEO, PPWCMA
Rod Jackson
CEO, WAC
Reg Abrahams
Project Coordinator, WAC

www.ppwcma.vic.gov.au
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A commitment to working together