Background

There is a strong relationship in place between the Wurundjeri and the Port Phillip Westport CMA (PPWCM A) that has been developed over many years and is valued by both organisations.

In 2014, the PPWCM A 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.

In recent years, the PPWCM A has also broadened its engagement and communication activities with Wurundjeri and has in place a cultural competency program which increases PPWCM A staff and Board knowledge of and appreciation for Aboriginal culture in the region.

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 encourages clear and inclusive processes for engaging Wurundjeri in natural resource management activities planned and delivered by the PPWCM A.

Clockwise from top left: Narrap team planning for fire management; meeting in volcanic plains grasslands to discuss caring for murrung country; Terrik family at eel trap, celebrating Wurundjeri with Nillumbik Council and PPWCM A planning environment projects; PPWCM A at Gawa trial with Beth Gott; Uncle Perry Wandin welcoming partners to the eel trap site and thanking supporters for their contribution to Wurundjeri’s Narrap team.

Our partnership commitment

The Port Phillip Westport CMA (PPWCM A) values its partnership with Wurundjeri and is committed to encouraging and supporting Indigenous land management, working on country and achieving health and employment benefits for Indigenous people. The PPWCM A acknowledges and supports the Wurundjeri Narrap (country) Plan.

The PPWCM A will work with Wurundjeri and together pursue activities, such as:

- Culturally-important places to be cared for using culturally-appropriate methods
- Developing maintaining current management plans for Wurundjeri owned sites
- Securing additional employment for Indigenous people in natural resource management
- Providing training opportunities for Narrap Team members and supporting strategic establishment of a further Narrap teams, and for Wurundjeri people in writing grant applications, preparing and delivering information, mapping and data management
- Provision of education and cultural awareness to land managers and involvement of the Narrap Team in site management
- Increasing Wurundjeri people’s knowledge about their traditional cultural practices through activities such as site tours and country visits
- Encourage sharing of Traditional Knowledge, working on and visiting country, conducting women’s and men’s camps and ceremony and to engage community in social events
- Securing opportunities to work commercially on other properties (not owned by Wurundjeri)
- Developing NRM-related enterprises such as a bush foods and fibre enterprise
- Encourage support for facilitator roles to strengthen partnerships with relevant agencies and for connecting with other Traditional Owner groups to build shared projects.

Communication is important. The PPWCM A will regularly communicate with Wurundjeri regarding natural resource management and sustainable agriculture projects during project planning and delivery, and commits to working regularly with Wurundjeri. The Wurundjeri values its partnership with the PPWCM A and will provide regular communication and updates to the PPWCM A regarding the progress of its projects, particularly for those projects funded through the PPWCM A.
Partnership Agreement

between the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation
Cultural Heritage Council Incorporated and the Port Phillip
Westernport Catchment Management Authority

Wurundjeri cultural activity with PWWCMA staff making a traditional axe, splitting the wattie sapling to create a handle; grinding the axe head; Karen binding the handle with stringy bark twine; crushing Xanthorrhoea resin for heating; applying the resin to complete the job.

Signed

Wurundjeri Elder

Wurundjeri Elder

Cheryl Krause
Acting CEO Wurundjeri

Neville Goodwin
Chair, PWWCMA

David Bunting
CEO, PWWCMA

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

www.ppwcmaw.vic.gov.au

A commitment to working together