



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of the **Premier and Cabinet**

The South West Native Title Settlement

An Agreement reached between the Noongar People and
the Western Australian Government

Noongar Heritage Partnership Agreement: Factsheet

The South West Native Title Settlement (the Settlement) is the largest and most comprehensive agreement to settle Aboriginal interests over land in Australia. The Settlement, involving six Noongar Native Title Agreement Groups, and covering 200,000 square kilometres of land, represents significant social and economic investment in the Noongar community and the shared future of Western Australia.

On 8 June 2015, after extensive negotiations, and authorisation by the Noongar people, the Western Australian Government signed (executed) the six South West Native Title Settlement Agreements with the Ballardong, Gnaala Karla Booja, South West Boojarah, Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar, Whadjuk and Yued groups.

While some elements of the Settlement commenced at this time, the Settlement as a whole will only become fully effective after all of the six Agreements have been conclusively registered in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, and any related court proceedings have been resolved.



Noongar Heritage Partnership Agreements

The Noongar Heritage Partnership Agreements (NHPA), created as a part of the South West Native Title Settlement, provide a framework for the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and each of the six Noongar Regional Corporations to work in partnership to improve the recording, protection and preservation of Aboriginal sites within the South West Native Title Settlement Area.

What are the key objectives of the Noongar Heritage Partnership Agreements?

The NHPAs will assist in:

- improving Aboriginal site preservation and management;
- improving data on the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (AHIS); and
- improving the exchange of information with regard to Aboriginal sites between the DPLH and Noongar people, as facilitated by the six Noongar Regional Corporations.

What is the role of the Noongar Regional Corporations in relation to the Noongar Heritage Partnership Agreements?

The six Noongar Regional Corporations established under the South West Native Title Settlement (the Settlement) will be key contacts for Aboriginal heritage matters within each of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) Areas. (A map of the Settlement Area is provided below.) As a part of the NHPAs the Noongar Regional Corporations will fulfil the following responsibilities, including but not limited to:

- provide advice to the DPLH on Aboriginal heritage matters within the six ILUA areas;
- prepare, amend and implement local and regional Heritage Management Plans within the six ILUA areas;
- provide recommendations and advice to the DPLH to inform decisions on the application of Sections 16, 18, 19 and 20 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)*;
- provide advice and work with the DPLH in the preparation of policies, programs and other heritage management documents for the six ILUA areas; and



- provide advice and work with the DPLH on the development of Aboriginal heritage training and employment initiatives within the six ILUA areas.

Map. South West Native Title Settlement Area



How does the role of the Noongar Regional Corporations affect the operation of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*?

The role of the Noongar Regional Corporations in the NHPAs is consistent and complimentary to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and Regulations. The establishment of the Noongar Regional Corporations will create greater certainty for land users about who to consult about Aboriginal heritage matters within the ILUA Areas. The NHPAs foster a commitment of partnership between the DPLH and the



Noongar Regional Corporations that will ultimately ensure that information and understanding about Noongar heritage is improved.

How will the Noongar Heritage Partnership Agreements be implemented?

Under the NHPAs, six Noongar Heritage Partnership Steering Groups will be established to oversee the implementation of the six NHPAs and provide advice to the WA Government and the Noongar Regional Corporations about the progress of the implementation.

Aboriginal Heritage and NHPAs Enquiries

Contact the Heritage Directorate within the Department for Planning, Lands and Heritage for general Aboriginal heritage enquiries:

Phone: (08) 6551 7950

e-mail: heritageenquiries@daa.wa.gov.au

Department for Planning, Lands and Heritage has a South West Settlement (Aboriginal Heritage) Director who will oversee Government implementation of the Noongar Heritage Partnership Agreements:

Jeremy Elliott, Director, South West Settlement, Aboriginal Heritage

Phone: (08) 6551 8070

e-mail: jeremy.elliott@daa.wa.gov.au

Further Information

Further information about the Settlement, including the six Settlement Agreements (or Indigenous Land Use Agreements – ILUAs) made in compliance with the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*, can be found on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website:

<https://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/lantu>