

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to define the terms of a cooperative relationship between Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority with respect to activities, programs and partnerships within targeted areas of the Murray-Goulburn-Broken River catchment.

This Memorandum expresses the intentions of each party within the cooperative relationship and is not intended to be legally binding on either party. The terms of cooperation for each specific activity contemplated under this Memorandum will be discussed and agreed upon in writing by each party before the initiation of the activity.

The Memorandum imposes no financial obligation on either party. Both parties understand that all financial arrangements must be negotiated and depend upon the availability of funds.

## OBJECTIVE & SCOPE

The nature of the collaboration will be underpinned by the following principles;

### Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

- is committed to working with the GB CMA in the developmental process of providing accessible and appropriate service for the benefit of their community and therefore the whole community and catchment
- is committed to working together so that its programs and services have a greater opportunity to create sustainable change
- will continue to demonstrate commitment to change in response to its evaluations of programs and services

### Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA)

- acknowledges that Aboriginal Australians were the first people on this land
- is committed to providing a formal opportunity for the Aboriginal community to have an impact on natural resource management decisions
- is committed to working with the Aboriginal community and supporting the efforts of non-Aboriginal Australians in understanding Aboriginal culture and values
- will continue to demonstrate commitment to change in response to its evaluations of programs and services
- will take a leadership role in facilitating change within the general community towards services and programs that impact on the Aboriginal community

Then, acknowledge that there will be roles and relationships established outside this Agreement (e.g. role of YYNAC as RAP) that do not impact on the underlying principles of this MOU or the actions arising from it.

## DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

### Traditional Owner/s

A description Aboriginal people of Australia use to identify themselves as the first people of Australia with inherent rights to Land and water according to customs, law, lore, religion and beliefs as given to them by the creator. (God/Biami)– known to the Yorta Yorta people by this name.

### Terms of the Agreement

The duration or proposed life of the Agreement will be three years, unless collectively agreed to an extension or earlier termination.

### Organisation and management of the agreement

The YYNAC shall meet with the GB CMA at least three (3) times per year, or as required/agreed upon, on the dates and times and at the locations determined by agreement between YYNAC and GB CMA.

The purpose of these meetings is to regularly review the relationship in keeping with best practice on engaging with Aboriginal owners in Victoria.

A meeting of the YYNAC and GB CMA may be conducted by telephone in cases where the members consider it would be expedient / appropriate to do so, or if the urgency of the business to be considered would prevent the members from meeting in person. Whether a meeting should be open or closed to visitors is to be determined by the YYNAC and GB CMA on as needs basis.

### Key contacts

**YYNAC**  
Damian Morgan-Bulled, Acting CEO  
PO Box 1363, Shepparton VIC 3631  
t: (03) 5832 0222  
m: 0429 022 003

Lee Joachim, Director of Research  
PO Box 1363, Shepparton VIC 3631  
t: (03) 5832 0222

**GB CMA**  
Chris Norman, CEO  
PO Box 1752, Shepparton VIC 3632  
t: (03) 5820 1100

Wayne Tennant,  
Strategic River Health Manager  
PO Box 1752, Shepparton VIC 3632  
t: (03) 5820 1100

### Communication and information

YYNAC may request from time to time the GB CMA CEO to provide them with access to documents or information in the possession of the GB CMA relating to Yorta Yorta Traditional country and the GB CMA CEO shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, comply with that request.

The GB CMA CEO may refuse to give access to any document that is an exempt document within the meaning of the *Freedom Information Act 1989*, subject to privilege, any privacy laws, or information that was provided to the GB CMA CEO in confidence.

### Marketing and publicity

Any public information that requires mention of either party, shall inform said party for endorsement.

### Settlement of disputes

If any party is dissatisfied with any decision of the other regarding the implementation of this MOU, the identified key contacts must notify the CEOs.

Should the dispute remain unresolved by discussions between the parties it shall be referred to the Steering Group who will establish a mechanism whereby the dispute can be resolved.

### Review and evaluation

The MOU will come into effect on the date on which it is signed and will be in effect for three years, with extension by agreement between Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.

A review of the MOU will be conducted during the second year of its operation. Any resulting modifications will be negotiated and determined by mutual agreement of the parties.

The following outcomes will be used to determine the success:

- Increase in the number of Yorta Yorta people placed into sustainable employment;
- Number of Yorta Yorta employees transitioned into traineeships to increase skills development;
- Success of any joint initiatives that are developed under the MOU;
- Increased participation of Yorta Yorta people in NRM funded through GB CMA funded programs and;
- Increased understanding and appreciation within GB CMA staff, Board and the broader Community of traditional ecological knowledge.



# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

and

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

Paul Briggs  
Chair, Yorta Yorta Nation

Damian Morgan-Bulled  
CEO, Yorta Yorta Nation

Murray Chapman  
Chair, Goulburn Broken  
Catchment Management Authority

Chris Norman  
CEO, Goulburn Broken  
Catchment Management Authority

18 June 2014



# THE PARTNERS

## Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Incorporated under the *Commonwealth Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) was established to represent descendants of the Yorta Yorta people; make decisions and act on any significant matters on their behalf; and to enter into agreements with any person/s, Government/s agencies or authority in relation to the betterment of Yorta Yorta people and protection of Yorta Yorta country and interests.

Yorta Yorta lands lie on both sides of the Murray River (Dhungala – Yorta Yorta language and creation spirit name for the Murray River) North East Victoria and Southern NSW and radiates out North, South, East and West from the Murray and Goulburn River Junction (Kiaella – Yorta Yorta language name for father and name of the Goulburn River) takes in townships from Cohuna to a point West of Albury/Wodonga and includes Echuca, Shepparton/Mooroopna, Murchison, Benalla, Wangaratta, Yarrawonga/Mulwala, Finley, Cobram/Barooga, Corowa and extends to Northward to a point around Deniliquin in NSW. (The majority of the towns named here have Yorta Yorta language names).

The YYNAC received Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) status in 2007 by the Victorian Government.

This status empowers the YYNAC to manage and protect cultural heritage values in general and the cultural heritage of the Yorta Yorta Nation, their Traditional lands and RAP region in Victoria under the *Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Under this Act the YYNAC (RAP) have legislative responsibility to monitor onsite development and advice and review cultural heritage management plans, (CHMP) and to safe guard the cultural heritage of Indigenous people.

Other Agreements – The Yorta Yorta Nation also have entered into discussions and have Joint management agreements with the Victorian and NSW State Governments, to jointly manage with the State NRM Agencies, Crown land areas and newly established National Parks of the Murray/Goulburn Rivers and their smaller tributaries and other designated areas of the Yorta Yorta Nation country/ area.

## Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA)

The Goulburn Broken CMA is a Statutory Authority established by the Victorian Parliament in 1997 under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. The Goulburn Broken CMA is accountable for its performance's to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, and the Minister for Water. One of its key responsibilities is to produce a Regional Catchment Strategy every six years.

The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy sets out the blueprint for coordinating land, water and biodiversity management in the catchment.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment covers 2.4 million hectares, extending north from near the outskirts of Melbourne to the River Murray on the border of New South Wales. The Catchment has a diversity of landscapes including seasonally snow covered Alps, forests, granite outcrops gentle sloping plains, box woodland and Redgum floodplains.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment has a rich and diverse community. The Catchment has an estimated population of over 204,000 people (Monticello 2012) which includes 6,000 indigenous Australians, many of whom identify as the traditional owners of this area.

The Traditional Owners of the Goulburn Broken Catchment have an intrinsic connection to the land and water resources within this landscape, Traditional Owners in the north of the catchment are people of the Yorta Yorta Nation, whose traditional lands include the northern plains of the Goulburn & Murray Rivers.



Both the YYNAC and the Goulburn Broken CMA are committed to protecting the Natural and Cultural values and environments of their respective regions of responsibility.

# JOINT ACTIVITIES

The following schedule details joint activities which have been agreed upon on signing this MOU.

Partnerships
Description of shared roles - community representation, advocacy, planning for community wellbeing.
Traditional Owners and the GB CMA to establish partnerships and agreements, strategies, plans, policy and financial and human resources to best work together for mutual benefits.
Collaboration
Meetings at least three (3) times a year between GB CMA Management and "nominated" YYNAC Board Directors/CEO – planning, monitoring and review of initiatives. Seeking out and supporting funding applications to facilitate engagement of YYNAC in working in natural resource management projects.
Providing support
The GB CMA will work with Traditional Owners to incorporate their complete and proven Traditional Ecological Knowledge of their regions of the Catchment into its thinking as a naturally needed knowledge to understand the country and its fragile environments to exist sustainability together into the future.
Assist TO Nations of the GB CMA region to contribute to the establishment of Traditional Owner Ecological Knowledge related enterprises and NRM teams through contract procurement, and other federally and state funded projects, and where mutually agreed and beneficial, preferred providers list.
Resourcing
Joint funding submissions with TO/GB CMA to State and Federal Government.
GB CMA to support the TO Nation to establish a sustainable funding source and organisation and business model.
GBCMA to advocate for support and share knowledge and appropriate resources with TOs.
Continuous Improvement
Reviewing the MOU and effectiveness and identify new opportunities and strategic forward planning and dialogue. Joint Annual meeting with the Ministers for Environment and Aboriginals Affairs.
Engagement
Access knowledge from TO's on regional forums and working groups.
YYNAC to provide GB CMA with access and facilitate relationships to TO's to ensure two-way engagement.



 Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority Boundary  
 Victorian Yorta Yorta Registered Aboriginal Party Boundary

