

# Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement

Listening to Ngarrindjeri People talking  
KNYA Taskforce Strategic Implementation Plan 2016



Government of South Australia  
Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources



Ngarrindjeri  
Regional Authority

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## Acknowledgements

The Ngarrindjeri people are the descendants of the original indigenous inhabitants of the lands and waters of the Murray River, Lower Lakes and Coorong and adjacent areas. Ngarrindjeri have occupied, enjoyed, utilised and managed these traditional homelands since time immemorial.

The South Australian Government acknowledges Ngarrindjeri are the Traditional Owners of the land and that according to their traditions, customs and spiritual beliefs its lands and waters remain their traditional country. The State also acknowledges and respects the rights, interests and obligations of Ngarrindjeri to speak and care for their traditional country, lands and waters in accordance with their laws, customs, beliefs and traditions.

## **Background - Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement (KNYA)**

The KNYA was signed in 2009 on behalf of the South Australian Government by the:

Hon. Jay Weatherill	Minister for Environment and Conservation Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
Hon. Karlene Maywald	Minister for the River Murray
Hon. Paul Caica	Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

and on behalf of the Ngarrindjeri people and representing the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA) by:

Mr George Trevorrow	Chair, Ngarrindjeri Tendi Inc. (deceased)
Mr Tom Trevorrow	Chair, Ngarrindjeri Heritage Committee Inc. (deceased)
Mr Matt Rigney	Chair, Ngarrindjeri Native Title Management Committee (deceased)

The KNYA acknowledges that Ngarrindjeri are the decedents of the original indigenous inhabitants of the Murray River, Lower Lakes, Coorong, and adjacent areas and are the traditional owners (as that term is defined in the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1988 (SA)). It also acknowledges that the Ngarrindjeri act through their peak representative body, the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA), for the purpose of coordinating activities and resources for the Ngarrindjeri community and high level interactions with the State Government.

For the purposes of achieving the objectives of the KNYA, the signatory Ministers were to be represented by an authorised representative from a relevant Government department under their jurisdiction to progress matters on a regular basis with the NRA. These representatives engage the NRA at the monthly KNYA Taskforce meetings, a forum that enables consultation and negotiation regarding matters relevant to the Agreement.

The KNYA sought to establish a new relationship between the Ngarrindjeri and the State of South Australia. The signatory Ministers wished to provide support and resources to the NRA and enter into negotiations and consultations with the Ngarrindjeri about the maintenance and protection of Ngarrindjeri culture and cultural sites and the natural resources of the Land.

The NRA has also developed KNY Agreement's with local government in their region. Alexandrina Council is now a formal member of the KNYA Taskforce to support improved engagement of Ngarrindjeri with all levels of government.

# Strategic Implementation Plan

The KNYA Taskforce Strategic Implementation Plan (the 'Plan') has been developed to provide guidance to the Taskforce on how it can support and implement positive outcomes to the issues.

## Structure

The Plan is structured around five high level objectives that cover the breath of issues identified by the Taskforce and align with the intent of the KNYA. Broad high level outcomes have been identified for each objective as well as range of strategies and actions.

## Objectives and Rationale

### *1: Building upon and promoting the significance of the KNYA Taskforce*

The KNYA and Taskforce are innovations that the South Australian Government and the NRA will review regularly and continue to promote and in so doing inform Aboriginal engagement at a State, National and International level.

### *2: Supporting Ngarrindjeri education, training and capacity building*

Taskforce provides a forum which supports direct capacity building of participants and guests, but also provides a way of coordinating collaborative training and development opportunities.

### *3: Supporting Ngarrindjeri and the South Australian Government to Care for Country*

Caring for Country is used to describe the connectivity of all things. This objective aims to incorporate these perspectives of connectivity into regional natural resource and cultural heritage management, and progress collaborative project activities. This includes water and water related planning and policy

### *4: Supporting Ngarrindjeri economic development opportunities*

The Ngarrindjeri seek to become more self-sustaining and reinvigorate their economic status. The Taskforce provides an opportunity for Ngarrindjeri, through their community businesses to explore new partnerships.

### *5: Encourage respectful and best practice research engagement with Ngarrindjeri*

Ngarrindjeri are developing a new national and international research relationships that respect Ngarrindjeri interests, priorities and Cultural perspectives and support greater and culturally appropriate involvement in research. Taskforce can assist in communicating these advancements and innovations.

## Implementation

Taskforce will schedule actions to be progressed into monthly meeting agendas as a way of implementing the Plan. It will be the responsibility of all Taskforce members to consider ways that they can support the Plan's implementation.

## Review

The Taskforce will review the Strategic Implementation Plan on an annual basis and report its progress through the two-yearly KNYA Taskforce Report.

**Objective 1: Building upon and promoting the significance of the KNYA Taskforce**

**Description:** The KNYA Taskforce is an innovation of the NRA and South Australian Government to coordinate Ngarrindjeri engagement in natural resource and cultural heritage management. Taskforce will seek to continually review, improve and promote its operations and to support improvements in the application of the KNYA for initiatives that are proposed to occur within the Ngarrindjeri Nation.

**Outcomes:** \*Increased awareness and compliance of the KNYA and outcomes of its implementation  
 \*Government project management arrangements and Indigenous strategy incorporate the KNYA’s consultation requirements.

Strategy	Action	Who	When
1.1 Monitor and Evaluate Taskforce Operations	1.1.1 Set one KNYA Taskforce meeting per year in October to review and evaluate the Taskforce operations and Strategic Implementation Plan.	Executive Officers	Nov
1.2 Promote the KNYA Taskforce and outcomes	1.2.1 Develop a report based on a review of progress against the KNYA and Strategic Plan.	Executive Officers	Jan
	1.2.2 Prepare joint media articles as relevant.	All	Ongoing
	1.2.3 Nominated officers report on the integration of the KNYA into departmental RAPs and Aboriginal Engagement Strategy and use the forum for advice on how to achieve this process	All	Jul and Feb
	1.2.4 Nominated officers report on the integration of the KNYA into agency project management frameworks and use the forum to seek advice on best ways to achieve this process	All	Jun
	1.2.5 Regular updates provided to Taskforce on the status of Aboriginal Affairs policy and programs, including the Aboriginal Regional Authorities policy direction	DSD-AAR	Ongoing
	1.2.6 Taskforce discuss the most appropriate level / levels within agencies to disseminate the KNYA consultation requirements and then action this process within their respective agencies	Nominated officers	May
	1.2.7 Establish a working group to develop a communication strategy to promote and advance the KNYA Taskforce, including through relevant standing committees	All	Jun
	1.2.8 Taskforce raise recommendation to KNYA Leader to Leader meetings for an agenda item on how KNYA outcomes and consultation requirements are promoted within departments	Executive Officer	Apr

**Objective 2: Supporting Ngarrindjeri education, training and capacity building**

**Description:** Taskforce provides a forum in which to facilitate opportunities for Ngarrindjeri engagement in natural resource and cultural heritage matters that can build the capacity of Ngarrindjeri and the NRA and link to training, education, employment and economic development

**Outcomes:** \*Increased training, capacity building and experience opportunities communicated to the NRA and government  
 \*Nominated officers have improved skills in Aboriginal engagement

Strategy	Action	Who	When
2.1 Support and promote NRA and agency education, training and employment priorities and opportunities	2.1.1 Taskforce discuss the most appropriate place within agencies, RTO's, to distribute Ngarrindjeri training priorities and following confirmation, distribute the priorities within agencies and identify available resources	All	May
	2.1.2 Standing item on KNYA Taskforce agenda to report on current and future agency and NRA training and capacity building opportunities, resources, employment (link to economic development standing item). <b>Out of session</b> opportunistic capacity building and training opportunities are communicated to the NRA and directed to meetings between relevant parties	Nominated officers	May
	2.1.3 Nominated officers present Department's Aboriginal engagement training activities, (i.e. Reconciliation Action Plan targets, and Anti-Racism Strategies), and identify training gaps / needs in terms of Aboriginal engagement	Nominated officers	Jun
	2.1.4 Nominated officers maintain register of departmental scholarship, traineeship and work experience and employment opportunities and provide to the NRA	Executive Officers	Jul
	2.1.5 Set Taskforce session for agencies and NRA to present on their education, training and employment priorities, project partnerships, training opportunities and invite relevant training authorities / industry to support discussion	Executive Officers	Aug

### **Objective 3: Supporting Ngarrindjeri and all levels of Government to Care for Country**

**Description:** The KNYA Taskforce provides a forum in which a greater understanding of Ngarrindjeri perspectives of Caring for Country can be shared and used to inform natural resource and cultural heritage management. The Taskforce provides a forum to further enable Ngarrindjeri to fulfil their cultural obligations and responsibilities to Care for Country. Taskforce also provides a key forum for the NRA and government to align objectives and development collaborations that are mutually beneficial.

**Outcomes:** \*Ngarrindjeri Yarluwar-Ruwe Program has secured resources to continue to operate  
 \*Ngarrindjeri interests, values and cultural obligations incorporated into regional caring for country strategy and plans, including water  
 \*Joint projects and programs are successfully developed and implemented

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
3.1 Promote transitional arrangements for the Ngarrindjeri Yarluwar-Ruwe (NYR) Program beyond the CLLMM Recovery Project.	3.1.1 Set Taskforce session for NRA to present on the role and objectives, partnering arrangements of the NYR Program and allow nominated officers Q&A	NRA / DEWNR	May
	3.1.2 Draft Business Model / Options paper presented to Taskforce for comment, seeking nominated officers to provide technical feedback on the pitch, level of information	NRA / DEWNR	May
3.2 Develop collaborative projects concepts and partnerships	3.2.1 All parties scope specific project ideas out of session in preparation for annual collaborative project session.	All	Jun
	3.2.2 Session to scope collaborative project ideas an partnering ideas for the financial year	Executive Officers	Jul

	3.2.2 Develop a set of ready to go project concepts to enable partners to quickly respond to funding opportunities, that scope funding opportunities	TBC	Aug
3.3 Support agencies to meet their natural resources and cultural heritage management consultation commitments	3.3.1 Taskforce discuss the most appropriate place(s) within agencies where planning is initiated and following confirmation, nominated officers advise planning colleagues the Ministerial consultation commitments in the KNYA and promote the need for early and pro-active engagement with the NRA through the Taskforce	All	May
	3.3.2 Nominated officers to liaise with their respective agency planning officer(s), or network of planning officers with responsibilities in the Ngarrindjeri Nation on a monthly basis and report back to Taskforce on planning / program activities	Nominated officers	Monthly
	3.3.3 Support the participation of Ngarrindjeri in, and or the establishment of working groups to enable appropriate Ngarrindjeri participation in related planning and policy development.	Nominated officers	Ongoing
	3.3.4 Promote the participation of Ngarrindjeri in regional project governance and planning arrangements to facilitate the incorporation of Ngarrindjeri worldview, cultural values, knowledge and interests.	Nominated officers	Ongoing
3.4 Facilitate coordinated engagement with Ngarrindjeri across the SA MDB, SE, AMLR and KI NRM Regions	3.4.1 Coordinate two joint NRA (DEWNR Natural Resources Regional Director) meeting per year aimed at coordinated Ngarrindjeri engagement across the four DEWNR / NRM regions (SE, AMLR, SAMDB, KI).	NRA / DEWNR	May and Nov
3.5 Facilitate advancement of NRA involvement in the planning and management of land vested in the	3.5.1 Consult with the NRA regarding opportunities to participate in planning and management of Crown land.	All	Ongoing



Crown within the Ngarrindjeri and Others Native Title claim area.			
3.6 Support information sharing regarding future risks such as climate change, population, food security.	3.6.1 Nominated officers to report on relevant climate change policy and planning activities or proposals, and support presentations to Taskforce meetings.	Nominated officers	Ongoing
	3.6.2 Promote and support Ngarrindjeri participation in projects regarding adaptation strategies regarding the CLLMM region.	Nominated officers	Ongoing

**Objective 4: Supporting Ngarrindjeri economic development opportunities**

**Description:** Taskforce provides a forum to communicate Ngarrindjeri economic development interests and support linkages between regional economic development opportunities and Ngarrindjeri interests

**Outcomes:** \*Ngarrindjeri economic development interests are communicated  
 \*Economic development opportunities and collaborations are identified

Strategy	Action	Who	When
4.1 Promote and support Ngarrindjeri economic development interests	4.1.1 Taskforce discuss the most appropriate place within agencies to distribute NRC capabilities statement and following confirmation, distribute the statement and Taskforce economic development items / outcomes	Nominated officers	May
	4.1.2 Standing item on KNYA Taskforce agenda on agency and NRA current and future economic development opportunities, grants, supplier panels in Ngarrindjeri Nation including tenders. <b>Out of session</b> identified or opportunistic economic development opportunities are communicated to the NRA and directed to meetings between relevant parties	Executive Officer	May
	4.1.3 Ngarrindjeri present on updated NRC capabilities statement in 2016 and joint partner stories and general economic priorities at workshop in mid-2016	NRA and partners	Jul

**Objective 5: Respectful and best practice research engagement with Ngarrindjeri**

**Description:** The Ngarrindjeri have long recognised the link between research and policy development but have been largely excluded from the research arena

**Outcomes:** \*Government research entities are aware of Ngarrindjeri research guidelines and engagement framework

Strategy	Action	Who	When
5.1 Promote Ngarrindjeri Research Guideline	5.1.1 Taskforce discuss the most appropriate place within agencies to distribute Ngarrindjeri research guideline and following confirmation, distribute the guideline and Taskforce research items / outcomes that are raised over time	Nominated officers	May
	5.1.2 Taskforce promote the Ngarrindjeri research guideline when research proposals arise, including considerations of human ethics as part of research proposal, where relevant	All	Ongoing
	5.1.3 Promote the importance of Cultural Knowledge management and protection for collaborative research projects with Ngarrindjeri	All	Ongoing