



Ngarrindjeri Nation Yarluwar-Ruwe Plan

**NGARRINDJERI NATION
YARLUWAR-RUWE PLAN**
Caring for Ngarrindjeri Sea Country and Culture



Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan
(Listen to Ngarrindjeri People Talking)

Caring for Ngarrindjeri Sea Country and Culture

Since the signing of the Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement in 2002, the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority was established and the 'Sea Country Plan' published in 2006, expressing the Ngarrindjeri vision for Country:

'Our Lands, Our Waters, Our People, All Living Things are connected. We implore people to respect our Ruwe (Country) as it was created in the Kaldowinyeri (the Creation). We long for sparkling, clean waters, healthy land and people and all living things. We long for the Yarluwar-Ruwe (Sea Country) of our ancestors. Our vision is all people Caring, Sharing, Knowing and Respecting the land, the waters and all living things.'

The Sea Country Plan recognises the spiritual beliefs of the Ngarrindjeri people expressed through Creation stories which reveal the significance of the relationship between the country and the people, both practically and spiritually.



Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement

Sincere expression of sorrow and apology to the Ngarrindjeri People

To the Ngarrindjeri people, the traditional owners of the land and waters within the region, the Alexandrina Council expresses sorrow and sincere regret for the suffering and injustice that you have experienced since colonisation and we share with you our feelings of shame and sorrow at the mistreatment your people have suffered.

We respect your autonomy and uniqueness of your culture. We offer our support and commitment to your determination to empower your communities in the struggle for justice, freedom and protection of your Heritage, Culture and interests within the Council area and acknowledge your right to determine your future.

We commit to work with you. We acknowledge your wisdom and we commit to ensuring our actions and expressions best assist your work. We accept your frustrations at our past ways of misunderstanding you.

We are shamed to acknowledge that there is still racism within our communities. We accept that our words must match our actions and we pledge to you that we will work to remove racism and ignorance.

We will recognise your leadership, we honour your visions, and we hope for a future of working together with respect for each other.

We look forward to achieving reconciliation with justice.

We ask to walk beside you, and to stand with you to remedy the legacy of 166 years of European occupation of your land and waters and control of your lives.

The work of the Alexandrina Council will be guided by your vision of a future where reconciliation through agreement making may be possible and we may walk together.

The Alexandrina Council acknowledges the Ngarrindjeri People's ongoing connection to the land and waters within its area and further acknowledges the Ngarrindjeri People's continuing culture and interests therein.

To the Alexandrina Council

The Ngarrindjeri people acknowledge the sorrow and regret expressed by the Alexandrina Council for the suffering and injustice experienced by our people since colonization.

We respect your commitment to work with us and your offer of support to empower our communities in the struggle for justice, freedom and protection of our heritage within the council area.

We embrace your vision of a future where reconciliation may be possible and offer our commitment to achieving this common goal.

We acknowledge that you recognise our connection to the land and waters of the region and appreciate your commitment to fostering respect for our culture and interests.

We look forward to working with you in order to harmoniously and sympathetically enhance the communities of both cultures in the future.

The above excerpt was taken from the 'Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunan Agreement'. This was signed and witnessed by Council and representatives of the Ngarrindjeri People on 8th October 2002.

About the Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement

Signed on the 8 October 2002 between Alexandrina Council and the Ngarrindjeri Heritage Committee, Ngarrindjeri Native Title Management Committee and the Ngarrindjeri Tendi (on behalf of Ngarrindjeri people, the Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan (Listen to Ngarrindjeri People Talking) agreement included a Sincere Expression of Sorrow and Apology to the Ngarrindjeri People and a series of commitments to work together.

Acknowledgement

The Council acknowledges that the Ngarrindjeri are the Traditional Owners of the Goolwa area and that according to their traditions, customs and spiritual beliefs its lands and waters remain their traditional country.

The Council 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.

Commitment

Both Alexandrina Council and the Ngarrindjeri commit to seek ways to work together to uphold Ngarrindjeri rights and to advance Ngarrindjeri Interests when decisions are being made about their traditional country, lands and waters.

- We commit to work together to advance harmonious community relations and promote the interests of the whole community.
- We commit to develop greater community understanding of Ngarrindjeri traditions, culture, laws, and spiritual beliefs in the Council area.

- We commit to work together to determine, and to advance the community recognition of, a framework agreement for the protection of Aboriginal sites, objects and remains in relation to development in the Council area.
- We commit to the formulation of a model or models of best practice for consultation in relation to development assessment within the meaning of the Development Act 1993 (SA) to occur in the Council area, which reflects the rights, interests and obligations of the Ngarrindjeri.
- We commit to formulate a strategy for the Ngarrindjeri to access their lands on, and waters around, Kumarangk (Hindmarsh Island).
- We will establish a joint committee comprising of equal numbers of Ngarrindjeri and Council representatives to develop a strategy for the implementation of the commitments expressed herein, whose name will be determined by the committee.
- These commitments are made as an act of good faith and not intended to affect the legal rights, powers, obligations or interests of either group.