



# Annual Report

## 2020 / 2021



*YYNAC Administration Building Completed July 2020*

*"We honor our ancestors that came before us and fought for all we have to this day including their aspirations, which continue to underpin our work. We honor them always and carry on their fight and work as Yorta Yorta."*

*"Gaka yawal Ngulla -Yenbena Yorta Yorta Woka"*

*Come walk with us, the people on Yorta Yorta Country.*





# Contents

3. [Elders/Chairperson Report](#)
5. [Board Members](#)
7. [CEO's Report](#)
9. [New Office Grand Opening](#)
10. [Dharnya Centre Redevelopment Project](#)
12. [DJPR Economic Development Grant](#)
15. [Annual Report 2019-20 Whole of Country Unit](#)
19. [Natural Resource Management - Woka Walla](#)
20. [The Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board \(YYTOLMB\)](#)
22. [Organisational Chart](#)
23. [Photos](#)
24. [Financial Report](#)

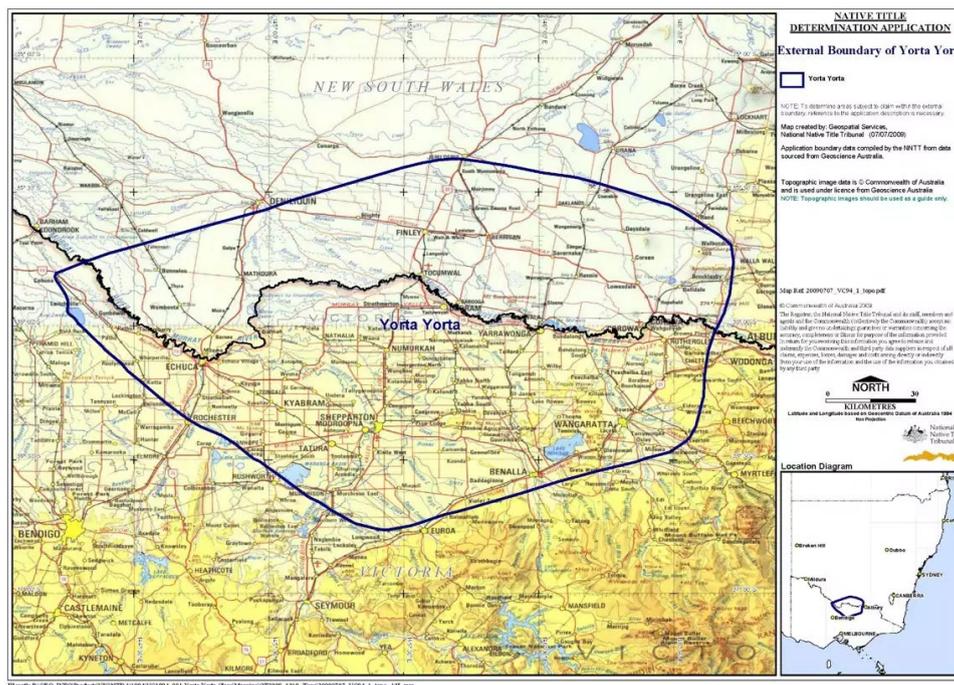




## Yorta Yorta

We, the Yorta Yorta Nation have been here since the beginning. We have been living for tens of thousands of years on a large part of present-day northern Victoria and southern New South Wales, centred on Dhungalla - today called the Murray River. We comprise the descendants of the original ancestors of our lands. Our Country extends from Violet Town in the south to north of Finley in New South Wales, and from Howlong in the east to Cohuna in the west. Dhungalla lies at the heart of our Country but many other rivers and wetlands make up our land: Kaiela (lower Goulburn River), Ovens River, Campaspe River, Wakool River, Edward River, Broken Creek, Ghow Swamp and Kanyapella. Many towns have been settled on Yorta Yorta Country: Echuca, Moama, Mathoura, Shepparton, Benalla, Tocumwal, Nathalia, Cobram, Corowa and Wangaratta.

To the south of our Country lies the land of the Taungurung, and to the south west lies the land of the Dja Dja Wurrung - traditional owner groups that are part of the Kulin Nation the people of Bunjil, the Eagle creator spirit. Further downstream along Dhungalla to the west, lies the land of the Barapa Barapa. To the north lies the Country of the Wiradjuri people. We share the lands and waters on our borders with those mobs, and common obligations to care for Country.



## Yenbenon - the story of the Yorta Yorta

The sovereign Yorta Yorta Nation represents the 16 family groups of our surviving Apical Ancestors. From the earliest days of the British invasion on to this Country — in what become known as Australia, Victoria and New South Wales — the Yorta Yorta people were left out in the distribution of their lands and waters. Without the consent of the Yorta Yorta Nation, the British explorers, squatters, and convicts trespassed on to our territory and claimed it as their own.

The Yenbenon<sup>1</sup> have fought for their rights, and even waged a frontier war up against the colonisers, much of which happened around the Moira Lakes, which is now called the Barmah Lakes. Yorta Yorta people became the victims of massacres,<sup>2</sup> violence, rape and exploitation. All without recognition of our rights, our loss of liberty, without justice or reparations. The arrival of Europeans around the 1840s had a devastating impact on Yorta Yorta. Within the first generation of colonisation, the Yorta Yorta population of some 5,000 to 6,000 was reduced by 85 per cent. The remaining Yorta Yorta population and other tribal groups from neighbouring areas were progressively relocated to Maloga Mission on the New South Wales side of the Murray River in 1874. Maloga was eventually closed and the residents were relocated at Cummeragunja Mission in 1888–89, which became the place where the Yorta Yorta were able to regroup. It also provided a base for the development of what became the Aboriginal political movement in the 1930s, led by some of Australia's outstanding Indigenous political leaders such as William Cooper, Sir Doug Nicholls, Marjorie Tucker, Geraldine Briggs, Shadrach James and others.

Between 1860 and 1994 there were 18 separate attempts to claim land and compensation by the Yorta Yorta community (Atkinson 1985). The Yorta Yorta continue to assert our inherent rights in the modern era. In 1998 the Federal Court rejected Yorta Yorta's native title claim, upheld by the Federal Court (Full Court) in 2001 and the High Court in 2002, holding that 'the tide of history had washed away acknowledgement of traditional laws and any real observance of traditional customs' (Federal Court 1998). This interpretation of the consequences of the displacement and destruction of the past has had a traumatic effect on Yorta Yorta people.

In 2004 a historic partnership between the Yorta Yorta Nation and the State of Victoria began when the Yorta Yorta Cooperative Management Agreement was signed at Echuca. Owing to the history of struggle, Yorta Yorta had for the first time a role in management of their Woka (lands) and Walla (waters). Yorta Yorta Nation continues with a proud history of strong fighters for social and land justice. This fight continues today as we head into a new era of self-determination. Today, our people live in many of the towns and cities of northern Victoria and southern New South Wales: But there are many parts of Country - that were 'alienated' and settled by the white colonisers - where we no longer live.

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<sup>1</sup> Yorta Yorta language: 'Yenbenon' — our people; 'Yenbena' — a Yorta Yorta person.

<sup>2</sup> Ryan et al (2017-2020) Colonial Frontier Massacres in Central and Eastern Australian 1788–1930  
<https://c21ch.newcastle.edu.au/colonialmassacres/detail.php?r=536>



## Wellbeing, health and the importance of connection to Country

Yorta Yorta identity inherently stems from a belonging to Country. This connection to Country is bound up with a fundamental responsibility to our Yorta Yorta ancestors who have been laid to rest in Yorta Yorta land. Yorta Yorta identity is created from our ancestors and mother earth. We are produced from this part of the Country and we need to rest here. We have a special and unique relationship with the forest that stems from a belief that we are inseparable from Country. Our ancestors, directly linked to those with us in the contemporary situation, tie us to this land. Our bloodline is created through our waterways, especially as Yorta Yorta stories tell of the creation of Dhungalla; this is the Yorta Yorta word for the Murray River system. Ancestors developed the management strategies that have been handed down to be used today, which is based on oral history.

Yorta Yorta people are inherently linked with their ancestors and with the Dreaming spirits. Responsibility to ancestry and connection with Country is very strong. It provides life direction. Knowing that governments and the broader community value and wish to protect Yorta Yorta Country is important to us but not enough. We must be involved in decisions and conservation operations in order to sustain our connection and fulfil our inherited obligations to care for Country. Our participation in decision-making must be on equal footing with other decision-makers.

Research by The Lowitja Institute and University of Queensland in 2018 found that by going on Country, Traditional Owners had better health (through increased exercise and better diet), and were able to have greater transmission of culture, increased family-time and enhanced spiritual connectedness.

## Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

The Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) is the representative body that provides an interface between governments and Yorta Yorta. YYNAC was established in 1998. It is registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cmwth.), to represent the members of the family groups; to make decisions and act on any matters of significance to the Yorta Yorta Peoples; and to enter into agreements with any person, First Nations, Government agency or authority in relation to the protection of Yorta Yorta Country. YYNAC is recognised as the Traditional Owner Group Entity for the Yorta Yorta Nation<sup>4</sup> and the recognised entity in agreements with the Victorian Government (see next section). YYNAC is also a Victorian Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic.) with decision-making responsibilities for protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage, and other matters, within the RAP area.

YYNAC undertakes a range of functions and activities throughout Victoria and New South Wales:

- cultural heritage work and projects including the legislative requirements of being a RAP
- assistance with the repatriation of Yorta Yorta ancestors
- the operation of the Yenbena Training Centre in Barmah township
- maintaining the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement with the State of Victoria over Barmah National Park
- the operation and management of a Natural Resource Management (NRM) team, with work on surveying, data collection, works and measures.

<sup>3</sup> David, G., Wilson, R., Yantarrnga, J., von Hippel, W., Shannon, C., & Willis, J. (2018), Health Benefits of Going On-Country, The Lowitja Institute, Melbourne

<sup>4</sup> See Attorney-General's Recognition Notice, Victorian Government Gazette, No. S 435, 26 October 2010.

(Yorta Yorta Whole-of-Country Plan 2021-2030, 2021)





## **A Message from Our Council of Elders Chairperson: Uncle Lance James**

Welcome to Yorta Yorta country, I pay respects to our ancestors we represent here today and special acknowledgement to the ones here with us today.

YYNAC is a Sovereign First Nation, I have had the privilege of being both the Elder's Council Chairperson for the last 4 years and Chairperson on the Board for 2 previous years before that, as well as the TOLMB Chairperson. We have worked our way into a solid foundation for YYNAC people of the future. This year has been very challenging for the Elder's Council due to Covid which meant we were not able to hold many meetings. I would like to acknowledge Uncle Ruben for being on the Council of Elders and the YYNAC board Deputy Chairperson. For YYNAC many milestones were achieved, we were overwhelmed with the crowd we saw on the Dharnya NAIDOC day with up to 300 people there. YYNAC staff displayed all the fantastic projects such as the Dharnya Centre redevelopment the Ulunja Farm Project, the Barmah Lakes Project which could be a pathway into the Masterplan, and I see the YYN Parks Victoria Rangers as a part of the Joint Management Plan. I would like to pay respects to each and every one of our staff who make it all happen, I look forward to working with you all in the future and seeing all of our plans come to fruition.



*Yorta Yorta Elders Uncle Lance James & Uncle Alf ' Boydie ' Turner on Yorta Yorta country at the Rumbalara Aged Care*

## COE Current Representatives

Aaron Atkinson - Barbara Day

Elizabeth Atkinson - Michael Jackomos

Ada Cooper - Lance James

Anabella Howard - Josie Briggs

Tommy McRae – Norm Stewart

Alf Morgan - Robert Russell (Dalby)

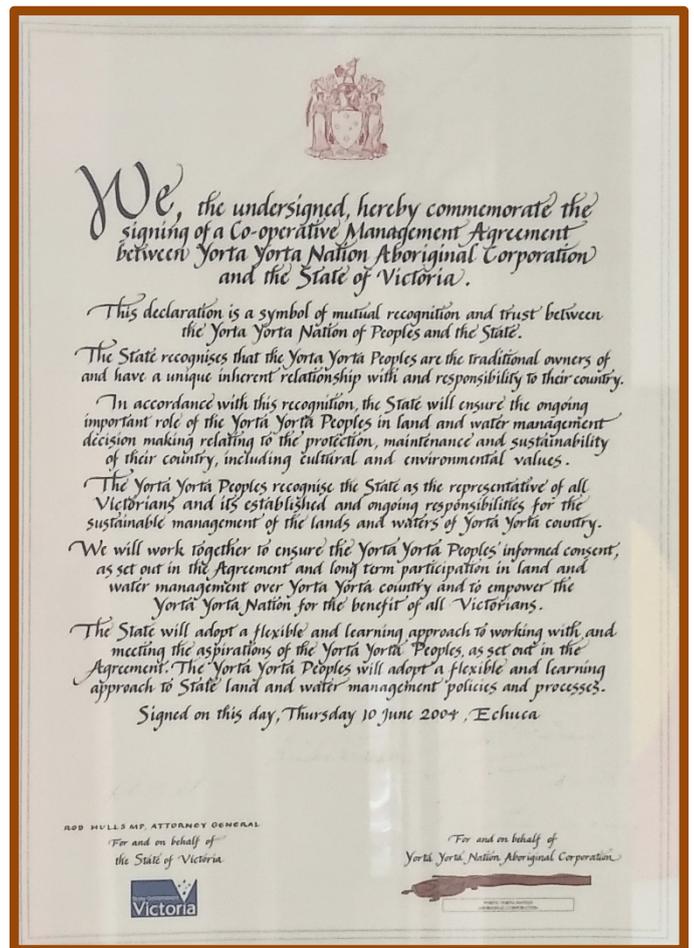
Baggot Morgan - Greta Morgan

Fred Walker – May Andy

William Cooper – Alf Turner (Boydie)

Jack Cooper – Tom Day Snr

**Vacant:** Maggie Toodles, Maggie Stone,  
Jenny Charles, John Atkinson, Edgar Atkinson



Co-Management Agreement 10-06-2004

**Yorta Yorta Council of Elders  
Chairperson, Uncle Lance James**



Smoking Ceremony NAIDOC Day 2021

# Board Members

## of the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

“Moving into 2022 Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation looks forward to continuing to build on the positive outcomes of 2021, working towards our aspirations of Caring for our lands, Cultural Heritage and Sovereign rights as Custodians of Yorta Yorta Woka. We will be continuing to work towards key projects listed throughout this Annual Report as well as working towards our very important position on Sovereignty, and continued progress towards our strategic directives as guided by our governance structures of the Council of Elders, Board of Directors and the 16 Yorta Yorta Family groups”



Joe Day - Chairperson  
Elected to the Board  
27<sup>th</sup> October 2018



Rueben Baksh – Deputy Chairperson  
Council of Elders Representative  
Elected to the Board 2012



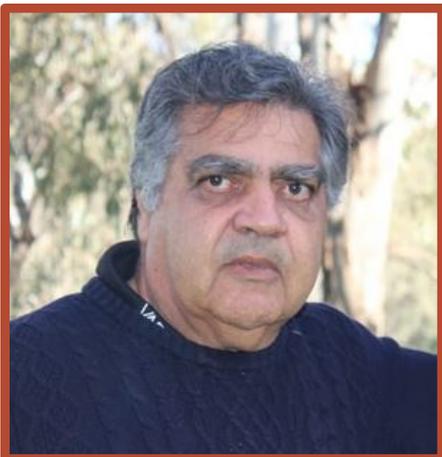
Michael Bourke – Secretary  
Elected to the Board  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2021



Kalina Whyman – Treasurer  
Elected to the Board  
27<sup>th</sup> October 2018



Lance James – COE Representative  
Elected to Board 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017



Desmond Morgan -Ordinary Board  
Member Elected to Board 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017



Bryan Andy – Ordinary Board Member  
Elected to Board 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020

## What YYNAC has achieved

**The Board and CEO have successfully undertaken a turnaround over the last four years, including:**

**Strategy** - 2021 to 2030 strategic plan has been developed, which outlines four key objectives:

1. Assert cultural authority and gain greater autonomy and independence
2. Empower family groups to be strong in their identity and to determine their own futures
3. Safeguard and promote Yorta Yorta cultural knowledge and intellectual property
4. Build a sustainable organisation that reflects the aspirations of Yorta Yorta people

### **Realigned Operations**

- (a) Operations have been realigned to the strategic objectives:
- (b) The Dharnya Centre has been progressed
- (c) Yenbena Training Centre divested
- (d) Ulunja Farm development

### **“Our Future in our Hands”**

Steps are being taken to divest the project:

- One property sold; the other will be sold once onerous lease agreement issue is resolved
- Residual debt expected to be removed from balance sheet
- Mortgage over Ulunja expected to be discharged

### **Corporate Governance**

- Improved corporate governance practices over last three years
- Financial reporting framework improved with auditor issuing unmodified audit opinion for FY21
- Compliance with ORIC reporting obligations; improved relationship with ORIC
- ORIC compliance obligations expected to be relieved shortly
- New Board and Council of Elders charters
- Updated policies and procedures defining interactions with family groups and members
- New position descriptions for senior management roles
- New Organisational Chart (finalised)
- New risk management framework (underway)

***“The turnaround of YYNAC’s corporate governance and strategy framework has directly benefited its financial viability. YYNAC’s improved financial position and performance will underpin future advocacy, cultural and member activities”***

(KPMG, 2021)



## CEO's Report

Monica Morgan: CEO Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Dear YYNAC members,

I face you today after 4 years as YYNAC Chief Executive Officer. These years have been both challenging and exciting, made most successful with support of our Yorta Yorta community especially our wonderful Elders and Staff who from the get-go were in for the challenge.

In 2022 it will be 30 years of the Mabo decision a time to reflect on our own fight for recognition and justice as Yorta Yorta People. We stood as one and we navigated a Native Title Claim over our own Woka and Walla.

It was a hard blow to take that loss, but we built ourselves from these ashes and negotiated a Co-Management Agreement which provides resources to look after our Country and Culture.

We created the YYNAC to give our Ancestors, Elders and Family groups a structure to give voice for the future for our Yenbenon, Woka and Walla.

We have fluctuated over the years, but as with all things it depends on the insight of people we choose to be our leaders.

Today we need to reflect on our successes and our failures. We need to learn what was good and learn from our mistakes in choice.

Of particular note is the leadership crisis experienced during the 2013/15 Financial years where YYNAC Governance and Operations were at breaking point. We saw individuals in leadership roles using our organisation for their own external interests to the detriment of the core business of YYNAC. We ended the financial year in a \$600,000.00 loss, a loan of 2 million over 2 Kialla properties, that combined were actually worth less than 1 million, a \$700,000 vendor loan and a mortgage over the Ulunja property.

The leadership abrogated their responsibility to the members and lost focus on their strategic and financial responsibility to YYNAC. For 6 months the Board failed to hold a meeting allowing both the Chair and CEO to use YYNAC for own personal interest.

Through the remedial work of the Board in 2015/16 we received an ORIC Notice of Compliance, this being a better option than going under administration.

The next Board lead by our Elders redefined our priorities and led us out of this dire situation.

YYNAC needed to re-establish our reputation as a strong and independent Sovereign First Nation with an organisation that not only respects our Ancestors our Elders and members but our country and culture.

We need to hold on to those aspirations of our People who met beside the River in the Barmah Park in the 1970s and dreamed of holding and protecting our land, water and culture, providing an opportunity to care for, work for and be in country.

In 2021 I stand proudly to say that our Elders, Board and especially our Staff have, over the journey of the last 5 years, allowed us to arrive at a place as an independent strong Yorta Yorta Nation.



*Uncle Lance James, Monica Morgan & Peter Harriott (CEO GSCC) at the signing of the MOU between YYNAC & Greater Shepparton City Council, in November 2020.*

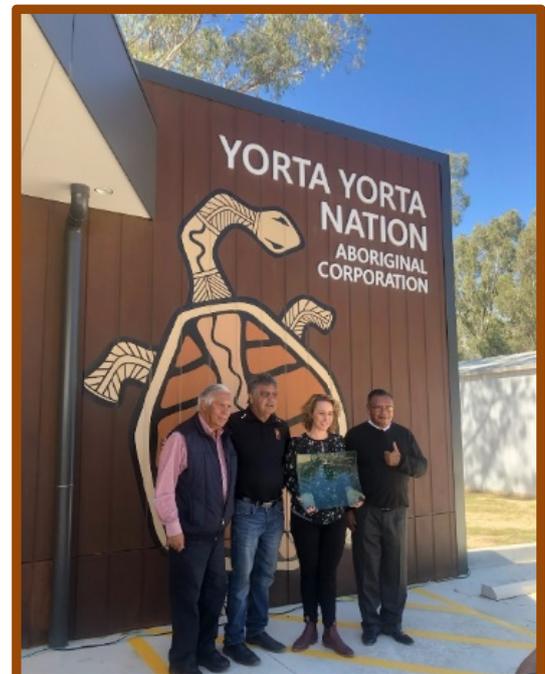


## New Office Grand Opening 35 Schier Street Barmah

We were happy to finally move into our amazing new administration building at 35 Schier Street Barmah, and on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> April 2021, we were privileged to officially open our facility. Gabrielle Williams, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Prevention of Family Violence and Minister for Women in the Victorian Government was in attendance to help us to mark this momentous occasion. Special thanks to the Victorian State Government under the Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program & Moretto Building for helping us achieve this wonderful outcome.



*Gabrielle Williams, Monica Morgan, Candice Duggan & Vanessa Charles*



*Uncle Lance James, Uncle Des Morgan, Gabrielle Williams and Uncle Joe Day*



*Our new reception area*



*Our welcoming Elders Facility*



*Inside Interpretive Centre 2021*

# Dharnya Centre Redevelopment Project

*The Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board released the Joint Management Plan for the Barmah National Park. The plan sets out the proposed management directions for the Barmah National Park over the next 10 years. This was released on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

*Associated projects include the Barmah Masterplan which includes the Dharnya Centre redevelopment, Barmah Lakes Precinct, and the Parks Victoria Ranger program.*

## **John Mitchell, Project Manager**

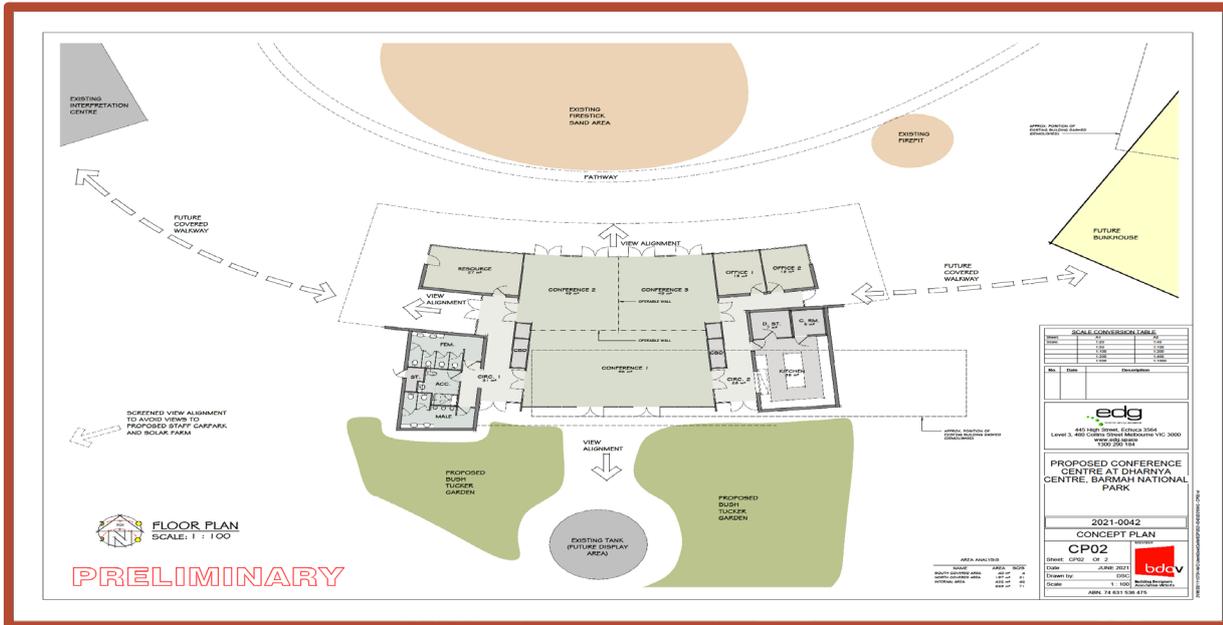
The Dharnya Centre Project includes both building and infrastructure needs including:

- The Interpretive building is now complete with just the final fit out to go.
- Replacing the old rangers house with a new building,
- Rebuild of a new 50 bed accommodation building with disability services and access
- A new conference Centre building with capacity of 120 people including commercial kitchen, 3 offices and toilets.
  
- The installation of the new 295,000-liter water tank.
- Landscape plan for the whole site has been finalised and ready to implement.

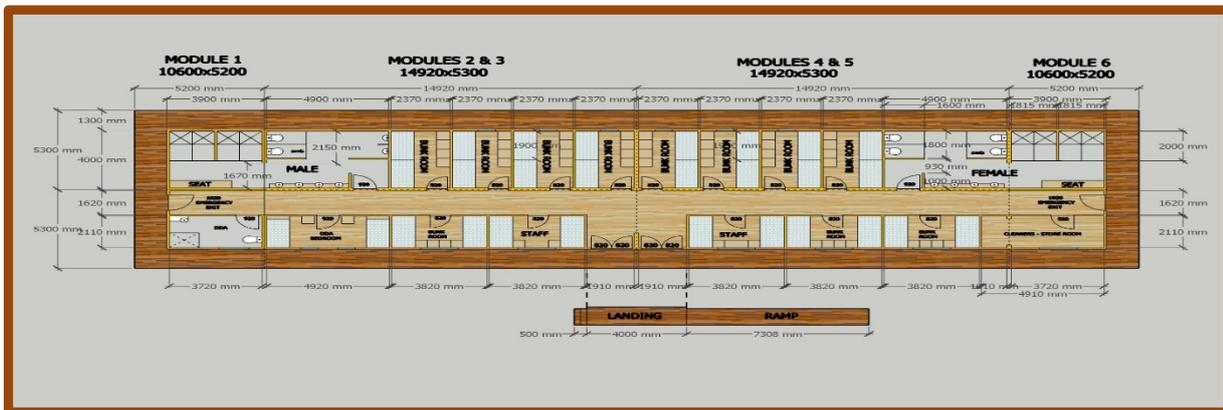
**Stage One:** Dharnya Interpretive Centre, Care Taker's House, Infrastructure and Landscaping

**Stage Two:** Visitor Accommodation (Bunk House)

**Stage Three:** Conference Centre & Meeting Room's, Amphitheatre



Site Plan



Bunk House

# DJPR Economic Development Grant

## Luke McNamara – YYNAC Business Development Manager

The overarching goal of the DJPR Economic Development Grant is to fund a Program that will enhance existing and produce new employment and self-sustainability opportunities for Yorta Yorta people in 2021 and 2022.

The Program's approach is to develop self-sustainable business initiatives which generate direct and indirect employment and human-resource development opportunities.

Program negotiations, completed in December 2020, produced four Workplan Components designed to:

- A. Acquire a Business Development Manager to re-activate the YYNAC Farms to produce income and employment opportunities from Wattle Seed & Medicinal Honey and other enterprises.
- B. Produce the YYNAC Business Development & Employment Strategy and revise the Woka Wolla Business Plan.
- C. Develop a Cultural Tourism & Education Plan (CTEP) for the Dharnya Centre.
- D. Develop small-business employment opportunities for the 16 Yorta Yorta family groups.

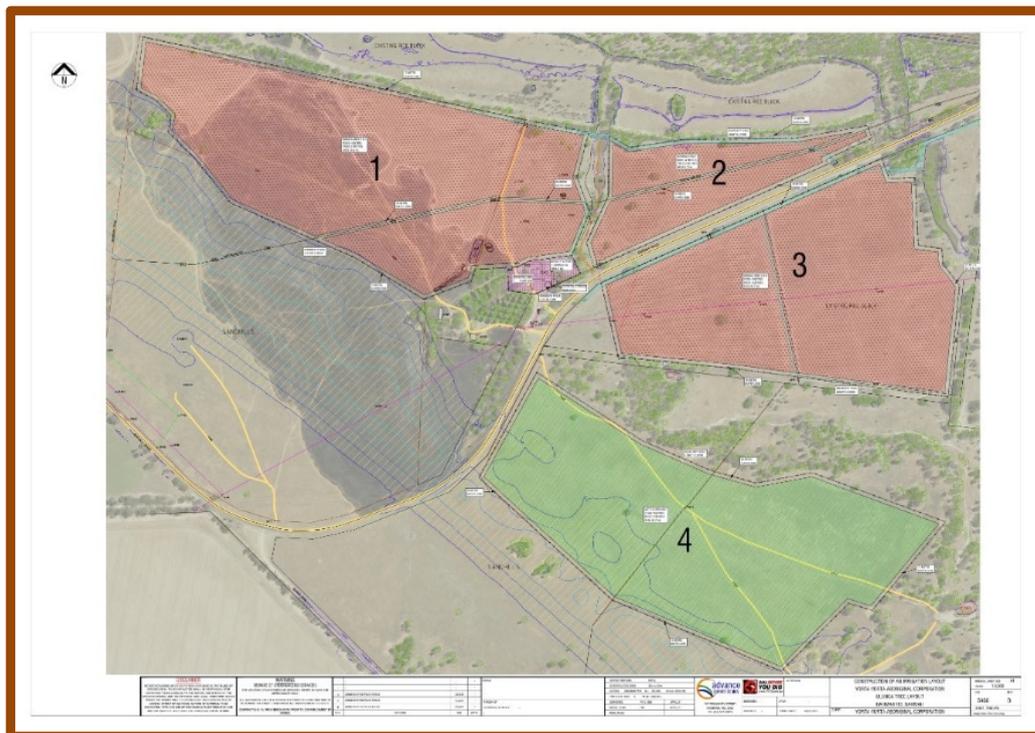
As at the time of writing, all components of this Program are being delivered within Budget and on time.

### **Project Schedule:**

NB: Activation of Component D will accelerate as the Dharnya Centre Construction projects approach completion.

- A. The Business Development management role is now fully active: The BDM & Finance team finalised the \$3.4M Ulunja Farm Business Case to fund the development of 4 new farming enterprises. Work on legal Agreements with Management and Marketing partners in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter triggered the first tranches of Capital and Operational funds from the ILSC to establish the Wattle Seed Orchard and the drip irrigated Medicinal Honey Forest. This team also completed the procurement of the fencing materials and the weed spraying on all rip-lines. In effect, this DJPR Grant has enabled the approval of the ILSC funding Business Case and the subsequent Project Management of the Capital works on the YYNAC Farm.
- B. The YYNAC Business Development & Employment Strategy was created under this DJPR project. It was coupled with the re-written Woka Walla Business Plan and submitted as part of the June DJPR funding submission to underwrite new employment at the Dharnya Centre. This has enabled DJPR to fund the acquisition of both a Tourist Bus and a River Cruise company and 7 employees, including the critically important Dharnya Centre Manager. This exemplifies how the DELWP funded re-construction of the Dharnya Centre can be complemented by targeted DJPR investments into operational positions and tourism vehicles.

- C. The original Dharnya Centre Business Case for the National Park Joint-Management Plan has been reviewed under this DJPR Economic Development Grant to form the foundation of the new Cultural Tourism & Education Plan (CTEP). This CTEP has undergone its second draft which was informed by 2 field visits to Halls Gap in the Grampians in Victoria and to Brewarrina in NSW. The final and most comprehensive visit to finalise the CTEP will be to the Gunditjmarra Traditional Owner Group. This DJPR Economic Development Grant has also enabled the Dharnya Centre to benefit from the signing of two smaller grants to establish Solar and Battery Energy on all Buildings and a Glamping site at the Eastern end of at the Dharnya Centre.
- D. The Small Business Ideas Questionnaire has been developed for the 16 families and trialed internally. Initial outcomes show that the activation of this Component is heavily dependent on the completion of the Dharnya Centre construction and the funding approval and establishment of the YYNAC farming enterprises. Accordingly, the proposed appointment of a full-time Employment and Business Hub Manager has been delayed until the beginning of 2022. In the meantime, the Questionnaire will be used at the upcoming Yorta Yorta Family Group Meetings.

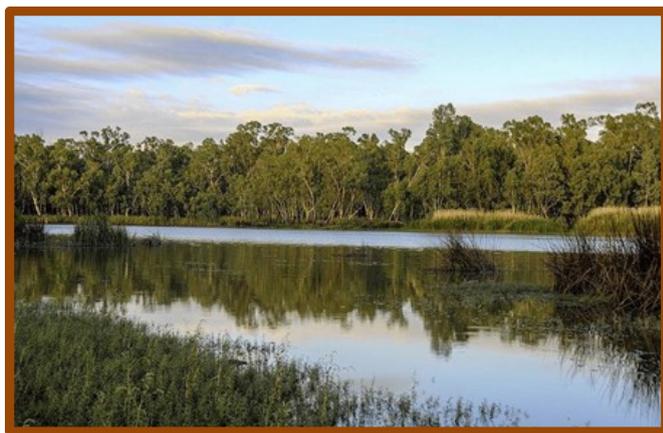


*Map of Ulunja Farm*



*Planting has begun!*





*Barmah Lake*

## **Annual Report 2019-20 Whole of Country Unit**

***Report by - Engagement & Coordination Manager, Whole of Country Unit : Jay Whittaker***

***Cultural Fire & Engagement Coordinator - Djaran Whyman***

***Living Murray Facilitator- Sonia Cooper***

***Water Policy Officer- Vacant***

***Barmah Joint Management Plan Coordinator- Vanessa Charles***

It was an eventful year for the Whole of Country Team in 2020-21, in a largely Covid-19 interrupted year we managed to launch our guiding document the Whole of Country Plan 2021-2030. Special thanks to Brian Doolan of Montane Planning who was engaged to help develop the Plan. This document will underpin Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporations focus on key strategic initiatives and Country management activities. The Whole of Country Plan reflects the aspirations and directions provided by our Elders, members, staff and partners.

Despite not being able to commit to broader community engagement activities the Whole of Country Team continued to advocate for change, greater engagement, and key changes to Policy direction. A key piece of work involved embedding Cultural Values and alignment of our Whole of Country Plan into 3 separate Regional Catchment Strategies for North East Catchment Management Authority, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, and North Central Catchment Management Authority. Input involved ensuring they were written in a culturally safe manner, had a strong emphasis on Traditional Owner engagement and participation.

The health of our rivers, lagoons, billabongs, creeks and streams has been in rapid decline, as a direct result of mismanagement and the high demand for downstream irrigation.

We were also successful in obtaining funding for waterway and wetland protection works through the DELWP Aboriginal Water Unit 'Caring for Country' programme. This will empower project delivery on a number of key waterways and wetlands with a focus on Traditional Owner led research. The project will be delivered over a 3-year period.

We also lobbied intensely for change to protect the Goulburn River and Lower Broken Creek through the Goulburn to Murray Trade Rule Review. New interim operating rules have since been adopted and YYNAC will play a key role in monitoring Cultural Values that will gauge the success of these rules before a decision is made on optimum operating rules. The tipping point for this rule was the damage observed on the Goulburn River as a result of meeting irrigation demand. The monitoring programme led by YYNAC will be conducted over a 3-year period and will be considered in addition to broader river condition monitoring by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.

We have also been working closely with partners to deliver environmental water to Barmah National Park, Kanyapella Basin, Loch Garry, Richardson's Lagoon, Moodie Swamp, Black Swamp to name a few. Some great outcomes have been achieved in these important landscapes.

Working alongside NCCMA to reintroduce southern pygmy perch into a lagoon system in the Gunbower State Forest through the Native Fish Recovery Program.

Cultural Fire & Engagement Coordinator Djaran Whyman has been busy in his evolving role with a focus on Cultural Fire to heal Country. YYNAC is a significant contributor to the newly established State-wide Cultural Fire Leadership Panel. This Panel will embark on enabling and empowering Cultural Burning to occur, this will involve in reviewing current operating rules, cutting red tape and enabling more of the community in this type of activity. In the interim we have been working with our partners to nominate sites for Cultural Burning, training staff, and providing insight into what resources are required for on-ground delivery of Cultural Burning. Our Kanyapella Cultural Burn of 2020 remains an interesting case study of restoring biodiversity in a waterway through the use of fire and water.

Barmah National Park Living Murray Facilitator Sonia Cooper continues the important role of Living Murray Facilitator. This function is vitally important, notably for the health of the Barmah National Park and associated wetlands. One of the key investigations occurring as part of this program is a Traditional Owner led research project into bank condition and soil health of the Pama Narrows environment. Acoustic monitoring of turtles continues to occur.

Barmah Joint Management Plan Coordinator Vanessa Charles has played a critical role in coordinating Barmah National Park Joint Management Planning and Implementation, supporting the Yorta Yorta/Parks Victoria Joint Management Rangers

YYNAC have actively sought opportunities for the Joint Management Rangers to work alongside researchers/stakeholders/CMAs in the Barmah NP.

## Joint Management Yorta Yorta Rangers

Key Achievements Nov 2020 – June 2021

Successfully completed their induction to Parks Victoria and all compulsory training

Attended the Flood Plain Ecology course, Ranger Team Lead Ralph Hume provided an Indigenous interpretation on the geology, flora and fauna

Participated in the planning and delivery of NAIDOC, Dharnya Day July. The Rangers were actively involved with the planning, preparation and organisation of the site, facilitation of the event and assisting with packing and cleaning up after the event which was greatly appreciated by all YYNAC staff and committee members. NAIDOC

Planned and delivered successful fox baiting programs

Visitor surveying: Vehicle counters were installed at the entrance of the Barmah National Park to capture visitation numbers to identify which sites are more 'popular' to inform future planning concepts and provide better visitor experiences.

The Joint Management Rangers assist Greta Morgan & Hilda Stewart PV II&E Rangers to deliver Junior Ranger programs and are keen to develop a similar program that is suitably designed to cater for the interests of Yorta Yorta children.

YYNAC/PV are supporting the Joint Management rangers to develop skills to undertake cultural surveying and site protection in the Barmah National Park



*Figure 1- Environmental Water delivery at Loch Garry (500ML)*

*Figure 2- Graham Weston, Mick Bourke, and Djaran Whyman establishing monitoring points ahead of a Cultural Burn at Yambuna.*



# Yorta Yorta Whole-of-Country Plan 2021 - 2030 Summary

The Whole-of-Country Plan describes our Country, our aspirations as the First Nations people of this place, and the actions we will take to restore our Country and culture to health. The Plan sets out actions at four levels.

## Whole-of-Country actions – we will:

- Strengthen our existing role in managing Country and negotiate expanded recognition, access and responsibilities.
- Protect and repair the strongholds of Country that have survived land clearance and push to reverse the decline of cleared Country.
- Pursue our inherent right to water entitlements that are legally and beneficially owned by Yorta Yorta, of a sufficient quantity and quality to improve our spiritual, cultural, environmental, social and economic needs.
- Increase recognition and protection of the natural and cultural values of air and dark skies.
- Conserve abundant wildlife populations; and protect and recover culturally important and threatened animal species.
- Revive and re-establish cultural fire practices to improve Country health while reconnecting our people to Country.
- Protect and conserve our tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and control the sharing of heritage information, data and stories.
- Push for greater recognition of the threat of climate change and demand urgent action through our climate change declaration.

## Bioregional actions – we will:

- Protect *nurtja gakan* - our river forests and wetlands - through cultural practices, burning, improved watering, and invasive plant and animal control.
- Protect, restore and reconnect the remnant vegetation and seasonal wetlands on *natja* - the grassy woodland plains.
- Protect remnant vegetation, wildlife habitat, views and the cultural significance of *narraga iyoga* – the rocky hills of our Country.

## Priority places - we will:

- Take action to protect, conserve and promote the natural and cultural values of a wide range of special places with priority on our major rivers, Barmah-Millewa Forest, Ghow Swamp, Lower Goulburn forest and wetlands, Gunbower-Perricoota Forest, Warby Range and Ovens River Forest, and remnant vegetation and cultural sites around Savernake.

## Capability, resources and education – we will:

- Gather, safeguard and promote Yorta Yorta knowledge and information.
- Continue to build a sustainable organisation that can deliver the Country aspirations of our people.
- Build economic opportunities based on managing and using the resources of Country and presenting Country to visitors.
- Increase the understanding and respect for Yorta Yorta Country and culture among other people, through storytelling and other means, using a revitalised Dharnya Centre as the primary hub.





## Natural Resource Management / Woka Walla

Woka Walla & the YYNAC Cultural Heritage Unit have continued to work towards many projects in 2020 -2021. With all of the Lockdowns the crew have been lucky to keep working and to get projects delivered relating to protection and mangement of Cultural Heritage, and pest, animal and weed control. Some key projects have included :

### Woka Walla Projects

- Parks Vic – Barmah NLP2 Woody Weeds
- Fox Control
- Lower Goulburn Woody Weeds
- Goulburn Broken CMA –Grey box
- Woodland Project - weed control.

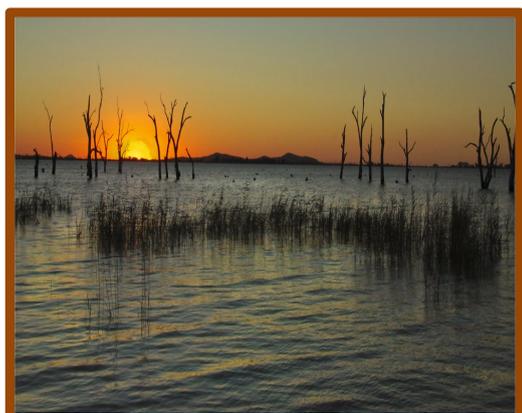
### Cultural Heritage Unit

Key Projects :

- Lower Gunbower Floodplain Resteration Project
- Echuca Moama Bridge



*Images ; Top right , Kanyapella Burning, Left Below , Ghow Swamp, Right below, Woka Walla Fencing*





*TOLMB 2010-11-22 (BMF aerial survey) 025 - Barmah Lake (Keith Ward)*

## **The Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board (YYTOLMB)**

In 2020-21 the Board underwent a change in membership, appointing seven (7) Yorta Yorta members on the 30 October 2020 to the Board for a three (3) year term, after the previous Boards appointment period concluded on 17 March 2020.

Making up the Board are new members Lance James, along with Kalina Morgan-Whyman and Joe Day. Whilst Des Morgan, Corey Walker and Jade Miller have been reappointed and have been a sounding board for our new members that will keep our momentum going into this next phase of implementation.

Whilst the majority of our recently appointed Board members are new to the YYTOLMB and are learning with each process, we have been able to maintain momentum generated by the previous members and their enthusiasm in driving Joint Management on behalf of the whole community.

The Board has now begun transitioning into the next phase of Joint Management beginning with the appointment of Montane Planning to prepare a Joint Management Implementation Plan for Barmah National Park.

The Board along with partners Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Park Victoria, have begun implementing some of the objectives within the Joint Management Plan as part of the funding received from the Stimulus Package Initiative.

The Board and staff look forward to completing the JMP Implementation Plan in November 2021 and the continued working relationship with partners in deliver the key objectives and related strategies of the Joint Management Plan.

### **Some of the Key Objectives and Strategies include:**

- (s) Reduce the impacts and restore the health of the floodplain marshes of the park.
- (t) Participate in environmental watering planning
- (u) Update and expand cultural site mapping of the park
- (v) Protect cultural sites at risk of impacts
- (w) Increase Yorta Yorta participation in burning
- (x) Continue turtle research
- (y) Re-introduction of native fish
- (z) Revise the apiary plan for the park
- (aa) Develop a new visitor guide/map for the park that shows JMP controls on camping, fires, firewood collection, chainsaw/generator use, bait collection, horse riding, boating, dogs
- (bb) Revitalise the Dharnya Centre and surrounds through the Barmah Master Plan
- (cc) Develop a road and track access plan
- (dd) Install constructed fireplaces in Dhungalla Zone to protect sites, and enforce use via regulations
- (ee) Install ESTA Emergency Markers throughout the Park

### **Staff Members:**

Damian Morgan Bulled – Executive Officer

Clayton Murray-Mitchell – Administration Support Officer

### **Board Members:**

Lance James (Chairperson)

Corey Walker

Desmond Morgan (Deputy Chairperson)

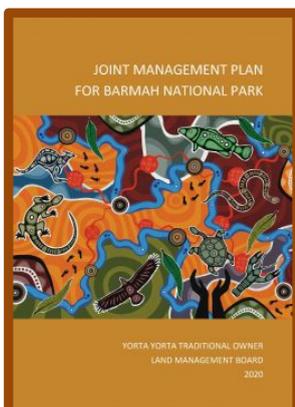
Joe Day

Kalina Morgan-Whyman (Secretary Nominee)

Jade Miller

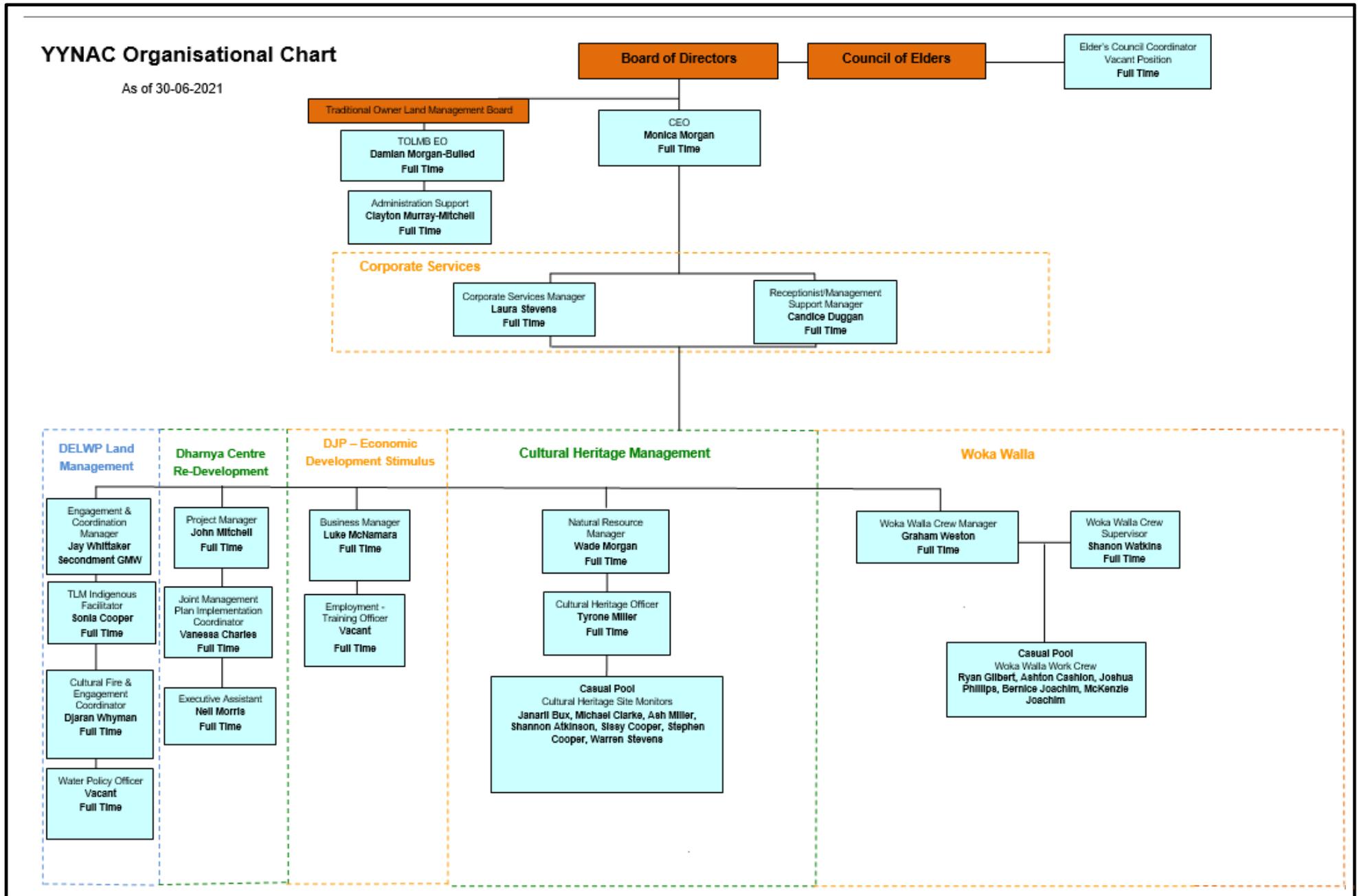
To find out more about the YYTOLMB visit

<https://yytolmb.com.au>



*Murray River Redgum in flood*

# YYNAC Organisational Chart 2021





*Dharnya Day 2021 - NAIDOC - with The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Minister for Solar Homes.  
 Special thanks to - Dhungala Dance, Jason Tamiru, Madi Colville-Walker, Lillie Walker, Phillip Murray, Christopher Walker, Ralph Hume & PV Staff, stall holders,  
 YYNAC Elders, Board, Staff & volunteers and all who attended!*

# Financial Statements

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Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

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ABN: 55 942 996 311

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2021

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

30 June 2021

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CONTENTS	Page
Directors' Report	1
Auditor's Independence Declaration	5
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	6
Statement of Financial Position	7
Statement of Changes in Equity	8
Statement of Cash Flows	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10
Directors' Declaration	30
Independent Auditor's Report	31

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Directors' Report

Your directors submit the financial report of the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

## Directors

The names of directors throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Joe Day (Chairperson from 5 March 2021)  
Hilary Rueben Baksh (Vice Chairperson from 5 March 2021) Michael Bourke  
(Secretary from 5 March 2021)  
Kalina Morgan-Whyman (Resigned as Secretary: December 2020. Reappointed: 5 March 2021, as Treasurer) Desmond Morgan Snr (Vice  
Chairperson until 18 December 2020) (Chairperson 18 December 2020 – 5 March 2021) Lance James (Treasurer until 5 March 2021)  
Bryan Andy (Chairperson until 18 December 2021)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

## Review of Operations

The surplus of the corporation for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 after provision for income tax was:

Year ended 30 June 2021	Year ended 30 June 2020
\$	\$
2,746,674	2,083,060

The corporation has delivered a consecutive financial year surplus for the past five years, with total surplus increasing year on year. Current year revenue increased by \$1.175mil compared to the prior year and can be largely attributed to winning a large amount of funding during the year, including operational funding of \$700k for the Dharnya Centre project along with capital grant funding recorded.

Expenditure also increased during the year, however only by \$500k. This increase can mainly be attributed to an increase in salaries and wages, due to new staff members employed during the year.

The combination of the above resulted in an increase of \$660k surplus compared to the prior year.

## Principal Activities

The principal activities of the corporation during the financial year were to:

- represent the members of the Family Groups who are descendants of the Original Ancestors of the Yorta Yorta Peoples
- make decisions and act on any matters of significance to the Yorta Yorta Peoples
- enter into agreements with any person, Government agency or authority in relation to the protection of Yorta Yorta Country.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

## Significant Changes

Since January 2020, the COVID-19 coronavirus has developed and spread globally. There have been various social isolation measures introduced by the Federal and State Governments since this date to reduce the spread of the virus which the corporation has been required to comply with.

No other significant changes in the corporation's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Directors' Report

## Events Subsequent to the End of the Reporting Period

Subsequent to year-end, the Victorian and New South Wales State Government's revised social isolation measures as appropriate based on the level of community transmission, which included the reintroduction of strict isolation measures in July and August 2021 for all of Victoria and New South Wales which the corporation has been required to comply with. The corporation has employees, suppliers and members from the community who travel across the border, which are now unable to do so without obtaining a permit.

There have been no other events subsequent to the balance sheet date that have an impact that would require disclosure in the financial statements or notes there of.

## Environmental Regulation

The corporation's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

## Indemnification of Officers

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the corporation.

## Proceedings on Behalf of the Entity

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the entity or intervene in any proceedings to which the entity is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the entity for all or any part of those proceedings.

The corporation was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

## Information on Directors

### Joe Day

#### Experience and qualifications:

Joe is a proud Yorta Yorta man and is from the Aaron Atkinson Atkinson family group. Joe is very passionate about his culture and supporting his community. Joe is currently employed as the Community Pastor at Njernda Aboriginal Corporation. In addition, Joe is currently the Chairperson of the First Contact Social Justice Advocacy Referral Service / ACJP Echuca, the Chairperson of the Local Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee and is a board member of the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board. Joe has also previously held positions on the boards of the Njernda Aboriginal Corporation, Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Ngwala Willumnong Aboriginal Corporation.

#### Special Responsibilities:

Chairperson

### Hilary Rueben Baksh

#### Experience and qualifications:

Hilary is currently a board member of the Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Limited. Hilary has also been a valued member of the Yorta Yorta board since 2012.

#### Special Responsibilities:

Deputy Chairperson - Elders Representative

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Directors' Report

## Information on Directors (continued)

### Michael Bourke

Experience and qualifications: Mick Bourke is a proud Yorta Yorta man, and bloodline connections to Dja Dja Wurrung Ngurailam and more a father of three and active member of several community organisations including Bendigo District Aboriginal Men's Group, Rumbalarra Aboriginal Co-operative, and Wanyara Woka Men's Group wulumbarra community group. Mick currently works as a fire burn planner for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. In this role Mick has re-introduced the work of cultural burning into Victoria's controlled burning regimes. He works closely with traditional owners in carrying out culturally informed planned burning on their lands. As a Director of the Firesticks Alliance he leads workshops on customary tool making, native flora and fauna. Mick is also a board member at Dja Dja Wurrung.

Special Responsibilities: Secretary

### Kalina Morgan-Whyman

Experience and qualifications: Kalina Morgan-Whyman is a proud Yorta Yorta woman with a bachelor's degree in commerce with majors in accounting, management, and human resources. Kalina is also a board member of the Yorta Yorta TOLMB, a board member and the Chair of Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Services Inc and member of various Finance (Audit and Risk) Sub-Committee's along with holding senior roles in the Finance and Operations area of Aboriginal organisations. Kalina is currently the Corporate Services Manager at an Aboriginal Community Controlled organisation and has experience in her employment and as a Director of Boards including Audit, Finance and Accounting Management system and activities, Strategic Governance and Implementation, Organisation Human Resources and Workforce Development, compliance management, risk management.

Special Responsibilities: Treasurer; Chairperson of the Audit, Risk and Finance Subcommittee

### Desmond Morgan Snr

Experience and qualifications: Des is a Yorta Yorta man from the Murray/Goulburn river area of Victoria/NSW. He has been an active member of the Aboriginal community since 1984, having served on various local and state organisations, Boards of Management Inc, Legal Service, Aborigines Advancement League, VACSAL and VAEAI. Des also served a six-year period as an ATSIC Regional Councillor and past Chair of NJERNDA (Echuca) for several years.

### Lance James

Experience and qualifications: Lance currently works as a Cultural Officer at Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Limited. Lance is also the Chairperson of the Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation Elders Council and is the Chairperson of the Yorta Yorta Nations Traditional Owners Land Management Board. Lance's previous experience includes being the Chairperson of the Fitzroy Stars Gym, the Chairperson of Splash (Arts Studio for people with Mental Health issues) and the Chairperson of the Francis House Women's Refuge.

Special Responsibilities: Elders Representative

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Directors' Report

## Information on Directors (continued)

### Bryan Andy

Experience and qualifications:

Bryan Andy is a Yorta Yorta man from Cummeragunja – an Aboriginal village on the Murray River. He works with Yirramboi First Nations Arts Festival as a marketing coordinator and event producer. Bryan is also a freelance writer, radio broadcaster, arts event producer and is the Convenor of OutBlack – an LGBT social support and advocacy group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Victoria.

## Meetings of Directors

The number of Directors meetings attended by each of the Directors of the corporation during the year were:

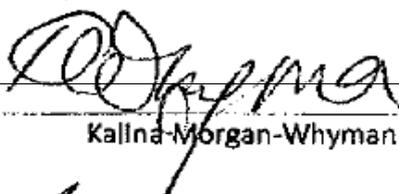
	Director's Meetings	
	Eligible	Attended
Joe Day	11	11
Hilary Rueben Baksh	11	10
Michael Bourke	5	5
Kalina Morgan-Whyman	9	8
Desmond Morgan Snr	11	9
Lance James	11	9
Bryan Andy	11	6

## Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* is set out on page 5.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Treasurer



Kalina Morgan-Whyman

Secretary



Michael Bourke

Dated: 8 November 2021

## Lead auditor's independence declaration under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* to the Directors of Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

As lead auditor for the audit of Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2021, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* in relation to the audit; and
- ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



**Andrew Frewin Stewart**

61 Bull Street, Bendigo Vic 3550

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021



**Adrian Downing**

**Lead Auditor**

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue	2	4,997,682	2,890,634
Other income	3	472,333	1,403,406
Depreciation expense	4	(255,718)	(202,721)
Employee benefits expenses		(1,747,242)	(1,379,370)
Administration expenses		(253,224)	(184,052)
Advertising and promotional costs		(4,961)	(932)
Finance costs		(14,912)	(23,647)
Occupancy and associated costs		(55,693)	(80,766)
Motor vehicle expenses		(67,799)	(62,287)
Accommodation and travel costs		(7,550)	(5,473)
Consultant fees		(57,739)	(17,045)
Repairs and maintenance		(94,208)	(90,323)
Other expenses		(164,295)	(164,364)
<b>Surplus before income tax expense</b>		<b>2,746,674</b>	<b>2,083,060</b>
Income tax expense	1(a)	-	-
<b>Surplus after income tax expense</b>		<b>2,746,674</b>	<b>2,083,060</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity</b>		<b>2,746,674</b>	<b>2,083,060</b>

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	6,196,256	1,951,901
Accounts receivable and other debtors	7	96,144	1,003,082
Other assets	8	18,851	16,039
Non-current assets held for sale	9	740,000	740,000
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>7,051,251</b>	<b>3,711,022</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Intangible assets	10	1,461,190	1,461,190
Property, plant and equipment	11	6,626,693	5,959,291
Right of use assets	12	40,997	140,119
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>8,128,880</b>	<b>7,560,600</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>15,180,131</b>	<b>11,271,622</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable and other payables	13	444,110	376,289
Other liabilities	14	1,588,493	620,000
Lease liabilities	15	25,946	141,768
Provisions	16	181,702	112,397
Financial liabilities	17	48,165	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>2,288,416</b>	<b>1,250,454</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Lease liabilities	15	14,999	10,979
Provisions	16	28,511	21,024
Financial liabilities	17	1,853,592	1,741,226
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>1,897,102</b>	<b>1,773,229</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>4,185,518</b>	<b>3,023,683</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>10,994,613</b>	<b>8,247,939</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Reserves	18	1,740,053	1,740,053
Retained surplus		9,254,560	6,507,886
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>10,994,613</b>	<b>8,247,939</b>

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Total
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	4,885,095	1,740,053	6,625,148
Cumulative impact following adoption of AASB 16	(12,572)	-	(12,572)
Cumulative impact following adoption of AASB 15/1058	(447,697)	-	(447,697)
<b>Adjusted balance at 1 July 2019</b>	4,424,826	1,740,053	6,164,879
Surplus for the year	2,083,060	-	2,083,060
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the entity</b>	2,083,060	-	2,083,060
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	6,507,886	1,740,053	8,247,939
<b>Balance at 1 July 2020</b>	6,507,886	1,740,053	8,247,939
Surplus for the year	2,746,674	-	2,746,674
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the entity</b>	2,746,674	-	2,746,674
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	9,254,560	1,740,053	10,994,613

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers and government grants		8,047,136	3,988,662
Payments to suppliers and employees		(3,017,851)	(2,166,698)
Interest received		5,251	6,566
Finance costs		(14,912)	(23,647)
Short-term and low-value lease payments		-	(51,015)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	20	5,019,624	1,753,868
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(614,248)	(1,849,364)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		-	1,476
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		(614,248)	(1,847,888)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Payment of principal elements of lease payments		(152,592)	(137,556)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		(152,592)	(137,556)
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash held</b>		4,252,784	(231,576)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		1,951,901	2,183,477
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>	6	6,204,685	1,951,901

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

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The financial statements were authorised for issue on 8 November 2021 by the directors of the corporation.

The financial statements cover the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

#### Basis of preparation

The corporation applies Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements as set out in AASB 1053: *Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards*.

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*. The corporation is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

#### Accounting Policies

##### (a) Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the corporation is exempt from income tax as the corporation is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Public Benevolent Institution.

##### (b) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

#### Land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings are shown at their fair value (being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction), based on periodic, but at least quadrennial, valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are credited to a revaluation reserve in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset class are charged against the asset revaluation reserve directly in equity; all other decreases are charged to the statement of profit or loss. Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

#### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

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**(b) Property, plant and equipment (continued)**

In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses recognised in profit or loss. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present (refer to Note 1(f) for details of impairment).

Plant and equipment that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost, are valued and recognised at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

**Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings, but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line or diminishing value basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets, which are consistent with the prior year, are:

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rate
Buildings	2.5%
Motor vehicles	25%
Office furniture	20 - 50%
Plant and equipment	20 - 50%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing net proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they occur. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained surplus.

**(c) Intangible assets**

Each class of intangible assets is carried at cost or fair value as indicated less, where applicable, any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses, if applicable.

**Permanent water entitlements**

Permanent water entitlements are shown at their fair value (being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction), based on periodic, but at least quadrennial, valuations by external independent valuers.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of permanent water entitlements are credited to a revaluation reserve in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset class are charged against the asset revaluation reserve in equity; all other decreases are charged to the statement of profit or loss. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained surplus.

**Amortisation**

Permanent water entitlements are not subject to amortisation as they are considered to have an indefinite useful life.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

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**(d) Leases****Lease recognition***The corporation as lessee*

At inception of a contract, the corporation assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the corporation where the corporation is a lessee. However, all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (ie a lease with a remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low-value assets (ie fair value less than \$5,000 - \$10,000) are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Initially, the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at lease commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the corporation uses the incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows:

- fixed lease payments less any lease incentives
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date
- the amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees
- the exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options
- lease payments under extension options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease.

The corporation is exposed to potential future increases in variable lease payments based on an index or rate, which are not included in the lease liability until they take effect. When adjustments to lease payments based on an index or rate take effect, the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset. No lease arrangements contain variable payment terms that are not linked to an index or rate.

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, as well as any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right-of-use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset, whichever is the shortest. Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the corporation anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

For leases that have significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the corporation to further its objectives (commonly known as peppercorn/concessionary leases), the corporation has adopted the temporary relief under AASB 2018-8 and measures the right-of-use assets at cost on initial recognition.

The corporation has a 21 year lease agreement with the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change (managed by Parks Victoria) for the lease of land and buildings for which the Dharnya Centre is located. The lease agreement commenced in January 2021 and expires in January 2042, with lease payments equal to \$1 per annum. This lease meets the definition of a peppercorn/concessionary lease under AASB 2018-8, which the corporation is dependent on to further its objectives. The right-of-use asset and lease liability relating to this lease agreement is considered trivial and has therefore not been recognised on the statement of financial position.

Each of the corporation's lease arrangements are for use in the production of supply of goods or services, or for administrative purposes.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

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**(d) Leases (continued)***The corporation as lessor*

The corporation holds no lease arrangements in the capacity of lessor.

**(e) Financial instruments**

The corporation's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, receivables, payables, lease liabilities and borrowings.

*Recognition, initial measurement and derecognition*

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the corporation becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument, and are measured initially at fair value adjusted by transactions costs, except for those carried at fair value through profit or loss, which are measured initially at fair value. Subsequent measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities are described below.

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or when the financial asset and all substantial risks and rewards are transferred. A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished, discharged, cancelled or expires.

*Classification and subsequent measurement of financial assets*

All financial assets are initially measured at fair value adjusted for transaction costs (where applicable). For the purpose of subsequent measurement, financial assets are classified into amortised costs. The corporation does not utilise hedging instruments.

Classifications are determined by both:

- the corporation's business model for managing the financial asset
- the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset.

All income and expenses relating to financial assets that are recognised in profit or loss are presented within finance costs, finance income or other financial items, except for impairment of trade receivables, which is presented within other expenses.

Financial assets are measured at amortised cost if the assets meet the following conditions:

- they are held within a business model whose objective is to hold the financial assets and collect its contractual cash flows
- the contractual terms of the financial assets give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

After initial recognition, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The corporation's cash and cash equivalents and trade and other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

*Impairment of financial assets*

The corporation makes use of a simplified approach in accounting for trade and other receivables and records the loss allowance at the amount equal to the expected lifetime credit losses. The corporation uses its historical experience, external indicators and forward-looking information to calculate the expected credit losses. The provision for expected credit losses is not considered material to the corporation's financial statements.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

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**(e) Financial instruments (continued)***Classification and measurement of financial liabilities*

The corporation's financial liabilities include trade and other payables. Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, and, where applicable, adjusted for transaction costs unless the corporation designated a financial liability at fair value through profit or loss.

Subsequently, financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method except for financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss, which are carried subsequently at fair value with gains or losses recognised in profit or loss. The corporation does not utilise derivative financial instruments.

All interest-related charges and, if applicable, changes in an instrument's fair value that are reported in profit or loss are included within finance costs or finance income.

**(f) Impairment of assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the corporation assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another Standard (eg in accordance with the revaluation model in AASB 116: *Property, Plant and Equipment*). Any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other Standard.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the corporation estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is recognised against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that class of asset.

**(g) Employee benefits****Short-term employee benefits**

Provision is made for the corporation's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The corporation's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as part of current accounts payable and other payables in the statement of financial position.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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#### (g) Employee benefits (continued)

##### Other long-term employee benefits

Provision is made for employees' annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements of obligations for other long-term employee benefits for changes in assumptions are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur.

The corporation's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the corporation does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

#### (h) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

#### (i) Accounts receivable and other debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from customers for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Accounts receivable are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment. Refer to Note 1(e) for further discussion on the determination of impairment losses.

#### (j) Revenue and other income

##### Revenue recognition

###### *Government grants*

When the corporation receives consideration, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance to AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the corporation:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the consideration
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the time of which services are rendered.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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### (j) Revenue and other income (continued)

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the corporation:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable Accounting Standards (for example AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138)
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer) and
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the corporation recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

The corporation has a range of funding agreements with Commonwealth and State Government departments, some of which contain sufficiently specific and enforceable obligations. Such obligations are generally structured on a financial year basis and include goods/services the corporation is required to satisfy each financial year.

Payment of government grants are typically due either at the inception of the contract, or as and when applicable payment milestones are satisfied, which may occur over the term of the contract. Such contracts do not typically contain a significant financing component.

#### *Cultural heritage services*

The corporation's cultural heritage unit assists to protect, promote and preserve Yorta Yorta Cultural Heritage. As a Registered Aboriginal Party, the corporation is involved in the decision-making on issues of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance within the Yorta Yorta Country.

Before starting any development activities within the Yorta Yorta Country, members of the community are required to consult with the corporation to determine whether or not the proposed development could impact Aboriginal cultural heritage. The corporation assists its customers to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) where high impact activities are planned in an area of cultural heritage sensitivity.

In such circumstances, planning permits, licences and work authorities can not be issued unless a CHMP has been approved for the activity. The CHMP is a written report prepared by the corporation, which includes the results of an assessment of the impact of the proposed activity, and outlines measures to be taken before, during and after an activity in order to manage and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Yorta Yorta area.

Cultural heritage services meet the definition of a contract with a customer under AASB 15 as the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan where necessary contains sufficiently specific and enforceable performance obligations. Revenue is recognised at a point in time once the promised goods or services have been transferred to the customer.

#### *Woka Walla services*

The corporation's Woka Walla unit performs land management works on public and private land. Such works include revegetation, fencing to protect remnant vegetation, pest plant and animal control, seed collection, flora and fauna surveys, cultural heritage identification and protection, and cultural burning.

Woka Walla services meet the definition of a contract with a customer under AASB 15 as the provision of land care management services contain sufficiently specific and enforceable performance obligations. Revenue is recognised over time as and when the promised goods or services have been transferred to the customer.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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### **(j) Revenue and other income (continued)**

#### *Capital grant*

When the corporation receives a capital grant, it recognises a liability for the excess of the initial carrying amount of the financial asset received over any related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer) recognised under other Australian Accounting Standards.

The corporation recognises income in profit or loss when or as the corporation satisfies its obligations under the terms of the grant, which is to construct or acquire the relevant non-financial asset (ie building).

#### *Administration charges and other program income*

When providing goods or services to customers, including cultural heritage and Woka Walla services, the corporation charges its customers an administration charge to cover the costs of overheads and administration costs.

Whilst the corporation discloses administration charges separately in the financial statements, the administration charge, in itself, does not transfer a good or service to a customer. Rather, the administration charge is a payment for other goods and services provided by the corporation (including cultural heritage and Woka Walla services).

The corporation therefore recognises administration charges as and when the underlying good or service, being cultural heritage or land management services, for example, are transferred to the customer. Such fees are recognised once the underlying good or service has been transferred.

#### *Interest income*

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

### **(k) Borrowing costs**

Borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to prepare for their intended use or sale are added to the cost of those assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale.

All other borrowing costs are recognised as expenses in the period in which they are incurred.

### **(l) Goods and services tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities, which are recoverable from or payable to the ATO, are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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### **(m) Comparative figures**

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

When the corporation retrospectively applies an accounting policy, makes a retrospective restatement or reclassifies items in its financial statements, a third statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period, in addition to the minimum comparative financial statements, must be disclosed.

### **(n) Accounts payable and other payables**

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liabilities outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the corporation during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

### **(o) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the corporation has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

### **(p) Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the corporation.

#### **Key estimates**

##### *Impairment*

The corporation assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluation of conditions and events specific to the corporation that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

##### *Useful lives of property, plant and equipment*

The corporation reviews the estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment at the end of each annual reporting period.

#### **Key judgments**

##### *Identifying performance obligations under AASB 15*

To identify a performance obligation under AASB 15, the promise must be sufficiently specific to be able to determine when the obligation is satisfied. Management exercises judgement to determine whether the promise is sufficiently specific by taking into account any conditions specified in the arrangement, explicit or implicit, regarding the promised goods or services. In making this assessment, management includes the nature/-type, cost/-value, quantity and the period of transfer related to the goods or services promised.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

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**(p) Critical accounting estimates and judgements (continued)***Determination and timing of revenue recognition under AASB 15*

For each revenue stream, the corporation applies significant judgement to determine when a performance obligation has been satisfied and the transaction price that is to be allocated to each performance obligation.

The output method is used to recognise revenue once performance obligations are satisfied and goods/services are transferred to a customer.

*Lease term and option to extend under AASB 16*

The lease term is defined as the non-cancellable period of a lease together with both periods covered by an option to extend the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise that option; and also periods covered by an option to terminate the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain not to exercise that option. The options that are reasonably going to be exercised is a key management judgement that the corporation will make.

The corporation determines the likelihood to exercise the options on a lease-by-lease basis, looking at various factors such as which assets are strategic and which are key to future strategy of the corporation, in addition to the following:

- If there are significant penalties to terminate (or not to extend), the corporation is typically reasonably certain to extend (or not terminate).
- If any leasehold improvements are expected to have a significant remaining value, the corporation is typically reasonably certain to extend (or not terminate).
- Otherwise, the corporation considers other factors including historical lease durations and the costs and business disruption required to replace the leased asset.

As at 30 June 2021, potential future cash outflows of \$85,800 (undiscounted) have not been included in the lease liability because it is not reasonably certain that the leases will be extended (or not terminated). The lease term is reassessed if an option is actually exercised (or not exercised) or the group becomes obliged to exercise (or not exercise) it. The assessment of reasonable certainty is only revised if a significant event or a significant change in circumstances occurs, which affects this assessment, and that is within the control of the lessee.

*Borrowing rate under AASB 16*

The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, which is generally the case for the corporation's leases, the corporation's incremental borrowing rate is used, being the rate that the corporation would have to pay to borrow the funds necessary to obtain an asset of similar value to the right-of-use asset in a similar economic environment with similar terms, security and conditions.

To determine the incremental borrowing rate, the corporation:

- where possible, uses recent third-party financing received by the individual lessee as a starting point, adjusted to reflect changes in financing conditions since third party financing was received
- makes adjustments specific to the lease, eg term, country, currency and security.

*Provision for impairment of receivables*

The corporation makes use of a simplified approach in accounting for trade and other receivables as well as contract assets and records the loss allowance at the amount equal to the expected lifetime credit losses. The corporation uses its historical experience, external indicators and forward-looking information to calculate the expected credit losses using a provision matrix.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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#### (p) Critical accounting estimates and judgements (continued)

The corporation assesses impairment of trade receivables on a collective basis as they possess credit risk characteristics based on the days past due. The corporation does not consider the provision for expected credit losses to be material.

#### *Fair value of non-current assets*

The corporation measures its land and buildings (property, plant and equipment) and permanent water entitlements (intangible asset) at fair value. The corporation obtains independent valuations for such non-current assets at least every four years. At the end of each reporting period, the directors update their assessment of the fair value of each non-current asset to ensure the fair values recorded are materially consistent had an independent valuation been performed at balance date.

The directors determine a non-current assets value using a range of reasonable fair value estimates. The best evidence of fair value is current prices in an active market for similar assets. Where such information is not available the directors consider information from a variety of sources including current prices in an active market for assets of a different nature or recent prices of similar assets in less active markets.

Whilst the directors believe the fair value of the corporation's non-current assets recorded at fair value are at risk of being impacted by material uncertainty that the COVID-19 Coronavirus has caused across Australia, a conservative estimate of changes in fair value since the date the last independent valuations has been prepared by the directors. This assessment suggests the fair values recorded in the financial statements are conservative and are considered materially consistent with the fair value of such non-current assets had an independent valuation been undertaken at balance date.

#### *Employee benefits*

For the purpose of measurement, AASB 119: *Employee Benefits* defines obligations for short-term employee benefits as obligations expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. As the corporation expects that all of its employees would use all of their annual leave entitlements earned during a reporting period before 12 months after the end of the reporting period, the corporation believes that obligations for annual leave entitlements satisfy the definition of short-term employee benefits and, therefore, can be measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid to employees when the obligations are settled.

#### (q) Economic dependence

The corporation is dependent on various government departments for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report, the directors have no reason to believe these funding bodies will not continue to support the corporation and its operations.

#### (p) New Accounting Standards for application in future periods

Accounting standards and interpretations issued by the AASB that are not yet mandatorily applicable and their potential impact on the corporation when adopted in future periods is discussed below:

- AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* replaces the current Tier 2 Reduced Disclosure Requirements (RDR) framework with the Simplified Disclosure Regime (SDR) (applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2021).

No material impact on the recognition and measurement of amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income and Statement of Cash Flows is expected as a result of the change in the basis of preparation.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>Note 2. Revenue</b>		
<b>Revenue from contracts with customers</b>		
Cultural heritage services	410,160	475,864
Woka Walla income	434,451	444,764
Administration charges and other program income	147,116	167,815
Grant revenue with sufficiently specific obligations	1,511,200	480,243
	2(a) 2,502,927	1,568,686
Other sources of income		
Grant income without sufficiently specific obligations	2,494,755	1,321,948
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>4,997,682</b>	<b>2,890,634</b>
(a) Disaggregated revenue		
Revenue from contracts with customers has been disaggregated based on timing of revenue recognition:		
Services transferred to customers:		
- over time	2,092,767	1,092,822
- at a point in time	410,160	475,864
	2,502,927	1,568,686
<b>Note 3. Other Income</b>		
Capital grants	390,877	1,340,066
Other income	75,698	56,297
Gifts and donations	507	477
Interest received	5,251	6,566
	472,333	1,403,406
<b>Note 4. Expenditure</b>		
(a) Depreciation expense		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment:		
- Buildings	43,282	27,798
- Motor vehicles	15,791	13,978
- Office furniture	24,492	8,443
- Plant and equipment	32,241	14,890
	115,806	65,109

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	\$	\$
<b>Note 4. Expenditure (continued)</b>			
Depreciation of right-of-use assets:			
- Leased building premises		24,624	24,706
- Leased plant and equipment		113,437	111,044
- Leased motor vehicles		1,851	1,862
		<u>139,912</u>	<u>137,612</u>
Total depreciation expense		<u>255,718</u>	<u>202,721</u>
<b>(b) Finance costs</b>			
- Bank fees		1,802	1,679
- Finance costs on lease liability		13,110	21,968
		<u>14,912</u>	<u>23,647</u>
<b>(c) Other expenses</b>			
Loss on disposal of non-current assets		-	18,669
			<u>18,669</u>
<b>Note 5. Key Management Personnel Compensation</b>			
The totals of remuneration paid to key management personnel (KMP) of the corporation during the year are as follows:			
- Key management personnel compensation		151,733	103,390
<b>Other KMP transactions</b>			
For details of other transactions with KMP, refer to Note 23.			
<b>Note 6. Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>			
<i>CURRENT</i>			
Cash on hand		70	162
Cash at bank		6,196,186	1,951,739
	24	<u>6,196,256</u>	<u>1,951,901</u>
<b>Note 7. Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors</b>			
<i>CURRENT</i>			
Accounts receivable	24	96,144	1,003,082
		<u>96,144</u>	<u>1,003,082</u>
<b>Note 8. Other Assets</b>			
<i>CURRENT</i>			
Prepaid expenses and other assets		18,851	16,039
		<u>18,851</u>	<u>16,039</u>
<b>Note 9. Non-current Assets Held for Sale</b>			
<i>CURRENT</i>			
Land and buildings held for sale		740,000	740,000
		<u>740,000</u>	<u>740,000</u>

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### Note 9. Non-current Assets Held for Sale (continued)

As at 30 June 2021 the directors had committed to selling the corporation's property held at 7270 Goulburn Valley Highway. As the directors remain committed to selling the property, the land and buildings have been classified as non-current assets held for sale. The land and buildings are held as security over the bank loans and vendor finance disclosed at Note 17.

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>Note 10. Intangible assets</b>		
<i>NON-CURRENT</i>		
Permanent water entitlements at fair value	1,461,190	1,461,190

The corporation's permanent water entitlements were revalued during the year ended 30 June 2019 by independent valuers, being Border Real Estate. Valuations were made on the basis of open market value. The revaluation surplus was credited to an asset revaluation reserve in members' equity and the revaluation decrement was recognised in the statement of profit or loss, unless the decrement offset a previous increment associated with the same class of assets, as allowed by the corporation as it is considered a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes. The directors have estimated changes in fair value of permanent water entitlements since the last independent valuation was obtained. The directors concluded the fair value recorded in the financial statements is considered materially consistent with the fair value had an independent valuation been undertaken at balance date.

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>Note 11. Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
<i>NON-CURRENT</i>		
<b>Land and buildings</b>		
Land		
At fair value	2,643,471	2,643,471
Buildings		
At fair value	3,535,618	1,098,621
Accumulated depreciation	(83,218)	(39,936)
	3,452,400	1,058,685
Works in progress		
At fair value	92,141	2,103,538
Total land and buildings	6,188,012	5,805,694
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
Motor vehicles		
At cost	318,673	167,251
Accumulated depreciation	(143,511)	(127,720)
	175,162	39,531
<b>Office furniture</b>		
At cost	224,366	117,537
Accumulated depreciation	(113,248)	(88,756)
	111,118	28,781

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
<b>Note 11. Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)</b>	\$	\$
Plant and equipment		
At cost	352,277	252,920
Accumulated depreciation	(199,876)	(167,635)
	152,401	85,285
Total plant and equipment	438,681	153,597
Total property, plant and equipment	6,626,693	5,959,291

The corporation's land and buildings were revalued at 30 June 2019 by independent valuers, being Border Real Estate. Valuations were made on the basis of open market value. The revaluation surplus was credited to an asset revaluation reserve in members' equity and the revaluation decrement was recognised in the statement of profit or loss, unless the decrement offset a previous increment associated with the same class of assets, as allowed by the corporation as it is considered a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes. The directors have estimated changes in fair value of land and buildings since the last independent valuation was obtained for each respective property. The directors conclude the fair values recorded in the financial statements are conservative and are considered materially consistent with their fair value had an independent valuation been undertaken at balance date.

The land and buildings at the Barmah Road property were gifted to the corporation by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs for the benefit of the aboriginal community. The corporation has title to the asset, however there are restrictions over its use until the caveat is removed.

\$145,514 of the carrying amount of the corporations motor vehicles are held as security over chattel mortgages recorded at Note 17.

### *Movements in carrying amounts*

Movements in carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Land \$	Buildings \$	Works In Progress \$	Motor vehicles \$
Balance at beginning of year	2,643,471	1,058,685	2,103,538	39,531
Additions/transfers	-	2,747,823	92,141	151,422
Disposals/transfers	-	(310,826)	(2,103,538)	-
Depreciation expense	-	(43,282)	-	(15,791)
Carrying amount at year end	2,643,471	3,452,400	92,141	175,162

	Office furniture \$	Plant and equipment \$	Total \$
Balance at beginning of year	28,781	85,285	5,959,291
Additions/transfers	106,829	99,357	3,197,572
Disposals/transfers	-	-	(2,414,364)
Depreciation expense	(24,492)	(32,241)	(115,806)
Carrying amount at year end	111,118	152,401	6,626,693

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
<b>Note 12. Right-of-use assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<i>NON-CURRENT</i>		
Leased building premises		
Right-of-use asset	74,117	74,117
Accumulated depreciation	(67,859)	(43,235)
	<u>6,258</u>	<u>30,882</u>
Leased plant and equipment		
Right-of-use asset	9,308	9,308
Accumulated depreciation	(3,713)	(1,862)
	<u>5,595</u>	<u>7,446</u>
Leased motor vehicles		
Right-of-use asset	41,894	333,134
Accumulated depreciation	(12,750)	(231,343)
	<u>29,144</u>	<u>101,791</u>
Total right-of-use assets	<u>40,997</u>	<u>140,119</u>
The corporation's lease portfolio includes leased building premises, plant and equipment and motor vehicles. The lease terms for each type of lease arrangement are:		
<b>Class of lease</b>	<b>Lease term</b>	
Leased building premises	3 years	
Leased plant and equipment	5 years	
Leased motor vehicles	3 years	
<i>AASB 16 related amounts recognised in the statement or profit or loss</i>		
Depreciation charge related to right-of-use assets	139,912	137,612
Interest expense on lease liabilities	13,110	21,968
Short-term lease expense	-	38,000
Low-value lease expense	-	13,015
	<u>153,022</u>	<u>210,595</u>

### Movements in carrying amounts

Movements in carrying amounts for each class of right-of-use asset between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Leased building premises \$	Leased plant and equipment \$	Leased motor vehicles \$	Total \$
Balance at the beginning of year	30,882	7,446	101,791	-
Additions/transfers	-	-	40,790	40,790
Depreciation expense	(24,624)	(1,851)	(113,437)	(139,912)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	<u>6,258</u>	<u>5,595</u>	<u>29,144</u>	<u>(99,122)</u>

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
		\$	\$
<b>Note 13.</b>	<b>Accounts Payable and Other Payables</b>		
	<i>CURRENT</i>		
	Trade payables	77,477	20,429
	Other payables (net amount of ATO payable)	277,454	104,824
	Accrued expenses	56,578	202,434
	Payroll liabilities	32,601	48,602
		<u>444,110</u>	<u>376,289</u>
	<i>Financial liabilities at amortised cost classified as trade and other payables</i>		
	Trade and other payables:		
	- total current	444,110	376,289
	Less other payables (net amount of ATO payable)	(277,454)	(104,824)
	Financial liabilities as trade and other payables	<u>166,656</u>	<u>271,465</u>
<b>Note 14.</b>	<b>Other liabilities</b>		
	<i>CURRENT</i>		
	Contract liability	-	620,000
	Unspent capital grants	1,588,493	-
		<u>1,588,493</u>	<u>620,000</u>
<b>Note 15.</b>	<b>Lease liabilities</b>		
	<i>CURRENT</i>		
	Lease liability	30,187	148,812
	Unexpired interest	(4,241)	(7,044)
		<u>25,946</u>	<u>141,768</u>
	<i>NON-CURRENT</i>		
	Lease liability	15,724	14,278
	Unexpired interest	(725)	(3,299)
		<u>14,999</u>	<u>10,979</u>
	Total lease liabilities	<u>40,945</u>	<u>152,747</u>
<b>Note 16.</b>	<b>Provisions</b>		
	<i>CURRENT</i>		
	Provision for employee benefits - annual leave	74,716	48,012
	Provision for employee benefits - time in lieu	14,814	6,122
	Provision for employee benefits - long service leave	92,172	58,263
		<u>181,702</u>	<u>112,397</u>
	<i>NON-CURRENT</i>		
	Provision for employee benefits - long service leave	28,511	21,024

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### Note 16. Provisions (continued)

Provision for employee benefits

Provision for employee benefits represents amounts accrued for annual leave, time in lieu and long service leave.

The current portion for this provision includes the total amount accrued for annual leave entitlements and the amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have vested due to employees having completed the required period of service. Based on past experience, the corporation does not expect the full amount of annual leave or long service leave balances classified as current liabilities to be settled within the next 12 months.

However, these amounts must be classified as current liabilities since the corporation does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these amounts in the event employees wish to use their leave entitlement.

The non-current portion for this provision includes amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have not yet vested in relation to those employees who have not yet completed the required period of service.

In calculating the present value of future cash flows in respect of long service leave, the probability of long service leave being taken is based upon historical data. The measurement and recognition criteria for employee benefits have been discussed in Note 1(g).

<b>Note 17. Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<i>CURRENT</i>			
Chattel mortgage		48,165	-
<i>NON-CURRENT</i>			
Bank loans		1,041,226	1,041,226
Vendor finance		700,000	700,000
Chattel mortgage		112,366	-
		<u>1,853,592</u>	<u>1,741,226</u>
	24	<u>1,901,757</u>	<u>1,741,226</u>

The bank loan and vendor finance is secured by a first mortgage over the freehold land and buildings of the corporation. Refer to Note 9 for further information.

Chattel mortgages are secured by motor vehicles held by the corporation. Refer to Note 11 for further information.

### Note 18. Reserves

Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve records the revaluations of non-current property, plant and equipment and intangible permanent water entitlements.

Balance at the beginning of the year	1,740,053	1,740,053
Balance at end of year	<u>1,740,053</u>	<u>1,740,053</u>

The corporation records no revaluation increments or deferrals of non-current assets during the year ended 30 June 2021.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

<b>Note 19. Capital Commitments</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
The corporation has the following material capital commitments contracted for but not yet capitalised in the financial statements:		
Building development - Barmah	-	79,859
Building development - Dharnya Centre	1,588,493	-
Balance at end of year	<u>1,588,493</u>	<u>79,859</u>

In July 2018, the corporation entered into a capital grant funding agreement with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to fund the refurbishment and construction of new additions to the corporation's facility located at the Barmah Township. This facility will house growing staff and administrative needs and an archive and gallery for artefacts. The total cost of the project was expected to be approximately \$1.90 million (excluding GST), with the corporation to contribute at least \$399,035 (excluding GST) of surplus funds. At 30 June 2020 the works were very close to completion, with only \$79,859 left that was committed. Construction works were completed during the year ended 30 June 2021.

In August 2020 and June 2021, the corporation entered into capital grant funding agreements with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions respectively to fund the redevelopment of the Dharnya Centre at Barmah National Park. As at 30 June 2021, \$1,588,493 of funds received from the funding bodies was committed to the capital projects.

<b>Note 20. Cash Flow Information</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with surplus after income tax		
Surplus after income tax expense	2,746,674	2,083,060
Non-cash flows in surplus:		
- Depreciation expense	255,718	202,721
- Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	18,669
- Cumulative adjustment on adoption of AASB 15 and AASB 1058	-	(447,697)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	906,938	(811,844)
- (Increase)/decrease in other assets	(2,812)	14,666
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	67,821	85,456
- Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	968,493	620,000
- Increase/(decrease) in provisions	76,792	(11,163)
Cash flows from operations	<u>5,019,624</u>	<u>1,753,868</u>

### **Note 21. Contingent Liabilities and Assets**

In September 2019, the corporation entered into a settlement agreement with various parties who have claims against the corporation in respect of loan funds provided to fund the purchase of two properties, one of which is currently disclosed as held for sale in the statement of financial position at balance date.

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### Note 21. Contingent Liabilities and Assets (continued)

The settlement agreement provides that once both held for sale properties have been sold and the proceeds have been distributed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the settlement agreement, the various parties will release the corporation from the abovementioned claims. Should both properties be sold, this will result in the partial forgiveness of long-term debt obligations currently owed by the corporation, thus giving rise to a contingent asset at balance date.

The corporation's directors are not aware of any contingent liabilities or assets as at the date of signing this financial report.

### Note 22. Events after the Reporting Period

Subsequent to year-end, the Victorian and New South Wales State Government's revised social isolation measures as appropriate based on the level of community transmission, which included the reintroduction of strict isolation measures in July and August 2021 for all of Victoria and New South Wales which the corporation has been required to comply with. The corporation has employees, suppliers and members from the community who travel across the border, which are now unable to do so without obtaining a permit.

There have been no other events subsequent to the balance sheet date that have an impact that would require disclosure in the financial statements or notes there of.

### Note 23. Director and Related Party Disclosures

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

No directors have entered into any material contract with the corporation since the end of the previous financial year and there were no material contracts involving directors interests subsisting at year end. There were no loans to directors.

Note 24. Financial Risk Management	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
The corporation's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, accounts receivable and payable, leases and borrowings.			
The totals of each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 9 detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:			
<i>Financial assets</i>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	6,196,256	1,951,901
Accounts receivable and other debtors	7	96,144	1,003,082
Total financial assets		6,292,400	2,954,983
<i>Financial liabilities</i>			
Financial liabilities at amortised cost:			
- trade and other payables	13	166,656	271,465
- lease liabilities	15	40,945	152,747
- financial liabilities	17	1,901,757	1,741,226
Total financial liabilities		2,109,358	2,165,438

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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### **Note 25. Corporation Details**

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The registered office of the corporation is:

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation  
35 Schier Street  
Barmah VIC 3639

The principal place of business is:

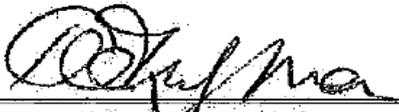
Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation  
35 Schier Street  
Barmah VIC 3639

# Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Directors' Declaration

The directors of the corporation declare that, in the directors' opinion:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 6 to 30, are in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*, the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2017 (CATSI Regulations)*, and:
  - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements
  - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the corporation as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the corporation will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is signed in accordance with a resolution of the board of directors.

Treasurer   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kalina Morgan-Whyman

Secretary   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Bourke

Dated: 8 November 2021

# Independent auditor's report to the Directors of Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

## Report on the audit of the financial statements

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation's (the corporation), which comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021
- Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended
- Statement of changes in equity for the year then ended
- Statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes
- The directors' declaration of the entity.

In our opinion, the financial report of the corporation is in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the corporation in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## Other information

The corporation may prepare an annual report that may include the financial statements, director's report and declaration and our audit report (the financial report). The annual report may also include "other information" on the entity's operations and financial results and financial position as set out in the financial report, typically in a Chairperson's report and reports covering governance and other matters.

The directors are responsible for the other information. An annual report has not been made available to us as of the date of this auditor's report.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information identified above when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If we identify that a material inconsistency appears to exist when we read the annual report (or become aware that the other information appears to be materially misstated), we will discuss the matter with the directors and where we believe that a material misstatement of the other information exists, we will request management to correct the other information.

## Directors' responsibility for the financial report

The directors of the corporation are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the corporation or cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatement can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



**Andrew Frewin Stewart**

61 Bull Street, Bendigo, 3550

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021



**Adrian Downing**  
Lead Auditor