



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Warddeken and Djelk Indigenous Protected Areas testament to elders' vision

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Two large cultural blocs of traditional Aboriginal land owners in western Arnhem Land who have worked tirelessly preserving, enhancing and managing the conservation and cultural values of their land will finally have their clan estates declared as Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA's) by the Federal Government.

The sister (neighbouring) IPA's of Djelk and Warddeken will encompass more than 20,000 square kilometres of Aboriginal land, an area which is marginally bigger than both Nitmiluk and Kakadu National Parks combined.

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive, Mr Kim Hill said the launch of Warddeken IPA today at Kabulwarnamy, and the Djelk IPA at Maningrida tomorrow was testament to the commitment and vision of senior elders who have led the next generation towards this collaboration with the Federal Government.

"Very senior elders have been discussing this matter for more than a decade and their knowledge, vision and hard work has finally come to fruition and I urge all Australians to join with them to celebrate this important achievement," said Mr Hill.

"These IPA's undertake world's best practise in conservation and cultural management and they also recognise the important role that rangers have in ensuring the highest possible standards are met; this will also create some job opportunities in the bush and for people living on outstations and who are caring for their country and caring for their people.

"While these IPA's only cover terrestrial areas it is intended to include marine estates at a future date which will be a win-win situation for the nation because it will also recognise the fabulous role that rangers have on coastal surveillance, and will help develop good policies and practices for marine conservation, biosecurity including fishing," he said.

"IPA's are a positive initiative by Traditional Owners who are developing their lands in a way that suits them, that does not take away any of their rights as landowners, and is important for the future of their families and the nation."

- Indigenous Protected Areas are voluntarily nominated by land owners and does not change the status of the land title.
- IPA's contribute to the National Reserve System.
- Declared IPA's in the NLC region: Dhimurru and Laynhapuy in north east Arnhem Land.

Ends.

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