

Media Release

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council

Monday, 24 September 2007

HERITAGE COUNCIL APPOINTS MORE REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTIES

The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council has appointed three new registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2006 to better manage and protect the State's cultural heritage.

The chair of Victoria's Aboriginal Heritage Council, Ricky Mullett said "the Council is getting on with the job of appointing RAPs across Victoria. RAPs will have key responsibilities for managing and protecting Aboriginal heritage in their local area."

"At its September meeting, the Council registered 3 new RAPs

- Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Ltd has been registered for in northern Victoria over area previously subject to the Yorta Yorta Clans native title application. The Council is continuing to consider registration of Banegrang Community Cultural Co-operative Ltd as a RAP.
- Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation has been registered for the area over which they hold native title. The Council is continuing to consider its broader application for RAP recognition.
- Martang Pty Ltd has been registered over part of its application area in Victoria's south-west. The Council is continuing to consider its broader application for RAP recognition and a number of other RAP applications for part of the same area.

"When Council decides to appoint a registered Aboriginal party, we look at a number of factors."

"These include relevant native title matters, links to Country, expertise in managing cultural heritage and capacity to meet the requirements of the Act," Mr Mullett said.

"Victoria now has four RAPs, who are all well placed to manage and protect the cultural heritage of their Country."

Registered Aboriginal parties will work with the community, government and industry to ensure cultural heritage is an integral part of land management.

The Council appointed the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Corporation in Victoria's south west as the first registered Aboriginal party in May this year. The Council is considering a further 16 applications.

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