



Acknowledging and celebrating our journey together

1770

First contact in Australia Arrival of the Endeavour. Captain James Cook landed in Botany Bay, home of the Eora people, and claimed possession of the East Coast of Australia for Britain under the doctrine of 'terra nullius'.

1827

Captain James Stirling explored Swan River. On 8 March, two boats, a cutter and a gig, carrying Stirling and 18 men set off to explore the Swan River.

1838

Rottneest Island Prison began. During the time of the prison around 4,000 Aboriginal men and boys served sentences on the island, it is reported that a minimum of 370 Aboriginal men and boys died there before the prison ended in 1904.

1886

Aborigines Protection Act. The Act provided a resident magistrate with the power to forcibly remove Aboriginal children from their parents.

1905

The Aborigines Act. The Act gave sweeping powers to the Chief Protector. The Chief Protector had the right to take any Aboriginal child from their family and send them to missions or other institutions.

1928

The first Aboriginal deputation to the WA Premier. A delegation fought the effects of the 1905 Act. They advocated for Aboriginal people to be given basic civil rights like other Australians.

1938

Day of Mourning Protest 26 January. On Australia Day 1938, both Aboriginal people and non-Indigenous protestors marched through the streets of Sydney, followed by a congress attended by over a thousand people at the Sydney Town Hall.

1946

Pilbara strike. The Pilbara strike was a landmark strike by Indigenous Australian pastoral workers in the Pilbara region for human rights recognition and payment of fair wages and working conditions. The strike did not end until August 1949.

1770

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1886

1900

1905

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1944

1946

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1788

Arrival of the First Fleet. The First Fleet of 11 ships arrived Botany Bay, home of the Eora people with more than 1,480 men, women and children onboard.

1831

Roundhouse built in Fremantle to hold prisoners. The Roundhouse was used for colonial and Aboriginal prisoners. It became a holding cell for Aboriginal men prior to being transported to Rottneest Island Prison.

1840

Protector of Aborigines was established. Charles Symmons assumed this role in 1840, Symmons was able to sentence individuals he described as "untamable savages" to be sentenced at Rottneest Island Prison.

1900

Western Australia's first national park, John Forrest. Proclaimed as a national park in November 1900, it was the first national park in WA and the second in Australia.

1927

Prohibited Area: City of Perth was a prohibited area for Aboriginal people. The prohibited area was in force from 1927 to 1954, and covered the boundaries of the City of Perth.

1932

Australian Aborigines' League. Established in Victoria by William Cooper, the Australian Aborigines League was the first entirely Aboriginal organisation in Australia.

1944

The Natives (Citizen Rights) Act. This Act allowed Aboriginal ex-service personnel and some other Aboriginal people to qualify for Australian citizenship.

Legend

Blue box: Departmental milestones or projects

Purple dotted box: State or national milestones or projects

1963

Native Welfare Act. The *Native Welfare Act 1963* repealed *Aborigines Act 1905* and all the Acts that amended the 1905 Act.

1967

Referendum. Australians voted overwhelmingly to amend the constitution to include Aboriginal people in the census and allow the Commonwealth to create laws for Aboriginal people.

1971

The Aboriginal Flag designed. Designed by Harold Thomas, the Aboriginal flag has become a symbol of unity and strength. The three colours represent the colours of a proud people.

1975

First NAIDOC Week. The National Aborigines Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) was composed entirely of Aboriginal members for the first time in 1974. The following year of 1975, it was decided that the event should cover a week, from the first to second Sunday in July.

1982

The renaming of Bungle Bungle National Park to Purnululu National Park. The Bungle Bungle Working Group was established, with directive to include Aboriginal peoples, tourism representatives and other stakeholders. This influenced the name change to acknowledge the park's cultural significance.

1985

Uluru hand back. On 26 October 1985 Ayers Rock National Park was handed back to the Anangu people. The park was renamed Uluru-Kata Tjuta. The Uluru-Kata Tjuta model is one where the title deed was given to the Anangu, in return for providing a 99-year lease of the lands back to the Australian Government for conservation purposes, with a joint management arrangement between Parks Australia and the Anangu who now work together to manage the park.

1989

First Aboriginal Research Scientist appointed. Stephen van Leeuwen was appointed to the Pilbara region as a research scientist, embarking on a 30-year journey with the department.

1991

Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) (1987–1991) studied and reported on the underlying social, cultural and legal issues behind the deaths in custody of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

1991

First Aboriginal Liaison Officer. CALM announced the appointment of their first Aboriginal liaison officer, Noel Nannup, in the south-west of WA at Narrogin.

1993

Native Title Act. *The Native Title Act 1993* is a law passed by the Australian Parliament that recognises the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in land and waters according to their traditional laws and customs.

1998

Malimup Communiqué. This communiqué was developed at a meeting of Aboriginal representatives, staff of government land management agencies and representatives of non-government environmental groups at Malimup Spring, WA. The Malimup Communiqué prompted sustainable hunting and gathering by rightful Aboriginal people in their ancestral lands, including the use of firearms.

1996

Aboriginal Tourism Unit (ATU) established.

1963 1965 1967 1971 1972 1975 1976 1982 1984 1985 1986 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1998

1965

The Freedom Ride. Charles Perkins and a group of students from the University of Sydney drew national and international attention to the appalling living conditions of Aboriginal people and the racism that was rife in New South Wales country towns.

1971

Noonkanbah Station Walk-Off. In 1971 Aboriginal employees walked off the station over fair pay and conditions disputes. The Noonkanbah dispute in WA's remote north put land rights on the national agenda and led to the foundation of the Kimberley Land Council.

1972

Aboriginal Heritage Act. Recognising the need to reassess previous approaches to land use and development, the WA Government introduced the Aboriginal Heritage Bill into Parliament on 30 March 1972.

1972

Aboriginal Tent Embassy established. The Aboriginal Tent Embassy was set up by Aboriginal activists on the lawns opposite Parliament House in 1972 to protest the Government's refusal to acknowledge Aboriginal land rights.

1976

The Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act. It was the first law by any Australian government that legally recognised the Aboriginal system of land ownership, and legislated the concept of inalienable freehold title, as such was a fundamental piece of social reform.

1984

Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Act. The CALM Act was enforced in 1984 to make better provision for the use, protection and management of certain public lands, waters flora and fauna.

1986

First Aboriginal Ranger Training Program. This was conducted by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) in the Pilbara. The program was based at Millstream-Chichester National Park with additional work experience at the neighbouring Hamersley Range National Park. It was extended to the Kimberley and the Goldfields regions in 1987.

1990

Millstream-Chichester National Park Conference. Aboriginal delegates from communities in the Gascoyne, Murchison, Goldfields, Pilbara and Kimberley regions meet with CALM and the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority to present a 14-point statement aimed at addressing land-use issues that concern Aboriginal people.

1992

The Mabo decision. On 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia recognised that a group of Torres Strait Islander people, led by Eddie Mabo, held ownership of Mer (Murray Island).

1993

First National Reconciliation Week (NRW). NRW is a time to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June.

1995

Purnululu National Park Management Plan. This plan formally recognised for the first time in WA the social, economic and cultural responsibilities of Aboriginal Traditional Owners toward their Country through the establishment of a Ministerial Committee, the Purnululu Park Council.

1998

First National Sorry Day. On 26 May 1998, the first National Sorry Day was held to commemorate the anniversary of the Bringing Them Home report and remember the grief, suffering and injustice experienced by the stolen generations.

1999
The ATU was changed to the **Aboriginal Tourism, Education and Training Unit**.

2000
Aboriginal Tourism, Education and Training Unit name changed to **Aboriginal Heritage Unit (AHU)**.

2001
Paruku Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). The IPA was declared in September 2001 and covers 4300km² within the Tjurabalan Native Title area which borders the Great Sandy Desert and Tanami Desert regions of the south Kimberley.

2002
Ngaanyatjarra Land Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). The Ngaanyatjarra Lands cover a total area of 25 million hectares, of which 9.8 million hectares is an IPA which is larger than Tasmania. The IPA encompasses the entire WA section of the Central Ranges Bioregion, which until its dedication in August 2002 was unprotected by any other reserve system.

2008
Formal joint management in the East Kimberley. The Yoorooyang Dawang Regional Park Council manages six conservation parks.

2008
Miriuwung and Gajerrong (MG) Ranger Program began. The MG Ranger Program is linked to the commitments in the Ord Final Indigenous Land Use Agreement (2005) in Miriuwung and Gajerrong country in the East Kimberley.

2010
Formal joint management with Yawuru in the West Kimberly. Yawuru Conservation Parks include Birragun, Minyirr Buru and Guniyan Binba.

2011
Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy. This strategy delivers a coordinated suite of large-scale conservation initiatives and social and economic development opportunities across the Kimberley Region.

2012
Formal joint management with Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong people (Kimberly Region). Ord River and Parry Lagoons nature reserves began to be jointly managed under a new service agreement.

2013 to 2015
First Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). This RAP was effective in starting the department's commitment to reconciliation.

2013
Bilby Research and Management Program. This program began in partnership with Traditional Owners and rangers in the Pilbara Region.

2013
Formal joint management of a marine park in the Kimberly Region. The Dambimangari people began jointly managing Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park with the department.

1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

1999
Karijini National Park Management Plan. The plan determined that the Traditional Owners of Karijini National Park, represented by the Karijini Aboriginal Corporation, had direct input into the management of the park through the establishment of the Karijini Park Council.

2000
Reconciliation Walk. On 28 May, a milestone in the process of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. 250,000 people turned out for the Walk for Reconciliation across Sydney's Harbour Bridge.

2002
Commencement of Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES). The State Government considered the scheme as one of the five principal strategies for reconciliation with Aboriginal people on conservation lands in WA.

2002
AHU name changed to Indigenous Heritage Unit (IHU). The IHU provided people an opportunity to experience Aboriginal heritage in the natural environment.

2003
Indigenous Ownership and Joint Management of Conservation Lands in WA Consultation Paper. The paper outlined key areas for the department moving forward with joint management such as: managing protected areas, Aboriginal training and employment, reconciliation and native title.

2003
Establishment of the National Indigenous Cadetship Project (NICP). This provided Indigenous students with the opportunity to gain tertiary education. Under the cadetship, the department provided support while they were undertaking tertiary studies.

2007
Indigenous Heritage Unit name changed to Aboriginal Heritage Unit.

2009
First departmental Aboriginal staff conference. This conference held at Yanchep National Park was the beginning of biennial events and provided a unique platform for staff to network. From the conference an Aboriginal Employee Reference Group (AERG) was established.

2011
Inaugural Eugene Winmar Award. This award recognises outstanding performance and achievement of Aboriginal staff. Named in honor of the department's longest serving Aboriginal staff member, Eugene Winmar, who started work at the Forests Department in 1971. The first award was presented to Principal Research Scientist Dr Stephen Van Leeuwen for excellence in his work in the field of science.

2011
The Conservation Legislation Amendment Act. Amendments were made to create the management objective to protect and conserve the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons, enable customary activities and joint management for Aboriginal people on the CALM Act land.

2013
First jointly-managed national park. Murujuga National Park has the distinction of being WA's 100th national park and the first to be jointly managed in WA.

2013
Acknowledgment signs. This project saw the development and installation of signs at departmental offices to acknowledge Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters the department manages.

2018 to 2020 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP continues to support the department's commitment to reconciliation.

2017 to 2019 Aboriginal Employment Strategy. The department continued to meet its commitment to employ Aboriginal people. The 6% target for Aboriginal representation was achieved.

2017
Uluru Statement from the Heart Voice Treaty Truth.
 Released on 26 May 2017 by delegates to the First Nations National Constitutional Convention, held near Uluru after the 16-member Referendum Council appointed in 2015 had travelled around the country and met with over 1,200 people. The statement was issued after the Convention, and calls for a "First Nations Voice" in the Australian Constitution and a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of "agreement-making" and truth-telling between the Australian Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (Makarrata is a Yolngu word approximating the meaning of "treaty").

2018
Commencement of the Noongar Boodja Mentored Aboriginal Ranger program. A partnership between the Southwest Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) and the department to employ Noongar people to work on Country, funded by the Aboriginal Ranger Program.

2018
Bramley National Park (Margaret River) renamed Wooditjup. The park was renamed to reflect the area's significance and in recognition of the Wardandi Traditional Owners.

2019
State Aboriginal Procurement Policy. A policy to support the contracting of Aboriginal businesses when purchasing goods, services, community services and works.

2019
World Heritage nomination announced for Murujuga. On 26 August 2019, the Premier and Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation announced World Heritage listing for Murujuga would be pursued with support from the department, to have the area's unique cultural, archeological and heritage values recognised at the highest international level.

2019
Aboriginal Engagement and Heritage Unit (AEHU) formed. This coincided with the AEPL Branch restructure.

2020
Native title settlement for Gibson Desert Nature Reserve. On 29 October 2020, the Warnpurru Aboriginal Corporation signed a native title settlement agreement with the State Government for the reserve, which will be renamed Pila Nature Reserve.

2020
Addition of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List. The Murujuga Cultural Landscape was added to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List on 23 January 2020. This is the first formal step in the World Heritage nomination process.

2014
Formal joint management with Nyangumarta Warrarn and Wangparta (Ngarla) traditional owners. Parks include: Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, Kujungurru-Warrarn Nature Reserve, Kujungurru-Warrarn Conservation Park and Walyarta Conservation Park.

2014
First Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training (ACAT). This mandatory training delivered by the AHU was first held in Kensington. 1,400 staff have undertaken this training so far.

2015
Joint vesting under the CALM Act. Amendments to the Act provided for the joint vesting of national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves with Aboriginal people, which provided additional recognition of Traditional Owners on the title of land.

2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

2014
First regional ACAT – South West Region. This was the very first ACAT to be delivered regionally.

2014
First issue of Yarning Time. This newsletter highlights stories about the department's engagement with Aboriginal people, culture and Country.

2015
Formal joint management with Karajarri traditional owners for Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park.

2016
Formal joint management across a range of Kimberley parks.
 Dambimangari, for Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park and Lalang-garram Marine Park
 Yawuru, for Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park
 Nyangumarta Karajarri, for Walyarta Conservation Park
 Balangarra for North Kimberley Marine Park.

2017
Formal joint management with Bunuba Dawangarri traditional owners for the following parks: Dangu Geikie Gorge National Park, Miluwindi Conservation Park, Dimalurru Tunnel Creek National Park, Bandilgan Windjana Gorge National Park, Jungiwa Brooking Gorge Conservation Park and Balili Conservation Park.

2017
South West Region Aboriginal conservation employees. Targeted employment of Aboriginal people as seasonal conservation employees.

2017
Aboriginal Ranger Program commenced. Led by the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal organisations with support from the department, this \$20 million program is helping Aboriginal organisations manage Country and protect the environment across WA through employment and training opportunities.

2018
Bunbury Regional Parks Unit Established (BRPU). The BRPU created three new positions for Aboriginal staff. This included a senior ranger and two trainee rangers.

2018
Wellington Dam new walk trail officially named the Wiilman Bilya Trail. The name pays tribute to the Wiilman Traditional Owners with Bilya being the Noongar word for "river".

2018
Mookaroo First Rains Community Festival Bunbury. The Mookaroo First Rains Community Festival celebrated the new season with a range of cultural activities to raise awareness about the Culture in the Parks program which focuses on cultural tourism.

2019
Review of Conservation Legislation Amendment Act 2011. Comprehensive review of 2011 amendments to CALM Act, with a focus of formal joint management arrangements in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions. Key findings and lessons learned documented.

2019
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) came into force. The BC Act provides greater protection for WA's biodiversity. It replaced the outdated *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Sandalwood Act 1929*.

2019
Creation of Aboriginal Engagement Planning and Lands (AEPL) Branch and units. The AEPL Branch was established in the Parks and Visitor Services Division.

2019
Plan for Our Parks announced. The Plan for Our Parks initiative will see WA's conservation estate expanded by 20 per cent within five years. It will create more opportunities for nature-based and cultural tourism, build on joint management and enhance biodiversity conservation.

2020
Kalgulup Regional Park established, Bunbury. Kalgulup means "place of fire" in the Noongar language. The name change is in recognition of the area's significance to the Pinjarup, Wadandi, Kaneang and Wiilmen people.

2020
DBCA Aboriginal Strategies and Frameworks. The Corporate Executive Group endorse the development of key Aboriginal strategies and frameworks:

- Aboriginal Engagement Strategy
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Aboriginal Employment Strategy
- Acknowledgement signs
- Culture in the Parks Plan

All to be launched in 2021.