

# For Immediate Release

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2021



### **RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN LOOKS TO FIRST AUSTRALIANS FOR FEEDBACK**

For the last two and a half years, the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has implemented key steps in its first Reconciliation Action Plan.

Launched in 2018, the plan acknowledges the tragic history of colonisation and damaging policies of the past, and the need to adopt actions to address systemic racism and bring about restorative justice.

During the Reconciliation Action Plan's life, the North Central CMA has achieved:

- Paid cultural leave provisions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in our Enterprise Bargaining Agreement
- The establishment of a Reconciliation Working Group
- Key partnership projects such as the Yung Balug Djarra, Dja Dja Wurrung, Healthy Country Planning - Djandak, Gatjin and Wi (Land, Water and Fire) at Boort to support Traditional Owners to manage Country
- Engagement of businesses such as Djandak, Woka Walla, Barapa Land and Water and Taungurung works crews in the delivery of on-ground works on Country
- Implementation of a cultural competence training program
- Hosted two young Aboriginal students employed in a school-based traineeship

“Like any living document, our RAP needs to be reviewed from time to time”, Reconciliation Project Officer Robyn McKay said. “We know the responsibility of reconciliation rests with us, but we’d really like Traditional Owners and Aboriginal community members to tell us which reconciliation actions will make the most difference. Our new plan will be called galkangu meaning ‘build together, make things happen together, more connected to country’ in Dja Dja Wurrung language”.

The North Central CMA is holding two workshops (with COVID protocols in place), one in Kerang on January 27<sup>th</sup> and another in Bendigo on February 9<sup>th</sup>. To attend, register online at [www.nccma.vic.gov.au/media-events/events](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/media-events/events) .

For anyone who is unable to attend a face to face forum, a short survey has been set up to help give everyone a voice in this process. The survey can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T28RVN8>

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