



Media Release

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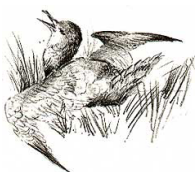
Indigenous Ranger Program Expansion Funding Grant

Melythina Tiakana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation (MTWAC) has been successful in a significant multi-million-dollar federal funding grant to expand its Aboriginal *Tebrakunna* Ranger Program.

The funding grant is part of the federal Governments targeted national investment into Indigenous Ranger Programs. More than 1,000 new Indigenous ranger jobs will be created across the country, with the Albanese Labor Government investing \$355 million over four years to expand the Indigenous Rangers Program. First Nations women will make up the vast majority of the new full-time, part-time and casual roles, with up to 770 Indigenous ranger positions for this funding round. 115 projects will receive funding including 35 in Queensland, 23 in Western Australia, 21 in New South Wales, 12 in Northern Territory, 11 in South Australia, 9 in Victoria and 4 in Tasmania.

For MTWAC this funding grant will allow the *Tebrakunna* Rangers to expand to 11 full-time Aboriginal Rangers working on country on the North East of Tasmania with its operational base at Cape Portland. MTWAC Chair Nick Cameron says, “This will be a game changer for our MTWAC community, we will have the budget to guarantee full time employment for 11 Aboriginal people working on our traditional lands of what we now call the Coastal Plains Nation”. The expanded *Tebrakunna* Ranger Program will include both men’s and women’s work groups to increase the numbers of Aboriginal women rangers.

MTWAC has been preparing for the expansion of the *Tebrakunna* Ranger program by undertaking a customised workforce development program, training 14 trainee rangers in a Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management with training partner TasTAFE. Some of these trainee rangers will be employed directly within the newly expanded *Tebrakunna* Ranger Program. MTWAC Chair Nick Cameron says “We are wanting to develop our capacity and resources for managing traditional land and sea country on the North East, having a work ready workforce of trained and



skilled rangers was critical to give us that capability and to be successful in gaining the funding through the federal Indigenous Ranger Program”.

With the expansion of the *Tebrakunna* Ranger Program assured and fully funded up until 2028, MTWAC will continue discussions with the Department of National Resources and Environment in opportunities for culturally managing the reserves and parks in and around Cape Portland, including Mount William National Park and the Blue Tier which are both culturally significant areas.

The name *Tebrakunna* Rangers derives from the traditional name of Cape Portland *Tebrakunna* where the ranger training program is based. “Projects the rangers will undertake on our traditional lands and sea country will include vegetation regeneration through cool burning and replanting, invasive plant and animal management and control, land and beach rubbish clean-up, land maintenance and possibly some tourism signage or walkway development, The rangers will also do some important surveying and monitoring of cultural sites and sea country resources in and around the Cape”.

MTWAC are now actively planning for and recruiting new Aboriginal rangers for a start early in the new year. This program is not only important for employment opportunities for Aboriginal men and women, it will allow Aboriginal land and sea management activities to expand across the North East. Tasmanians will be able to see first-hand the benefits of Aboriginal people undertaking cultural land and sea country management practices. MTWAC through partners like UTAS, IMAS, NRM North, Landcare Tasmania, Dorset and Break O’Day Councils will become a major player in responsible land rehabilitation, marine research and monitoring, cultural burning practices, feral species management, and community education programs.

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