



## Media statement 17 July 2023

### Preserving the Canning River

- A planting of seedlings along the Canning River is being rescheduled
- The matter is not related to the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021*

A scheduled planting of seedlings was cancelled over the weekend, following a discussion with Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation's former CEO, David Collard.

The newly formed Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation confirms that matter is not related to the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021*.

The Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation will work in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare to reschedule the planting of 5500 shrubs and trees along the banks of the Canning River.

The Chair of the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation said "The Canning River and its riverbanks are culturally significant to the Whadjuk people because the connection to this land is of central spiritual importance. The planting of seedlings will conserve this important area for our future generations."

"We support the new *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021*, and our focus is to engage in meaningful collaboration with all stakeholders."

The Whadjuk region is one of six Indigenous Land Use Agreements that formed the South West Native Title Settlement. The approximate size is 5580km, and it covers major cities and towns including Perth, Fremantle, Joondalup, Armadale, Toodyay, Wundowie, Bullsbrook and Chidlow.

The South West Native Title Settlement is the largest native title settlement in Australian history, affecting an estimated 30,000 Noongar People and encompassing approximately 200,000 square kilometres in Western Australia's south-west.

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