

MEDIA RELEASE – 5 October 2015

One step closer to implementing Bullen Bullen bush tours

Today, the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) and Federal Member for La Trobe, Jason Wood MP, joined the Wurundjeri Tribe Land & Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Inc. (The Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council) in launching their Bullen Bullen Bush Tours business plan.

The Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council secured a grant of \$150,000 through the PPWCMA's Dandenong Ranges Wildlife Protection, Weed Control and Fuel Reduction programme, funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, to develop a business plan for the tours.

The tours will enable visitors to the Grants Picnic Grounds to experience Wurundjeri culture, including story-telling and a bush tour. The Wurundjeri people are the Traditional Custodians of this area. Wurundjeri's traditional Country lie within the inner city of Melbourne and extends north of the Great Dividing Range, east to Mount Baw Baw, south to Mordialloc Creek and to the mouth of the Werribee River

The tours will enable visitors to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of Wurundjeri culture, Wurundjeri people's approach to land and water use, as well as a deeper knowledge of the local environment.

Federal Member for La Trobe, Jason Wood MP, has been an active champion of the Dandenong Ranges Wildlife Protection, Weed Control and Fuel Reduction Programme and was thrilled to see funding secured for the development of the business plan.

Mr Wood said, "Not only will this project provide a great insight into Indigenous culture and practices for visitors, but it will also provide the Wurundjeri community with employment and business opportunities in the tourism industry, while supporting their ability to pass down their culture to the younger generations"

“It is an exciting project and I look forward to seeing it progress and start operating on the ground”, he said.

In a group statement, Wurundjeri Elder’s, Allan Wandin, Bobby Mullins and Ron Jones, agreed that “this is an opportunity for our community to share our unique culture and knowledge with international visitors as well as local people too. This tourism venture provides our community with employment and builds our capacity to run our own sustainable business”.

The tours anticipate engaging 7,500 visitors per year and will seek to meet a demand for Indigenous tourism in Victoria.

For further information on the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme, visit <http://www.landcareonline.com.au/>

Photo: Jason Wood MP with Elders of the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Council, and representatives of PPWCMA, Parks Vic, Yarra Ranges Shire at Grant’s Picnic Ground.

