Indigenous Protected Area Declared for Yanyuwa

Member for Barkly, Gerry McCarthy, and Minister for Parks and Wildlife, Karl Hampton, today welcomed the declaration of the Yanyuwa Indigenous Protected Area (IPA).

Mr McCarthy said the IPA contained 130,000 hectares which included many islands in the Sir Edward Pellew archipelago including Vanderlin at 26,300 hectares and tiny islets that are less than a hectare in size.

“Today’s declaration is wonderful news for the Yanyuwa traditional owners, who have a number of sacred sites in the area, and indeed the whole Barkly region,” he said.

“The Yanyuwa first talked about an Indigenous Protected Area in 2007 and were provided with Indigenous Protected Area funding to conduct the consultations to ensure the Yanyuwa traditional owners were supportive of the IPA.”

Mr Hampton joined federal government representatives and Yanyuwa traditional owners today for the announcement in Borroloola.

He said the Yanyuwa traditional owners had formally requested that Barranyi /North Island National Park be included in the IPA.

“Parks and Wildlife Officers will work with the Yanyuwa on a partnership agreement and I’m pleased to announce this will be the first joint-managed national park in the Northern Territory included in an Indigenous Protected Area and only the second in Australia,” he said.

Mr Hampton congratulated the Yanyuwa Ranger Group, which started in 2003 and has been an integral part in ensuring conservation and protection of the Yanyuwa lands.

For more information, go to www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/declared/yanyuwa

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