



**Marion Scrymgour**  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

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## **NEW BOOK TELLS OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE**

A unique book that details Indigenous knowledge about plants and animals – and that has been 16 years in the making - will finally be available to the public.

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour unveiled the Jawoyn Plants and Animals Book in Parliament recently.

It was officially launched today at Nitmiluk National Park by the Jawoyn Association.

“This book is essentially an encyclopaedia of Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from Nitmiluk National Park and the wider Katherine region,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“The book records the Jawoyn plant and animal names and uses of almost 600 species, and is illustrated with stunning photographs.

“Cultural knowledge is generally carried orally and senior Jawoyn are very concerned about loss of traditional knowledge.

“In this book, we have an affirmation that at least part of the Jawoyn culture has captured culture in written form – for all to appreciate and enjoy now and in the future.”

The project has been a collaboration between Jawoyn elders and the Ethnobiology Project and Parks and Wildlife, with support from the Jawoyn Association, Diwurruwurru-jaru Aboriginal Corporation (Katherine Regional Aboriginal Language Centre) and the Australian National University.

“The book represents the essence of joint management between traditional owners and the Northern Territory government, by bringing together western scientific knowledge and Jawoyn traditional knowledge for the benefit of future generations,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“As well as an explanation of Jawoyn seasons, language and history of Jawoyn country, the book contains fascinating insights into the traditional uses and stories of plants and animals used by Jawoyn people.

“The book also reveals the use of plants and animals as medicine. Large nests of green ants for example can be used as medicine to treat headaches and colds. It can be used as a drink or a wash.”

The book will be sold by the Jawoyn Association and Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts at Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge), Katherine and Palmerston.

