



Marion Scrymgour

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

13 April 2006

Rainbow Valley Draft Joint Management Plan

A draft Joint Management Plan for a popular Territory conservation reserve is expected to be completed within a few months.

Territorians have been invited to make public submissions to the Draft Joint Management Plan for Rainbow Valley conservation reserve, 100km south of Alice Springs.

Rainbow Valley takes its name from colourful sandstone cliffs, whose iconic image has been popular with many advertisers and film-makers.

The Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Land Council have been working with Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve to prepare the draft Plan.

The Rainbow Valley Joint Management plan is the first in preparation since the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* was amended last year to provide for joint management.

“Jointly managed parks must be managed for purposes that will benefit traditional Aboriginal owners and the wider community,” Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour said.

“They must also protect biological diversity and serve visitor and community needs for education and enjoyment.”

Tour operator Mary Le Rossignol is one of the Traditional Owners involved in the planning.

She believes joint management offers great opportunities for local families and also benefits for visitors to the Reserve.

Ms Le Rossignol has been operating the successful Oak Valley Tours for about 15 years.

“We take tours to special places, talk about those special places, show tourists how to dig *tyape* or *witchetty* grubs, and how we hunt *goanna*,” she said.

Ms Le Rossignol is often asked to run special tours of Rainbow Valley by local companies.

“I hope joint management will bring an increase in interest from tour operators wanting cultural tours with traditional owners,” Ms Le Rossignol said.

“Talking through the Plan with Parks and Central Land Council people is going really well.”

Ms Scrymgour said plans for improved interpretation of the Reserve's cultural values is one of the outcomes of planning with traditional owners so far.

People wishing to comment on draft plan should call 8951 8228.

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