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Joint Management Plan at Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve

Opportunities for traditional owners and the community will be boosted as Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve becomes the first to commence operation under the 2005 joint management amendments to the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

Northern Territory Government Parks and Wildlife Service Senior Planner Dianne Scopel said the joint management planning and consultation for Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve focussed on more training, employment and business opportunities for Traditional Owners as well as improving access, information and enjoyment for visitors.

“One of the highlights is a new part of the reserve will be accessible for the public to take part in cultural tours with Traditional Owner guide, Ricky Orr of Rainbow Valley Cultural Tours,” Ms Scopel said.

“This is just one of the community benefits arising from the Rainbow Valley Joint Management Plan which are related to improved access and a greater appreciation and enjoyment of the Reserve’s cultural values.

“A new section of road will protect the natural and cultural values of the claypan, whilst improving access for a wider range of vehicles.

“There will also be improved cultural information in the form of new interpretive signage.”

Consultations commenced in September 2005 under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, and Ms Scopel said the plan has many benefits to the Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve.

“We are committed to Traditional Owner participation in planning, decision making, implementation and review and this plan helps to establish an improved understanding of the areas cultural heritage,” Ms Scopel said.

“The Reserve’s Traditional Owners, with the assistance of the Central Land Council (CLC) have been involved in the planning process from day one.”

Central Land Council Director David Ross said the Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve held strong cultural associations and was traditional country for the Upper Southern Arrernte people.

“This plan gives authority to the Arrernte Traditional Owners’ connection to their country under Territory Law as well as their law, and the cooperative preparation of this joint management plan by the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service and Traditional Owners is evidence of a good start to the joint management of Rainbow Valley.”

Traditional Owners Margaret Kenny-Orr and Peter Kenny said they are very proud to be involved with the joint management of the reserve.

“We’ve been planning our joint management with Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Land Council and now we are there,” Ms Kenny-Orr said.



“We have the chance to have Aboriginal skills and knowledge respected, we want to work together for the future of our families,” Mr Kenny said.

Spanning over 2,400 hectares, Rainbow Valley, located 100 km's south of Alice Springs, was named for the striking coloured sandstone cliffs and represents the beauty of desert Australia.

For more information on the Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve Joint Management Plan visit <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/manage/plans/pdf/RainbowValley.pdf>.

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Image - Eric Braedon, Traditional Owner and artist of the Plan's cover - courtesy of the Central Land Council

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