Huge Indigenous protected area for Central Australia to complete conservation jigsaw

Anangu traditional owners will declare more than five million hectares of their land an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) on 1 October, 2015 during a ceremony at a significant cultural site in the heart of the new IPA.

The Kaṭṭi Petermann IPA, in the south-west corner of the Northern Territory, is larger than Switzerland. It surrounds Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and includes the Lake Amadeus-Lake Neale salt lake complex.

It will form part of a network of nine protected areas in the NT/WA/SA border region.

The IPA will enable Anangu elders to work with the CLC’s Kaḻtukatjara Rangers (based at Docker River community) to tackle significant threats to cultural sites and native plants and animals and to create jobs and enterprises.

“I want to form the IPA to make work for our young people. I’m looking to the future for our children and grandchildren. We need to leave behind a plan so there’s work for them. So when they grow up they can see the good things recorded and left by their grandparents. I’m thinking hard about the IPA so we can keep things strong, managing and working ourselves...” (Judy Trigger, traditional owner)

The agreement with the Commonwealth, five years in the making, marks the creation of the fourth largest protected area on the Australian mainland.

IPAs support Aboriginal landowners who volunteer to manage the cultural and environmental values of their country as part of Australia’s National Reserve System.

The declaration will take place at 11 am at Tjitjingati (Irving Creek), approximately 1.5 hours west of Yulara on an unsealed section of Australia’s longest shortcut, the Outback Way.

Traditional owners will perform inma (traditional song and dance) and will be available for media interviews, along with Kaḻtukatjara rangers.

A permit will be required by media covering the event.

15 September 2015

Please contact Emma Sleath on 0488 984 885 (media@clc.org.au) for a program, fact sheet and images, and to discuss how we can facilitate coverage of the event.